

## Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with the **Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland**. It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary Activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.*

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## Immigration and Asylum

### Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

**Murdo Fraser (S3M-3293): Combating Human Trafficking**—That the Parliament recognises the need to develop appropriate strategies to combat the evil practice of trafficking people into Scotland; commends the important and continuing work of the International Justice Mission (IJM) to combat sex trafficking; notes that, in the 12 years since the organisation's founding, the IJM's investigations have resulted in freedom for hundreds of girls and women held by force in the commercial sex trade; also recognises that the IJM's founding principle is the defence and protection of individual human rights for all people by bringing the law to bear on their behalf and by prosecuting perpetrators who violate local and international laws; also notes the important contribution of local groups such as Cupar Justice and Peace Group on this issue, and further recognises the international and interdependent characteristics of human trafficking and the need for an internationally coordinated approach to bring about the end of such crimes here in Scotland and across the world.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-09/bb-01-26f.htm>

## Immigration and Asylum (continued)

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions

**Chris Huhne** [249925]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of appeals against determination by the UK Border Agency and its predecessors were successful in each of the last 10 years.

**Reply from Bridget Prentice:** The latest figures are available from the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 2007 ("Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2007"), which was published in August 2008. This bulletin indicates that, between 1998 and 2007, (a) 874,885 appeals were lodged with the asylum and immigration tribunal, or its jurisdictional predecessors, against decisions by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for the Home Department and (b) 250,930 of those appeals were allowed (comprising asylum, in-country, entry clearance and other non-asylum cases). The bulletin only provides figures between the years of 1997 to 2007 as figures for 2008 are not yet available.

It should be noted that the following figures relate to immigration adjudicator/judge decisions and do not include immigration appeals tribunal decisions or asylum and immigration tribunal reconsiderations of appeals for each of the last 10 years as this information is not available in the published bulletin.

	<i>Total determined</i>	<i>Allowed</i>	<i>Proportion (percentage)</i>
1998	38,200	5,200	14
1999	28,610	7,630	27
2000	27,130	5,960	22
2001	56,815	13,335	24
2002	84,260	21,910	26
2003	108,350	29,025	26
2004	109,220	34,245	31
2005	100,250	30,440	30
2006	167,310	54,860	32
2007	154,740	48,365	31
Total	874,885	250,930	29

**Notes:**

1. Prior to April 2005, the figures are based on data supplied by the Presenting Officers Unit within the Home Office. From April 2005 the figures are based on information supplied by the Ministry of Justice.
2. The figures for 1997, 1999, and 2000 are rounded to the nearest 10, figures for 1998 rounded to the nearest 100, and figures for 2001 onwards are rounded to the nearest five. All percentages are calculated by the Ministry of Justice using the figures contained in the bulletin and are rounded to the nearest whole number.
3. The bulletin states that some of the figures provided for 2005 and 2006 have been revised. It also states that the figures for 2007 are provisional only.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090126/text/90126w0021.htm#09012636000069>

**Laurence Robertson** [248433]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals against decisions not to grant asylum have been upheld in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** Information on the number of asylum appeals upheld is published quarterly and annually. Copies of asylum statistics publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research Development and Statistics website at: [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html). The most recent publication available is Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom - Third Quarter 2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090127/text/90127w0002.htm#09012749000045>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Laurence Robertson [248434]:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what access asylum seekers who are appealing against the decision not to grant them asylum have to (a) legal, (b) medical and (c) housing services; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** A person who is appealing against the Secretary of State's decision not to grant them asylum is entitled to legal aid provided they satisfy the means test and can also show that the merits of their case justify public funding. The tests are set out in the Legal Services Commission's Funding Code.

A person who is appealing against the Secretary of State's decision not to grant asylum is eligible for NHS medical treatment.

The UK Border Agency provides support to asylum seekers who need it to avoid destitution from the time they arrive in the UK until their claim is fully determined (appeal rights exhausted). Support includes the provision of housing, if required. A person who had submitted an appeal against the Secretary of State's decision not to grant asylum and who had qualified for accommodation support whilst their asylum claim was still under consideration would continue to receive that support while the appeal remained outstanding.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090127/text/90127w0002.htm#09012749000045>

**Laurence Robertson [248432]:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of failed asylum seekers were returned to their homeland in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The following table shows the number of asylum cases, including dependants, who were removed, departed voluntarily or left under assisted returns from the United Kingdom to their country of nationality between January 2004 and September 2008, along with the percentage of total asylum cases removed, departed voluntarily or left under assisted returns from the United Kingdom to their country of nationality.

The figures are rounded to the nearest five and data since 2007 are provisional.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>.

*Removals, voluntary departures and assisted returns<sup>(1)</sup> of asylum cases<sup>(2)</sup>, by destination, January 2004 to September 2008*

<i>Number of removals<sup>(3)</sup></i>					
<i>Period</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007<sup>(4)</sup></i>	<i>Jan-Sep 2008<sup>(4)</sup></i>
Total asylum cases removed	14,915	15,685	18,280	13,705	9,070
<i>O f which:</i>					
Removed to country of nationality	11,380	12,175	14,545	11,235	7,250
as % of total asylum cases removed	76	78	80	82	80

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes enforced removals, port asylum removals which have been performed by enforcement officers using port powers of removal (and a small number of cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls), persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and since January 2005 persons who it has been established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

<sup>(2)</sup> Persons who had sought asylum at some stage, including dependants.

<sup>(3)</sup> Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 (- = 0, \* = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

<sup>(4)</sup> Provisional figures.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090127/text/90127w0002.htm#09012749000046>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**James Clappison** [249508]: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what contribution to population change in the UK was made by (a) natural growth and (b) net migration in each of the last 20 years.

**Reply from Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what contribution to population change in the UK was made by (a) natural growth and (b) net migration in each of the last 20 years. (249508)

The attached table shows the contribution of net migration and natural change to population change for the UK for the last 20 years since 1988.

<i>Net migration and natural change for the UK for mid-year 1988 to mid-year 2007</i>		
<i>Thousand</i>		
	<i>Net migration and other changes<sup>(1),(2)</sup></i>	<i>Natural change</i>
1988	-24	136
1989	21	139
1990	43	118
1991	48	153
1992	-11	157
1993	1	129
1994	36	112
1995	56	107
1996	62	77
1997	47	103
1998	60	100
1999	133	77
2000	139	62
2001	153	74

	<i>Net migration</i>	<i>Other changes<sup>(2)</sup></i>	<i>Natural change</i>
2002	146	2	62
2003	152	5	77
2004	184	<sup>(3)</sup> —	104
2005	263	3	127
2006	189	2	159
2007	199	2	187

<sup>(1)</sup> It is not possible to separately identify and split net-migration and other changes in the years up to 2001. From 2002-07 net migration and other changes are shown separately.

<sup>(2)</sup> Other changes primarily include changes in the number of home and US armed forces and dependants resident in the UK.

<sup>(3)</sup> Less than 1,000

**Sources:**

Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090126/text/90126w0029.htm#09012646000033>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Paul Goodman** [249587]: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of (a) the number of Polish persons living in the UK in 2007 and 2008, (b) the number of Polish persons who returned to Poland from the UK in 2008 and (c) how many Polish persons are currently living in the UK.

**Reply from Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your questions concerning what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of (a) the number of Polish persons living in the UK in 2007 and 2008, (b) the number of Polish persons who returned to Poland from the UK in 2008 and (c) how many Polish persons are currently living in the UK.

The Office for National Statistics collects data on country of birth on the Annual Population Survey (APS) which covers residents of the UK. Estimates from the APS show that in 2007, 405,000 people living in the UK were born in Poland. This estimate has a margin of error of +/-26,000. No data are not yet available for 2008 or 2009. The number of Polish persons who returned to Poland from the UK in 2008 is not yet available. The latest data for 2007 show that 18,000 UK residents who were born in Poland, migrated back to Poland. This estimate is based on the International Passenger Survey and excludes people who have been living in the UK for less than a year or who intend to return to Poland for less than a year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090126/text/90126w0029.htm#09012646000034>

**Jim Cunningham** [249477]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce illegal immigration.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** We are delivering the biggest shake-up of Britain's border security and immigration system in a generation. Last year we launched the UK Border Agency. With a combined budget of £2 billion, a staffing complement of 25,000 and a presence in 135 countries world-wide, Britain's border security is now among the toughest in the world. Since the launch of the UKBA our officers have seized over 800 million cigarettes, representing a potential loss of over £149 million in tax revenue, £260 million worth of illegal drugs and have taken 4,800 dangerous weapons, including firearms, stun guns and hundreds of knives, off the streets. For the same period, over 809,000 freight vehicles have been searched at our juxtaposed controls and we stopped over 21,000 attempts to cross the Channel illegally. The new points based system and the continuing ban on non-EU low skilled migrants we are controlling migration to ensure that only those the UK needs can come to work and study. This allows us to attract and keep people with the skills our economy needs; maximizing the benefits to Britain. Anyone applying for a visa—three quarters of the world's population—now has their fingerprints checked against UK databases. So far we have enrolled over 3.6 million sets of fingerprints detecting over 5,200 identity swaps. Airline Liaison Officers have assisted in preventing nearly 210,000 people from boarding planes over the last five years. That is equivalent to about two jumbo jets a week. We have also introduced ID cards for foreign nationals and a hi-tech electronic borders system, the e-Borders Programme, which will be fully rolled out by March 2014 and will enable us to count people in and out of Britain. The pilot scheme for the Government's electronic borders system has already checked over 75 million passenger journeys before arrival in the UK, leading to over 2,700 arrests.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090127/text/90127w0005.htm#09012749000073>



## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Kerry McCarthy** [247154]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many exemptions from the requirement for applicants for British citizenship to attend a citizenship ceremony have been granted on the grounds of ill health.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** Section 42 of the British Nationality Act 1981 (the Act) sets down the requirement that persons of full age (being 18 years) should not be registered or naturalised as a British citizen or British overseas territories citizen unless they have made the relevant citizenship oath and pledge at a citizenship ceremony.

Discretion may be exercised under section 42(6) of the Act to disapply the requirement to attend a citizenship ceremony in the special circumstances of a particular case.

The following table provides a breakdown of figures since commencement of this requirement in 2004 of those who have not attended a citizenship ceremony.

Children are exempted in law from the requirement to attend a citizenship ceremony and this is also represented in the table.

In total, 465,595 persons of full age, who were therefore required to attend a citizenship ceremony, were registered or naturalised as a British citizen between 2004 and 2007. A total of 650, equating to 0.14 per cent. of this total were exempted from the requirement to attend a citizenship ceremony as a result of the exercise of discretion by the Secretary of State during this period. Final figures for 2008 are not yet available.

Exemptions are only granted in exceptional circumstances; for example, when a requirement to attend a ceremony would have national security implications or when an applicant cannot attend due to chronic illness or disability. Further breakdown of the figures to distinguish between exemptions on the grounds of national security and chronic illness or disability would require examination of individual files at disproportionate cost.

<i>Nationality grants and exemptions from ceremonies, excluding ceremony attended</i>							
		<i>Ceremony overseas (exemption)</i>		<i>Grant</i>		<i>Total grants over 18 (excluding minors)</i>	
<i>Outcome year</i>	<i>Total not attended a ceremony</i>	<i>Over 18</i>	<i>Under 18</i>	<i>Over 18</i>	<i>Under 18</i>	<i>Over 18</i>	<i>Percentage not attended</i>
Total	138,930	300	5	350	138,280	465,595	0.14
2004	15,540	<sup>(1)</sup> —	—	55	15,480	109,860	0.05
2005	40,760	25	—	130	40,605	120,060	0.13
2006	42,410	205	<sup>(1)</sup> —	100	42,105	111,575	0.27
2007	40,220	65	—	65	40,090	124,100	0.10

<sup>(1)</sup> Negligible i.e. two or less.

*Notes:*

- Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.
- Ceremonies were introduced on 1 January 2004, therefore only application dates post 1 January 2004.

*Source:*  
Local Management Information.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090127/text/90127w0003.htm#09012749000051>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Ashok Kumar** [247933]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the repatriation to their country of origin of non-UK nationals who fear persecution on religious grounds following their return.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The United Kingdom is a signatory to the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees ("Refugee Convention"). Each claim for asylum is considered on its individual merits by specially trained caseworkers to determine whether the applicant has demonstrated a well-founded fear of persecution in his or her country of nationality or habitual residence for one of the reasons set out in the Refugee Convention. These are reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

The UK is also a signatory to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, commonly referred to as the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). This precludes the UK from removing certain people to another country, where for example, removing them would expose them to a real risk of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Applicants who engage our protection obligations are granted leave to remain in the UK. Individuals whom the asylum decision-making process, and the independent appeal process where a suspensive appeal right exists, have found not to need international protection and who do not have the right to remain in the United Kingdom are expected to leave the UK voluntarily. If they fail to do so, the UK Border Agency will seek to enforce their return where it is satisfied that it is safe to do so.

The UK Border Agency may return an asylum seeker to a country other than their country of origin where the provisions of the Dublin Convention apply. In addition, the United Kingdom is signatory to a number of bilateral and European Community Readmission Agreements. In certain circumstances these agreements can be utilised to affect the removal of an illegal migrant to a signatory state that a person can be proven to have transited directly en route to the UK, rather than their country of origin. The United Kingdom would, however, be obliged to consider any claim for international protection under the Refugee Convention before that person could be removed to the transit country, except in cases where they qualified to be removed under the Dublin Convention.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090127/text/90127w0004.htm#09012749000063>

**The Earl of Sandwich** [HL499]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their annual budget for removing and escorting detainees from the United Kingdom by air to foreign countries; and how that compares with spending in 2008.

**Reply from Lord West of Spithead:** The annual budget for removing detainees from the United Kingdom cannot be disaggregated from the total cost of removals by air. Provision of details on escorting costs are not available as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests.

The National Audit Office (NAO) give a breakdown of what it costs to enforce the removal of a failed asylum seeker in appendix two of its report Returning Failed Asylum Applicants.

Latest published statistics on the total Home Office spend is set out in the Home Office report, a copy of which is available from the Library of the House. It is also available to view at [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ho-annual-report-07?view=Binary](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ho-annual-report-07?view=Binary).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90129w0001.htm#09012988000218>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Baroness Hanham** [HL647]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many illegal immigrants who wish to return to their own countries voluntarily are currently held in detention centres.

**Reply from Lord West of Spithead:** The assisted voluntary return of irregular migrants (AVRIM) programme introduced in November 2004 is available to those who have entered the UK unlawfully or those who have breached their conditions of leave to enter or leave to remain. AVRIM is operated on behalf of the Home Office by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), an independent intergovernmental organisation.

Currently there are seven individuals who have applied under the programme who are detained in the UK Border Agency's detention estate while approval for their return is pending.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90129w0001.htm#09012988000222>

**Chris Huhne** [242778]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the asylum support budget was in each of the last five years; and what it is projected to be in each of the next five years.

**Reply from Jacqui Smith** [holding answer 16 December 2008]: Expenditure on asylum support in the four years from 2004-05 to 2007-08 was as follows:

	<i>£ million</i>
2004-05	814
2005-06	626
2006-07	515
2007-08	485

Budgeted expenditure for 2008-09 is £452 million. UKBA is currently reviewing plans and forecasts for future years and we are unable to provide information about budgets for these periods until plans have been finalised and agreed by the UKBA Board.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090129/text/90129w0024.htm#090129120000005>

**Mark Todd** [250679]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times application of the two-year rule has resulted in the removal of the right of a spouse to remain in the UK in the event of relationship failure in 2007-08; and what steps were taken following the application of the rule in each case.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The specific data requested could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

In order to qualify for settlement on the basis of marriage, an applicant must show that they are still married to the person they were admitted or granted an extension of stay to join and that relationship is subsisting. If the parties are no longer married or their relationship no longer subsists, the applicant will not meet the requirements of the immigration rules for settlement and the application will fall for refusal on this basis.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090129/text/90129w0026.htm#090129120000024>



## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Chris Huhne** [246236]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) educational facilities and (b) health care facilities have been (i) raided on suspicion of and (ii) fined for providing a service to an illegal immigrant by the UK Border Agency and its predecessors since 2004; and what the (A) offence and (B) amount of the fine was in each case.

**Reply from Jacqui Smith:** The UK Border Agency does not specifically conduct operational enforcement visits to educational or health care facilities that might be providing a service to an illegal immigrant nor has a fine been issued in such circumstances.

The UK Border Agency does conduct compliance visits to educational providers to ensure that they are a bona fide establishment and will act on any intelligence it receives that immigration offenders might be present at certain premises or that a business is employing illegal workers.

If an employer is found to be employing an illegal migrant worker, then they may be subject to a civil penalty of up to £10,000 for each illegal worker or, in more serious cases, criminal prosecution. If convicted on indictment, the employer may face an unlimited fine and, in some cases, imprisonment for up to two years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090129/text/90129w0028.htm#090129120000031>

**Chris Huhne** [246243]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many suspected illegal immigrants were discovered as lorry stowaways at motorway service areas, broken down by location, in each month since January 2005.

**Reply from Jacqui Smith:** The information requested about how many illegal immigrants have registered at reception centres in (a) Liverpool and (b) Croydon following detection as lorry stowaways is not available from existing records.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090129/text/90129w0028.htm#090129120000031>

**Chris Huhne** [246271]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants have registered at reception centres in (a) Liverpool and (b) Croydon following detection as lorry stowaways in each month since January 2005.

**Reply from Jacqui Smith:** The UK Border Agency's National Operations Database (NOD) records the number of individuals arrested and referred to the Agency by the police broken down by office and not where the individual was discovered. The number of lorry stowaways arrested and referred to the UK Border Agency by the police since August 2005 to November 2008 broken down by office is as follows at Annex A.

This information has only been recorded since August 2005.

The figures provided do not constitute part of National Statistics as it is based on management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional.

**To read the lengthy tables see**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090129/text/90129w0028.htm#090129120000031>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090129/text/90129w0029.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090129/text/90129w0030.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090129/text/90129w0031.htm>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Stephen O'Brien** [249751]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2009, Official Report, columns 706-07W, on foreign workers, if she will break down the figures by year, and indicate the percentage of the relevant workforce they constitute.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The following tables provide information on the number of work permits approved and Worker Registration Scheme certificates issued by occupation category. We are unable to provide an indication of the percentage of the relevant work force they constitute as data are not held on the size of each work force.

**To read the lengthy tables see**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090129/text/90129w0026.htm#09012912000025>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090129/text/90129w0027.htm>

**Dominic Grieve** [250070]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what (a) analysis has been commissioned and (b) research has been carried out by her Department on the likely number of illegal immigrants in the UK since her Department's online report 58/04, Sizing the Illegally Resident Population in the UK.

**Reply from Phil Woolas** [holding answer 22 January 2009]: No Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

Although it is impossible to determine accurately how many people are in the UK illegally, the Home Office published the report "Sizing the unauthorised (illegal) migrant population in the United Kingdom in 2001" in 2005 as Home Office Online Report 29/05. This was a follow-on report from Online Report 58/04, "Sizing the Illegally Resident Population in the UK".

A copy of the report is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/rdsolr2905.pdf>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090129/text/90129w0032.htm>

**Chris Huhne** [246239]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants have been deported from the UK in each year since 2004.

**Reply from Jacqui Smith:** The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Select Committee in which she has provided all of the most robust and accurate information on the subject of deportation of foreign criminals. In her most recent letter to the Committee, dated 8 December, she advised that the agency had deported or removed over 4,500 foreign criminals and was on track to not only meet but exceed its target of deporting or removing 5,000 foreign criminals in 2008. Copies of her letters are available in the Library of the House.

The UK Border Agency has since confirmed that, according to provisional management information, more than 5,000 foreign criminals were removed or deported in 2008.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum, including removal of illegal immigrants, are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090129/text/90129w0032.htm#09012912000032>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of those who have taken the English language test for immigrants have (a) passed and (b) failed the test since its introduction. [251476]

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** It is assumed that the question refers to the Life in the UK test. For the period October 2005, when the test was introduced, to October 2008:

69.9 per cent. of tests have resulted in a pass

30.1 per cent. have resulted in a fail.

These figures relate to the number of tests taken and not the number of candidates taking the test as candidates who fail may take the test as many times as they wish.

Note: Figures provided by Ufi Ltd.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090129/text/90129w0032.htm#090129120000033>

**Keith Vaz** [251477]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons her Department has decided to exempt foreign footballers bought by British football clubs from completing the English language test for a year; and what other conditions apply exclusively to footballers immigrating to this country.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** There are provisions for sports people under Tier 2 and Tier 5 of the points based system. Those entering under Tier 2: Sport need to meet an English language requirement, while those entering under Tier 5 will not. This is due to the temporary nature of Tier 5. Those entering under the Tier 5: Creative and Sporting sub-category, are granted leave for a maximum of 12 months. These routes are available to all sports.

We have provided arrangements exclusively for footballers to enable them to switch from Tier 5: Creative and Sporting into Tier 2: Sport without having to leave the UK. This is because we have recognised that the tight time scales around the transfer window mean that not all football players will have time to take an English test to prove that they are able to meet the English language requirement for Tier 2: Sport. Therefore they will be able to switch in country from Tier 5 to Tier 2 once they can prove they meet the English language requirement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090129/text/90129w0032.htm#090129120000033>

**Keith Vaz** [251478]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what score is required to pass the English language test for immigrants; and what the procedure is when an individual fails the test.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The pass mark for the 'Life in the UK test' is set at around 75 per cent. Applicants failing the test are required to wait a minimum of seven days before they are able to sit the test again. Those who wish to sit the test again need to book a new test date and time with their test centre and pay the test fee again.

Those applicants who feel they did not pass the test because of their level of English have the alternative option of attending an ESOL with citizenship course at their local further education college.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090129/text/90129w0032.htm#090129120000033>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**John McDonnell** [244930]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department is using to ascertain the number of people who have been trafficked into the UK; and if she will place in the Library a copy of that research.

**Reply from Alan Campbell:** The covert nature of the crime makes it very difficult to provide an accurate assessment of the scale of the problem faced by the United Kingdom.

The UK Human Trafficking Centre and the Serious Organised Crime Agency continue to develop our knowledge of the scale of human trafficking through a variety of means, including analysis of the outcomes of Operation Pentameter 2 and ongoing intelligence collation. In addition to the work being undertaken by these agencies, funding is in place for dedicated intelligence officers in each of the 10 Regional Intelligence Units in England and Wales to focus on organised immigration crime, including human trafficking.

We expect to have an up to date assessment of the extent of the problem faced by the UK by the end of the year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090126/text/90126w0021.htm#09012636000067>

**John McDonnell** [247520]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what protocols her Department operates when managing people deemed to have been trafficked.

**Reply from Alan Campbell:** On 17 December 2008 we ratified the Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings. By April 2009 at the latest we will introduce a reflection period of 45 days and a renewable one year residence permit for identified victims of human trafficking. Additionally we are introducing formal identification measures under a national referral mechanism by which victims are systematically identified by a competent authority and referred to appropriate support.

This will further strengthen our existing collaborative way of identifying, referring and supporting victims.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090126/text/90126w0021.htm#09012636000067>

**Margaret Moran** [247672]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions his Department has had with the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on child trafficking.

**Reply from Beverley Hughes:** The UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking published in March 2007 and revised in July 2008 sets out the responsibilities of government departments, including the department, the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the actions they are taking. Implementation of the action plan is coordinated through the Interdepartmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking, which last met in November 2008. The Group ensures that all relevant departments are fully engaged in tackling child trafficking.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090126/text/90126w0034.htm#09012646000092>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**John McDonnell** [247523]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what public services are available to people deemed to have been trafficked.

**Reply from Maria Eagle:** The Government fund the Poppy project to provide specialist support to adult victims of human trafficking. Victims are provided with unconditional intensive support for an initial four-week period, with longer-term services provided in return for co-operation with a criminal investigation. Victims are offered support with resettlement and have access to compensation through the courts and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. It is also open to victims to apply for protection through existing humanitarian and immigration routes. Eligibility for non-third sector public services is inline with existing immigration policy.

The Government have ratified the Council of Europe Convention Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. This will enhance our existing measures by extending the reflection-period to a minimum of 45 days and introducing new renewable one-year residence permits for those co-operating with the authorities. The temporary residence permits will allow recourse to public funds. It will also remain open to victims to apply to stay using the existing human rights and immigration protection routes.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090126/text/90126w0044.htm#0901277000019>

**Stewart Jackson** [250834]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals resident in Peterborough constituency have been (a) arrested, (b) charged with and (c) found guilty of offences related to (i) trafficking persons to the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation and (ii) running a brothel since May 2005; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Alan Campbell:** The Home Office holds figures on crime by force area only and not by residence of offenders.

Records from the UK Human Trafficking Centre show that since May 2005 there have been nine arrests for human trafficking in Cambridgeshire with one conviction for trafficking. Of the remaining eight cases four were not progressed and four convicted of other offences.

Statistics from the CPS indicates that there have been a total of 48 people charged under sections 33 and 33 (a) of the Sexual Offences Act 1956 since May 2005 in Cambridgeshire whose cases reached first hearing at a magistrates court. CPS does not have data held centrally on the number of convictions.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090129/text/90129w0028.htm#090129120000028>

**John McDonnell** [247522]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the evidential basis is for her Department's position that 80 per cent. of women working as prostitutes have been trafficked into the UK; and if she will place in the Library a copy of such evidence.

**Reply from Alan Campbell:** It is not the position of the Home Office that 80 per cent. of women working as prostitutes have been trafficked into the UK. Tackling the Demand for Prostitution: A Review stated that there were an estimated 80,000 people involved in prostitution in the UK, and that the most recent Home Office analysis (from 2003) had estimated that up to 4,000 women in the UK had been trafficked for sexual exploitation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090129/text/90129w0036.htm#090129120000052>



## Immigration and Asylum (continued)

### Westminster Early Day Motion

**Malcolm Bruce (633) International parliamentary conference on international migration and human trafficking** – That this House supports the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch in hosting its International Parliamentary Conference on International Migration and Human Trafficking, from 2 to 7 February 2009 in the Palace of Westminster for 40 colleagues from Commonwealth and other Parliaments; notes that this relevant conference seeks to equip parliamentarians better to hold their executives to account on the challenges of mutually beneficial migration management and curbing human trafficking; further notes that to be debated are key issues including migration and development in origin countries, coherence in destination country immigration policies, child migration, migrant rights, integration of migrant and settled communities, defining human trafficking, policy priorities and protecting the trafficked; and concludes that this initiative reflects this parliament's commitment to international outreach activities to strengthen parliamentary democracy.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=37683&SESSION=899>

## News

### **French migrant camp re-examined**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7852621.stm>

### **English 'a barrier for 300 schools'**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/English-39a-barrier-for-300.4924570.jp>

### **Protest over use of foreign labour**

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Protest-over-use-of-foreign.4929515.jp>

### **'This is a fight for the right to work in our own country. It is not racism**

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2485951.0.This\\_is\\_a\\_fight\\_for\\_the\\_right\\_to\\_work\\_in\\_our\\_own\\_country\\_It\\_is\\_not\\_racism.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2485951.0.This_is_a_fight_for_the_right_to_work_in_our_own_country_It_is_not_racism.php)

### **Thousands strike over migrant workers: 'British jobs' slogan backfires on Brown in UK-wide action**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Thousands-strike-over-migrant-workers.4933228.jp>

### **1500 Scots oil workers stage unofficial strike in protest over foreign workers**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/01/30/1500-scots-oil-workers-stage-unofficial-strike-in-protest-over-foreign-workers-86908-21082776/>

### **1500 Scots staff strike in foreign worker row**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2485806.0.1500\\_scots\\_staff\\_strike\\_in\\_foreign\\_worker\\_row.php](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2485806.0.1500_scots_staff_strike_in_foreign_worker_row.php)

### **Brown criticises wildcat strikes**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk\\_politics/7863316.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7863316.stm)

### **Mandelson warns on protectionism**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7863047.stm>

## **Immigration and Asylum News** (continued)

### **The view from the front**

[http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2486152.0.the\\_view\\_from\\_the\\_front.php](http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2486152.0.the_view_from_the_front.php)

### **Action over foreign oil workers could grow**

[http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2486153.0.action\\_over\\_foreign\\_oil\\_workers\\_could\\_grow.php](http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2486153.0.action_over_foreign_oil_workers_could_grow.php)

### **Protectionism ... globalisation's dark side**

[http://www.sundayherald.com/oped/opinion/display.var.2486005.0.protectionism\\_globalisations\\_dark\\_side.php](http://www.sundayherald.com/oped/opinion/display.var.2486005.0.protectionism_globalisations_dark_side.php)

### **Hundreds of Scottish workers join protests at oil refineries**

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/-Hundreds-of--Scottish.4934476.jp>

### **This isn't labour on the cheap**

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/This-isn39t-labour-on-the.4934489.jp>

### **Far right tries to hijack dispute**

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Far-right-tries-to-hijack.4934494.jp>

### **National march against foreign workers**

<http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/economics/article5627667.ece>

### **The phrase that has come back to haunt Gordon Brown**

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article5622358.ece>

### **Protectionism could destroy us all**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/4413888/Protectionism-could-destroy-us-all.html>

### **Wildcat wildfire: Frantic bids to stop strikes spreading**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/wildcat-wildfire-frantic-bids-to-stop-strikes-spreading-1522533.html>

### **You can go and work in Europe, Mandelson tells strikers**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/you-can-go-and-work-in-europe-mandelson-tells-strikers-1522527.html>

### **Brown condemns wildcat strikes**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brown-condemns-wildcat-strikes-1522667.html>

### **The schools where NO pupils speak English as a first language**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1130077/The-schools-NO-pupils-speak-English-language.html>

### **Deportation delays 'costing £10m'**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk\\_politics/7859596.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7859596.stm)

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## Race Relations

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions

**Lord Hylton [HL716]:** To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have evidence of rising tensions between communities in Britain since early December 2008; if so, whether such tensions have led to offences against the person or damage to property; and whether they are consulting local religious and community groups so as to prevent breaches of the peace.

**Reply from Baroness Andrews:** The tension monitoring returns, the process used by government to monitor tension levels in local areas, has shown evidence in some areas of rising tensions affecting some communities. The tension monitoring returns show there has been a significant rise in anti-Semitic attacks in Britain since December 2008; this is confirmed by Community Security Trust figures. The incidents reported include both offences against the person and damage to property. Over the last month the Government have made it a priority to meet faith communities and provide reassurance that we are taking the action necessary to help minimise tensions, tackle all forms of hate crime and prevent breaches of the peace.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90123w0004.htm>

**Paul Goodman [252095]:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings Ministers in her Department have had with groups of British Muslims on the possible effects of events in Gaza since 27 December 2008 on community cohesion; and what the names were of the individuals who attended each meeting.

**Reply from Sadiq Khan:** Since 27 December the following meetings have been held:

On 6 January I and Bill Rammell, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs met a range of representatives and individuals from a number of organisations including but not limited to the Quilliam Foundation, Muslim Council of Britain, British Muslim Forum, the Sufi Muslim Council, the Al Khoei Foundation, the UK Ismaili Council and the Ithna Asheri Khoja Shia World Federation.

On 8 January I and Bill Rammell, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, met members of the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group (NMWAG).

On 10 January I met the Young Muslims Advisory Group (YMAG) at their YMAG residential meeting.

On 12 January the Communities Secretary, the Foreign Secretary and I met representatives and individuals from a number of organisations including but not limited to the Quilliam Foundation, Muslim Council of Britain, British Muslim Forum, City Circle, the YMAG, British Muslims for a Secular Democracy, the Sufi Muslim Council, the Al Khoei Foundation, the UK Ismaili Council and the Ithna Asheri Khoja Shia World Federation.

On 13 January I and Bill Rammell, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, met members of the YMAG.

On 15 January the Communities Secretary and the Home Secretary met representatives and individuals from a number of organisations, including the Sufi Muslim Council, Al Khoei Foundation, the NMWAG, the Ithna Asheri Khoja Shia World Federation, Association of Muslim Social Scientists, the Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre, Active Change Foundation, and Quilliam Foundation.

On 15 January I met members of the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board.

On 15 January I also met front line providers and deliverers to hear their concerns.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090127/text/90127w0014.htm#09012764000011>

## Race Relations (continued)

### Press Releases

#### Prime Minister's Chinese New Year message

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page18131>

#### Citizenship survey – citizens fell a strong sense of belonging

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1134030>

#### International Holocaust Memorial Day: a time to urge for dialogue between faith communities in Europe

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2009-01-26%20holocaust%20day%20final.pdf>

### New publication

#### Citizenship survey April-September 2008

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1133115.pdf>

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## Equality

### Westminster Early Day Motion

**Virendra Sharma (637) Funding of Ealing Racial Equality Council** – That this House notes that Ealing Racial Equality Council has been a beacon in the field of race equality and community cohesion since 1964 and that its work over the past 40 years has been widely acknowledged by Select Committees and other Government reports as having made a significant contribution to social justice; recognises that Ealing is the second most diverse borough in London, has some of the most deprived communities in the country and is concerned that Ealing Council's emerging priorities and strategies for dealing with matters of community cohesion and equality have confused the fact that racial equality is a precondition to the attainment of cohesion and harmony, as evidenced by the recent High Court judgment against Ealing Council involving Southall Black Sisters where Lord Justice Moses said, 'there is no dichotomy between the promotion of equality and cohesion and the provision of specialist services to an ethnic minority'; further notes that Ealing Council's recent change in its funding criteria has adversely affected black and minority ethnic groups, particularly Ealing Racial Equality Council and has brought it to the point of closure and the loss of its valuable role and services to the local communities; commends the continued leading role of Ealing Racial Equality Council in promoting equality, cohesion and human rights; and calls on Ealing Council urgently to re-examine its priorities and make suitable provision to support the work of the Ealing Racial Equality Council.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=37687&SESSION=899>

### New publication

#### Pay gaps and pay penalties by gender and ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation and age

[http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Documents/Equalities/Pay\\_Gaps\\_by\\_equalities\\_summary.pdf](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Documents/Equalities/Pay_Gaps_by_equalities_summary.pdf)

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# Racism and Religious Hatred

## Westminster Parliamentary Question

**Lord Ouseley [HL827]:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the assessment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission that institutional racism is no longer a feature of British society but that systemic bias exists, requiring different responses.

**Reply from Baroness Andrews:** The Government agree with the chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission that institutional racism has not been eliminated but that there has been much progress since the Macpherson report was published 10 years ago. The Government's new equality Bill, announced in the Queen's Speech in December, will help to address the issue by creating a single new equality duty on public bodies to tackle discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and encourage good community relations. The new duty will cover race, disability, and gender, as now, but will also include age, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and religion or belief, replacing the three existing, separate duties with a single more effective framework. The equality Bill will also contain provisions on positive action that go further than ever before, to the limits of what is permissible under European law. Any use of these provisions will remain voluntary, but we believe that there are sound and compelling business arguments for organisations to take positive action steps to ensure that they employ a diverse workforce. Diverse workforces ensure that organisations such as the police services better reflect the make-up of the society that they serve.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90127w0003.htm#09012756000374>

## Westminster Early Day Motion

**John Mann (605) Antisemitism on campus** – That this House notes the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Semitism's report, and in particular the section on Anti-Semitism in Higher Education and its five recommendations; welcomes the improved reporting of incidents through the Community Security Trust and the Union of Jewish Students; recognises the recent increase in attacks linked to hostilities in the Middle East, the related incidents that have taken place in universities and reports that January 2009 has the highest number of reported anti-Semitic incidents for any month since records began in 1984; welcomes the Holocaust memorial events that are taking place across campuses, the adoption by the NUS of the EUMC Working Definition on Anti-Semitism and how some institutions have responded when occurrences of anti-Semitism have emerged; believes that more can and should be done by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, further education institutions and the sector as a whole; and therefore calls for more progress on the issue, with greater urgency, and a Government working group on anti-Semitism on campus in order to develop better reporting systems, understanding of the EUMC working definition of anti-Semitism, speaker request processes, guidance on religious observance and timetabling examinations and implementation of the Race Relations Amendment Act.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=37642&SESSION=899>

## Press Release

**Ban calls on world to fight Holocaust denial, anti-Semitism and bigotry**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=29679&Cr=holocaust&Cr1>



## Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) News

### Rangers fan fined for singing sectarian songs on train trip

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Rangers-fan-fined-for-singing.4925433.jp>

### SNP throws anti-sectarianism charity a three-year cash lifeline

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/SNP-throws-antisectionarianism-charity-a.4934351.jp>

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## Other Holyrood

### Press Release

#### Arbitration law to be modernised

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/01/30102135>

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## Other Westminster

### Debate

#### Domestic Violence (Black and Minority Ethnic Victims)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090129/debtext/90129-0020.htm#09012987000003>

### Parliamentary Questions

**John Bercow** [247394]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has implemented a national policy for safeguarding children at risk of forced marriage.

**Reply from Beverley Hughes:** The Home Office leads work on the Government's national domestic violence delivery plan including work on forced marriage. The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) is a key partner in this work and we are committed to doing all we can to tackle forced marriage and to engage effectively with local communities. We work closely with the Forced Marriage Unit to improve the engagement of schools and local authorities. In April 2008 DCSF Ministers wrote to local authorities and schools reminding them of their responsibilities relating to forced marriage, and in June 2008 new materials were launched to raise awareness of forced marriage. These were sent to all secondary schools, pupil referral units, local authorities and local safeguarding children boards. In November 2008 new statutory guidance was published aimed at local authorities and other agencies entitled "The Right to Choose: Multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with Forced Marriage". Practice guidelines to support the implementation of this statutory guidance are being developed and will be available shortly.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090129/text/90129w0036.htm#090129120000060>

## Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Baroness Whitaker:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure accommodation is provided for the Traveller families which Basildon Council intends to evict from Dale Farm.

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Andrews):** My Lords, it will be for Basildon District Council to assess the accommodation needs of those subject to enforcement action. In 2007, we issued clear guidance to local authorities stating the need to consider all the relevant circumstances before deciding to take enforcement action. The guidance recognises that enforcement action can be traumatic, and should therefore be proportionate and considered.

**Baroness Whitaker:** My Lords, I thank my noble friend for that clear Answer and I commend her department for its positive work for Gypsies and Travellers. The problem, as she says, is with Basildon council, which has not offered the families being evicted any suitable alternative accommodation. Perhaps over 100 parents and children will be homeless. Does my noble friend agree that those families face discrimination in the ordinary pursuit of finding somewhere to live, which no other minority ethnic group in the UK can expect? Is she aware that they have appealed to the European Union's civil protection mechanism and will the Government contact the EU's monitoring and information centre to play their part in helping?

**Baroness Andrews:** My Lords, my noble friend is right to identify that the consequences of evictions are distressing. I am sure that Basildon council takes seriously its responsibilities under the Housing Act and that it will give full and proper consideration to any requests to be treated as homeless. I understand that it gave such assurances during the recent Court of Appeal hearings. I also expect it to work closely with children's services in dealing with vulnerable children and adults. I know that the council has approached the EU's civil protection mechanism and that it is already in direct contact with the monitoring and information centre. I am sure that it would be able to provide the centre with information.

However, there is no doubt that Gypsies and Travellers face great problems in finding authorised places in which to pitch their caravans and that is why we are urging all local authorities to be more proactive in that respect.

**Baroness Greengross:** My Lords, is it incumbent on Basildon District Council to rehouse those people under the terms of the Human Rights Act?

**Baroness Andrews:** My Lords, each housing application is treated on its merits. I am sure that when vulnerable children are involved—and there must be liaison with children's services, especially as regards newly born children and the family's circumstances—the council will do its best.

**Lord Avebury:** My Lords, it is estimated that the cost of this operation is £1.9 million, but that is not counting the further eviction that will be necessary from the temporary site that the residents will occupy after their move from Dale Farm: plus all the health and social security costs that will be imposed on the taxpayer for years down the line in respect of those families. Has the Minister made any comparison between that enormous bill and the amount that it would cost to provide permanent accommodation for the 400 people on the site? Will the Government invite Basildon council to come into the CLG to discuss with Ministers deferring the process until the specified accommodation in the south-east regional plan is provided?

**Baroness Andrews:** My Lords, the noble Lord is right to draw attention to the cost of enforcement action. It is up to the local authority to judge what those costs should be and whether they are bearable in terms of breaches of planning control. There is no doubt that for many councillors those costs can be reduced once authorised pitches are provided. We are only talking about pitches for about 4,000 caravans in the entire country. We should place that matter in perspective.

## Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The independent task group on site provision and enforcement noted that enforcement costs to one authority reduce from £200,000 per year to £5,000 for the sake of a one-off £400,000 cost. There is no doubt that the costs of racial and social tension are much higher.

**Lord Glentoran:** My Lords, while this is not my brief, I believe that noble Lords will accept that Ireland was in these islands the home of the travelling people. For some considerable years it has had a strategy and management structure to look after and handle those people. Is it time that this country had the same?

**Baroness Andrews:** My Lords, I am very pleased to say that in recent years we have moved towards that position. The main difference is making sure that Gypsies and Travellers have the same rights to housing as others. Therefore, their housing should be planned in the same sort of way. That is why we have moved away from putting a strict duty on local authorities to make sure that housing authorities assess the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers. We expect those housing needs to be fed into regional spatial strategies, be properly planned for and properly provided.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90127-0002.htm#09012747000356>

**Lord Avebury [HL899]:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements they have in place to ensure that where enforcement action is taken by local authorities against unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller sites children and young people are provided with suitable alternative accommodation.

**Reply from Baroness Andrews:** Local authorities have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area. They are also required to establish local safeguarding children boards; these are the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do. DoE Circular 18/94 makes clear that when local authorities decide to proceed with an eviction, they should liaise with the relevant statutory agencies, particularly where newly-born children are involved, to ensure those agencies can fulfil their obligations towards those persons. We have issued clear guidance to local authorities which recognises enforcement action can be traumatic, and should therefore be proportionate and considered.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90129w0001.htm#09012988000221>

**Eric Pickles [251776]:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology her Department uses to determine whether an unauthorised Travellers' camp is (a) tolerated and (b) not tolerated in circumstances where the camp is on (i) the Travellers' own land and (ii) land not owned by the travellers and has been established without planning permission; what definition her Department uses of a (A) tolerated and (B) not tolerated unauthorised Travellers' camps; and who is responsible for determining whether such camps are tolerated.

**Reply from Iain Wright:** It is for the local authority or landowner to decide whether to tolerate an unauthorised site.

For the purposes of the bi-annual count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans, we ask that local authorities count caravans:

- on unauthorised encampments as "tolerated" where the local authority or landowner has decided not to seek the removal of the encampment; and "not tolerated" where the local authority, police or landowner are using, or preparing to use powers to remove the encampment.

## Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

- on unauthorised developments as “tolerated” where the local authority has decided not to seek their removal (this includes those development with temporary planning permission); and “not tolerated” where a planning enforcement notice has been served, the results of a planning inquiry are pending, an injunction has been sought or where the compliance period has been extended.

Advice on toleration is set out in DOE circular 18/94 ‘Gypsy Sites Policy and Unauthorised Camping’, as amended, and ‘Guidance on Managing Unauthorised Camping’.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090129/text/90129w0022.htm#090129118000078>

## Early Day Motion

**Alun Michael (620) Voice4change** – That this House notes the important work done by black and minority ethnic (BME) third sector organisations in delivering services to marginalised communities; recognises that the BME third sector has grown out of a recognition that many of the needs of diverse communities have not been adequately met by mainstream services; welcomes the establishment of the Voice4Change England Partnership by 18 national and regional BME-led organisations with the support of the Office of the Third Sector to co-ordinate the policy advocacy of BME third sector organisations; further notes that independent legal analysis of the BME Code for Commission for the Compact has identified that opportunities to create and deliver BME-specific services, and that a requirement sometimes arises in equality law to create and deliver BME-specific services; considers it wrong that funders are being encouraged to have a presumption against single group funding; believes that such thinking fails to appreciate the work done by BME third sector organisations in building civil society; and calls on the Government to recognise the important contribution made by BME third sector organisations in bonding communities and promoting equality by action at national and regional levels to ensure that BME third sector organisations are adequately and equitably resourced to deliver better outcomes for BME and other communities.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=37666&SESSION=899>

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## New Publication

**Europe’s Muslim women: potential, aspirations and challenges**

[http://www.kingbaudouinfoundation.org/uploadedFiles/KBS-FRB/3\) Publications/PUB\\_1846\\_MuslimWomen\\_03.pdf](http://www.kingbaudouinfoundation.org/uploadedFiles/KBS-FRB/3) Publications/PUB_1846_MuslimWomen_03.pdf)

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## Other News

**Listening to Europe's Muslim women**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2009/jan/29/religion-islam>

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## **Bills in Progress**

\*\* New or updated this week

### **Holyrood**

#### **\*\* Arbitration Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/19-Arbitration/index.htm>

Bill as introduced

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/19-Arbitration/b19s3-introd.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/19-Arbitration/b19s3-introd-en.pdf>

Policy Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/19-Arbitration/b19s3-introd-pm.pdf>

#### **Education (Additional Support for Learning) Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/16-EdAddSup/index.htm>

#### **\*\* Health Boards (Membership and Elections) Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/13-HealthBoards/index.htm>

proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-09/bb-01-28g.htm>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-09/bb-01-29g.htm>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-09/bb-01-30g.htm>

#### **\*\* Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/09-AggPrej/index.htm>

Justice Committee: Stage 1 evidence from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/or-09/ju09-0402.htm#Col1556>

#### **Sexual Offences Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/11-sexualOffences/index.htm>

## **Bills in Progress** (continued)

### **Westminster**

#### **Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/borderscitizenshipandimmigration.html>

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## Consultations (closing date)

\*\* New or updated this week

### ***Closes this week!***

**Equality and Human Rights Commission: Strategic plan, Equality Scheme and Grants Programme** (7 February 2009)

#### **Consultation guides**

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/policyresearch/consultations/pages/consultation08.aspx>

**online consultation** <http://equalityhumanrights.dialoguebydesign.net/>

**Identity Cards Act secondary legislation** (13 February 2009)

[http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/downloads/NIS\\_Legislation.pdf](http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/downloads/NIS_Legislation.pdf)

**Proposed Palliative Care Bill** (28 February 2009)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/MembersBills/pdfs/PalliativeCareConsultation.pdf>

**Big Lottery Fund** (28 February 2009)

<http://www.big-thinking.org.uk/consultationsurvey.aspx>

**Consultation on the legislative framework for the regulation of alternative finance investment bonds (sukuk)** (4 March 2009)

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/consult\\_sukuk101208.pdf](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/consult_sukuk101208.pdf)

**End of Life Choices Bill** (9 March 2009)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/MembersBills/pdfs/EndOfLifeChoicesConsultation.pdf>

**Forced Marriage: A Civil Remedy?** (28 March 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/248674/0071298.pdf>

**Regulations to implement the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Act 2008**

(30 March 2009)

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_092465?IdcService=GET\\_FILE&dID=180685&Rendition=Web](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_092465?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=180685&Rendition=Web)

**Scottish Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan** (31 March 2009)

[http://scottishhumanrights.com/documents/SHRC\\_StrategicPlan.pdf](http://scottishhumanrights.com/documents/SHRC_StrategicPlan.pdf)

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## Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities advertised in MEMO+ Recruitment

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## Funding Opportunities

### **Young Scot: Access All Areas: Young People's Integration Project**

"Young Scot: Access all Areas" is a new project aimed at empowering young people from ethnic minority, refugee, asylum seeking and faith groups to influence service provision in their local area, enhance access and promote inclusion. It was developed with a view to involving young people in democratic processes and promoting "informed participation" in local civic structures. Working in partnership with local agencies and using a Local Investigation Team model, groups of young volunteers will be supported to plan and deliver a research project on a topic of their choice in relation to service provision in their area. For information contact Lesley Anderson or Lauren Bruce 0131 313 2488 / [accessallareas@youngscot.org](mailto:accessallareas@youngscot.org) or see [http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09i\\_young\\_scot.pdf](http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09i_young_scot.pdf)

### **European Integration Fund (6 March 2009)**

The European Integration Fund is aimed at legally newly arrived migrants (within the last five years) who are not asylum seekers or refugees, European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) nationals and who have not come to the United Kingdom under visa categories such as students. It can fund local authority, adult, further education and community colleges wishing to offer, or expand capacity, for English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses, that are intended to help legal migrants to become fully functional in United Kingdom society; innovative projects that support the efforts made by the United Kingdom in enabling third country nationals of different social, cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds to fulfil the conditions for permanent residence in the United Kingdom; and work to evaluate the effectiveness of existing and future programmes in bringing about effective integration.

Funding may be up to a maximum of three years and successful bids must also be able to demonstrate that matched funding, usually half is secured before funding will be released. For more information see

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/europeanintegrationfund>

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## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* New or updated this week

### **Equality and Human Rights Commission**

11 February 2009 in Melrose

25 February 2009 in Inverness

18 March 2009 in Aberdeen

Opportunities for advice-giving and frontline representatives of voluntary, community, and educational organisations to meet the EHRC Legal Team and find out more about the Commission and how to work with it, and to let the EHRC know what issues are most significant to you and your service users. For information contact James Andrew 0141 228 5917 / David Reilly 0141 228 5967 / [roadshow@equalityhumanrights.com](mailto:roadshow@equalityhumanrights.com)

### **Make a difference in your community**

13 February 2009 in Glasgow (10.00 – 1.00)

Government Equalities Office event to encourage more women, especially those from ethnic minority backgrounds to consider standing as a local councillor. For information see [http://www.equalities.gov.uk/women\\_councillors\\_taskforce/events.aspx](http://www.equalities.gov.uk/women_councillors_taskforce/events.aspx)

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **\*\* Supporting Migrant Workers in Scotland**

18 February 2009 in Glasgow (1.00 – 5.00)

Scottish Migrants Network Conference for migrant workers and support organisations in Scotland to share policy and practice five years after accession. For information contact Seonad Forbes 0141 353 2220 / [migrantaction@paih.org](mailto:migrantaction@paih.org)

### **Equality and Human Rights Commission**

24 February 2009 in Glasgow

Consultation event to provide views and comment on the draft strategic priorities that will guide the Commission's work and proposed programmes. For information contact Rebecca Thomas 020 3117 0306 / [strategicplanconsultation@equalityhumanrights.com](mailto:strategicplanconsultation@equalityhumanrights.com)

### **Equality and Diversity**

23 April 2009 in Aberdeen (9.30 – 4.30)

SCVO seminar exploring the myths and facts surrounding the six equality strands - race, gender, disability, religion and belief, sexual orientation and age. For information contact Jane Baillie [jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk](mailto:jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk) / 0131 474 8019.

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## Useful Links

**Scottish Parliament** <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/home.htm>

**Scottish Government** <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Home>

**Westminster Parliament** <http://www.parliament.uk/>

**Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)**

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT\\_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw](http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw)

**European Parliament** <http://www.europarl.eu.int/parliament/public.do?language=en>

**One Scotland Many Cultures** <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

**Scottish Refugee Council** [www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

**Scottish Inter Faith Council** <http://www.scottishinterfaithcouncil.org/>

**Equality and Human Rights Commission**

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/Pages/default.aspx>

**Scotland Helpline** 0845 604 5510

**ACAS** [www.acas.org.uk](http://www.acas.org.uk)

**SCVO** <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Home/Home.aspx>

**Volunteer Development Scotland** [www.vds.org.uk](http://www.vds.org.uk)

**Social Economy Scotland** <http://www.socialeconomyscotland.info/content/index.asp>

## Useful Links (continued)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <http://www.oscr.org.uk/Index.stm>

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) <http://www.crbs.org.uk/>

Disclosure Scotland <http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/>

BBC News24 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/default.stm>

BBC Parliament online

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc\\_parliament/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm)

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The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charity SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>



**BEMIS (the Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland)** is the umbrella body for ethnic minority organisations in Scotland. It aims to strengthen the capacity of the ethnic minority voluntary sector; raise the profile and coordinate the voice of this sector; and take a lead on policy issues to ensure that issues of concern are raised with government and other relevant bodies. <http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>