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Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Ministerial Statements

Asylum Support

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): The UK Border Agency expects those with no right to remain in the United Kingdom to return home voluntarily; if they choose not to, we will enforce their removal. Where an individual, through not fault of their own, cannot be removed we will provide support to prevent destitution. This form of support is called section 4 support and is intended as a limited and temporary form of support. Section 4 support is currently administered through a voucher system.

I have approved plans to introduce a plastic payment card system for the administration of section 4 support, personalised for each applicant. This will enable the UK Border Agency to cut down on the abuse of asylum support and provide a more efficient system. The UK Border Agency will pilot this scheme in June, with a view to rolling out the cards to all section 4 applicants later this year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090319/wmstext/90319m0003.htm#09031977000018>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

Migration

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears):

Today, I am publishing “Managing the Impacts of Migration: Improvements and Innovations”. It sets out the progress made across Government against the commitments made in June 2008 to support local areas managing the impacts of migration on their communities. The document also outlines new Government support on migration issues and considers how the impact of migration on local communities and the Government’s response to it has changed in the context of the economic downturn.

The document sets out our continued commitment to controlling migration at a national level, and to ensuring that UK workers have the skills needed to fill vacancies and the opportunity to apply for these vacancies where they arise. Our aim is to ensure that local communities are as resilient as possible to changes brought about by migration. This update outlines the support we are giving to local areas, including:

Announcing a migration impacts fund paid for by increases to migrant fees, providing £35 million for 2009-10 and—subject to a review in the autumn of the economic position and the migrant fees being received—a similar amount in 2010-11. This fulfils the commitment made in the Home Office’s February 2008 consultation on the path to citizenship to set up a fund to manage the transitional impacts of migration. The fund will be available to local services and will be allocated through Government offices and local strategic partnerships.

Announcing our intention to consult on setting up a new Migration Impacts Committee of independent advisers to build on the work of the migration impacts forum.

The cross Government programme led by the Office for National Statistics to improve the population and migration statistics to deliver a package of improvements to be implemented in time

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to feed into key statistics published in 2010 and available to inform the next three year local government finance settlement. The package announced includes technical improvements to the migration statistics, including the use of administrative sources, to produce a more robust local distribution of international migration, and better internal migration estimates.

Setting out a programme of research into what drives migration to the UK, and the geographical pattern and timescales of this migration, together with the preliminary findings of research which supports evidence from other sources that migration to the UK is falling.

Highlighting that we will shortly be issuing a consultation on reviewing the criteria for selective licensing of all privately rented property in designated areas to ensure local authorities have the tools they need to deal with problem properties.

The document has been placed in the Library of the House and can be accessed via the Communities and Local Government website at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/racecohesionfaith/asylumandimmigration>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090319/wmstext/90319m0001.htm#09031977000014>

Ministerial Speech

Speech by Hazel Blears: Managing the Impacts of Migration: Improvements and Innovations

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/migrationimpact>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Sarah Teather [258001]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time taken was to make a decision on the asylum claims of people in receipt of section 4 support in each of the last five years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 is available for failed asylum seekers who are temporarily prevented from leaving the United Kingdom through no fault of their own.

Information on the time taken to reach an initial decision on asylum applications made by people subsequently in receipt of section 4 support can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090316/text/90316w0022.htm#0903164000045>

Damian Green [263202]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many failed asylum seekers were detained in the immigration detention estate on 28 February 2009;

(2) [263203] how many people were detained in the immigration detention estate on 28 February 2009, broken down by nationality.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Published national statistics on persons (including those who had claimed asylum at some stage) held in detention solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. Information on persons detained as at 27 December 2008 by country of nationality has been published in Table J of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom—4th Quarter 2008 supplementary tables, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

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

Comparable information for March 2009 will be published on 20 May.

It is not possible to say, within these statistics, how many of the detainees are failed asylum seekers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090316/text/90316w0022.htm#0903164000046>

Damian Green [263210]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers were living in National Asylum Support Service-funded dispersal accommodation on 1 January 2009.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The National Asylum Support Service (NASS) no longer exists, although its functions continue to be exercised by the UK Border Agency.

Published statistics take a snapshot of asylum seekers supported at the end of the quarter. As at the end of December 2008, there were 25,145 asylum seekers recorded as supported in accommodation in the United Kingdom. This excludes any asylum seekers in initial accommodation and unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Information on asylum support is published annually and quarterly in the Control of Immigration statistical bulletins. Copies of these publications 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/cm090316/text/90316w0022.htm#0903164000047>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Karen Buck [261861]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many citizenship ceremonies have been conducted in each (a) English region and (b) London local authority area in each of the last two years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The available data for 2006 and 2007 are given in the following table. Data for 2008 are scheduled for publication in May 2009.

Statistics on persons attending a British citizenship ceremony by region of the United Kingdom and authority 2006-07 are published in table 8 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Persons Granted British Citizenship United Kingdom, 2007".

This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html>

To read the lengthy tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090316/text/90316w0022.htm#0903164000049>

Damian Green [263200]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate her Department has made of the numbers of people in the UK illegally; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Since the phasing out of embarkation controls in 1994 no government has 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.

As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by 2010 over 95 per cent. of non-EEA foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country, rising to 100 per cent. by 2014. This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, watch-list checks for all travellers before they arrive or depart from the UK and ID cards for foreign nationals.

The Government's plans, set out in 'Enforcing the Deal', published on 19 June 2008, set a clear goal to target and remove the most harmful people first, working with local authorities and enforcement agencies to shut down the privileges of the UK to those breaking the rules.

Copies of this document are placed in the Library of the House. It is also available to view at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/enforcementbusinessplan08_09/enforcementbusinessplan08_09.pdf?view=Binary

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090316/text/90316w0023.htm#0903164000059>

Damian Green [263211]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many houses were rented by her Department under the National Asylum Support Service scheme on 1 January 2009.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The National Asylum Support Service (NASS) no longer exists, although its functions continue to be exercised by the UK Border Agency. The UK Border Agency has 28 contracts with providers to supply accommodation for eligible asylum seekers. To collate the accommodation they provide to accommodate asylum seekers would be disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090316/text/90316w0022.htm#0903164000047>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Damian Green [263208]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) UK and (b) overseas-based lorry drivers were issued with fines for smuggling illegal immigrants into the UK in 2008.

Reply from Phil Woolas: There have been 1,766 processed cases involving lorry drivers who were served with penalties for smuggling immigrants into the UK during 2008.

This figure can be broken down as follows:

- (a) 195 UK lorry drivers
- (b) 1,571 overseas drivers

Some penalties issued during the last two quarters of 2008 are still to be processed.

These figures have been sourced from locally collated management information held within locally accessed computer systems and do not represent National Statistics. They have not been the subject of National Statistics protocols and verification and should therefore be treated as provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090316/text/90316w0023.htm#09031640000059>

Frank Field [264039]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the evidential basis is for the Minister for Borders and Immigration disagreeing with the Office for National Statistics' figures on the number of the British population who are born abroad.

Reply from Phil Woolas: This Government established the UK Statistics Authority, the executive office of which is the Office for National Statistics. These bodies report directly to Parliament. I made it clear that my concerns were not with the figures themselves but rather the news release published at short-notice on 11 February 2009 entitled "UK Born and Non UK Born Employment" and the way these figures, taken together, can be used by others.

The figure of 6.5 million people (one in nine of the total population) born overseas and resident in the UK, published by the Office of National Statistics on 24 February 2009, is a wide definition which includes British nationals born overseas (for example children whose parents are in the armed forces). The 4.1 million figure (one in 15 of the total population) provides a better indication of the nationality of those resident in the UK.

They also include people who are here temporarily (working or students).

We will continue to use the Points Based System to ensure that we are doing the right thing by British workers and for the long-term stability of the economy. Given the economic circumstances and the action we are taking to be more selective, we expect the number of migrants coming to the UK from outside the EEA to fall during the next financial year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090316/text/90316w0024.htm#09031640000061>

James Clappison [259187]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, Official Report, column 2057W, on work permits, how many non-UK nationals of each nationality obtained a work permit on the basis of an intracompany transfer in (a) 2004 and (b) 2008.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table shows the number of work permit applications approved for intra-company transfers in 2004 and 2008 broken down by Nationality.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090316/text/90316w0025.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultation her Department undertook before deciding to withdraw the seven year concession on removal of families. [251838]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Wide debate and consultation was undertaken across the relevant UK Border Agency departments and with Ministers before withdrawing the concession and applying a much more structured consideration to all family cases under the Immigration Rules and the European Convention on Human Rights. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 9 December 2008, Official Report, column 49WS.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090316/text/90316w0024.htm#09031640000063>

Mark Oaten [261849]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions there have been between her Department and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills on the requirements placed upon higher and further education institutions under Tier 4 of the immigration controls established in 2008.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The phased implementation of Tier 4 of the Points Based System, which has been agreed with the education sector and DIUS, commenced on 28 July 2008, when the UK Border Agency started accepting sponsor licence applications from educational institutions that wish to bring students from outside the European Economic Area to the UK for study. The Statement of Changes to the Immigration Rules (HC 314) laid before the House on 9 March 2009 marks the start of the second phase: from 31 March 2009, only UK Border Agency licensed institutions will be able to bring students to the UK, and student applicants will need to meet the Tier 4 points test before being granted leave to enter or remain.

The Joint Education Taskforce (JET) is the UK Border Agency's principal mechanism for consultation with the education sector and has been running since 2005. The JET comprises senior figures and representative bodies from all parts of the education sector, including higher and further education and officials from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), and it and its sub-groups meet on a regular basis.

In addition, throughout the development of Tier 4, the Home Department has had numerous meetings with DIUS and the education sector at both ministerial and official level. There has also been frequent ministerial and official correspondence between both Departments and the sector, regarding the requirements of the new system upon higher and further education institutions.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090316/text/90316w0024.htm#09031640000062>

Keith Vaz [263483]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were (a) applied for by and (b) granted to persons who were not EEA or Swiss nationals for work in (i) health and medical services, (ii) social care services, (iii) hospitality and catering, (iv) computer services, (v) telecommunications and (vi) financial services in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following tables show the number of individual work permit applications applied for and approved for persons who were not EEA or Swiss nationals in each of the last 10 years broken down by specific industry sector. Data on social care services has not been provided as we do not collate information under this general sector, only under specific occupations.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090316/text/90316w0026.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

James Clappison [259185]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, Official Report, column 2057W, on work permits: how many individuals obtained a work permit on the basis of an intracompany transfer for (a) 2004 and (b) 2008.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Intra-Company Transfers are an important part of making the UK an attractive place in which to do business. Changes introduced under the points based system means that companies are limited to a pre-set yearly allocation of Certificates of Sponsorship. This allocation is reviewed annually to ensure that numbers required are fully justified.

The following table shows the number of work permit applications approved for Intra-Company Transfers for 2004 and 2008 broken down by industry sector.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090316/text/90316w0024.htm#09031640000073>

To read the lengthy tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090316/text/90316w0025.htm>

James Clappison [259186]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, Official Report, column 2057W, on work permits, how many applications for a work permit on the basis of an intracompany transfer in respect of non-UK nationals were (a) made and (b) granted in each year since 1997.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Intra-Company Transfers are an important part of making the UK an attractive place in which to do business. Changes introduced under the points based system means that companies are limited to a pre-set yearly allocation of Certificates of Sponsorship. This allocation is reviewed annually to ensure that numbers required are fully justified.

The following table shows the number of work permit applications made and approved for Intra-Company Transfers in each year for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2008.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090316/text/90316w0025.htm>

Stephen Williams [264035]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether post-study work arrangements for international students will remain unchanged for the next academic year.

Reply from Phil Woolas: From 31 March the UK Border Agency will no longer award points under the Tier 1 Post Study route for Postgraduate Diplomas or Postgraduate Certificates other than Postgraduate Certificates of Education. These changes were laid before Parliament on 9 March 2009 in Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules HC 314.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090316/text/90316w0027.htm#09031640000074>

Damian Green [263212]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on housing under the National Asylum Support Service scheme in 2008.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The National Asylum Support Service no longer exists. Its functions have been taken by the UK Border Agency. In the calendar year 2008, the UK Border Agency and its predecessor the Border and Immigration Agency, spent £214 million on accommodation for asylum seekers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090316/text/90316w0022.htm#09031640000047>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Hylton [HL1683]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial provision they are making in (a) the current financial year, and (b) 2009—10, for informing migrant and temporary workers of their employment rights and entitlements, through citizens advice bureaux, churches and community centres, and other bodies.

Reply from Baroness Vadera: The Government are spending £1.2 million in this financial year on an awareness campaign to inform vulnerable workers, including migrant and temporary workers, about their employment rights. As part of this campaign, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is working with grassroots organisations, such as churches, mosques, community centres, and citizens advice bureaux, to distribute information and literature. We plan to invest a further £2.5 million on this campaign in each of 2009-10 and 2010-11.

The Government have also spent £95,000 in this financial year on raising awareness of the national minimum wage among migrant workers through outreach work, posters and online activity. This has included working with the Polish, Lithuanian and Slovakian press in the UK, and working with various community organisations.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90317w0002.htm#09031754000299>

Lord Hylton [HL1727]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how they assess any risk of an underclass of temporary and migrant workers.

Reply from Baroness Vadera: If migrants come into the UK from outside the EU on a work-based migration route it is on the understanding that they are self-sufficient, so the question of being in an underclass does not arise.

While in work, temporary and migrant workers make an important contribution to the national economy; we will not tolerate employers who exploit such workers. We continuously monitor the impact of our strategy to protect vulnerable workers, as set out in our policy statement Success at Work—Protecting Vulnerable Workers, Supporting Good Employers (March 2006). Most recently, we have implemented the measures emerging from the Vulnerable Workers Enforcement Forum, including a campaign on the employment rights for which Parliament has legislated targeting vulnerable workers, including migrant and temporary workers. We are spending £1.2 million on this campaign in this financial year, and plan to invest a further £2.5 million on it in each of 2009-10 and 2010-11.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90317w0002.htm#09031754000299>

Mike Penning [258631]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provisions the UK Border Agency applies in determining the length of student visas for foreign students wishing to study at educational institutions in the UK.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The period of leave granted to overseas students depends on the type of course they are studying and our policies are set out in full in Chapter 3, Section 3, paragraph 27 of the Immigration Directorates' Instructions, which can be accessed on our website at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk. For the majority of students, however, leave is granted for the duration of the course or period of study, followed by an additional period of up to four months to await exam results, attend graduation, and either enrol on another course, make an application to switch into an employment route, which is possible for up to two years, or else leave the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090317/text/90317w0028.htm#09031796000116>

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2119]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many illegal immigrants there are in the United Kingdom; and how many are returned each year.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Since the phasing out of embarkation controls in 1994 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.

As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by 2010 more than 95 per cent of non-EEA foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country, rising to 100 per cent by 2014. This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global rollout of fingerprint visas, watch-list checks for all travellers before they arrive or depart from the UK and ID cards for foreign nationals.

The Government's plans, set out in Enforcing the Deal published on 19 June 2008, set a clear goal to target and remove the most harmful people first, working with local authorities and enforcement agencies to shut down the privileges of the UK to those breaking the rules.

Copies of this document are placed in the Library of the House. It is also available to view at

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/enforcementbusinessplan08_09/enforcementbusinessplan08_09.pdf?view=Binary

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed and departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, and these figures will include illegal immigrants. National statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90318w0002.htm#09031890000353>

Peter Bone [261779]: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with Ministerial colleagues on the provision of services for women who have been trafficked into the UK for sexual exploitation.

Reply from Maria Eagle: We believe that existing mechanisms (the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking and the Home Office NGO Stakeholder Group) provide appropriate forums for discussion and advocacy on issues surrounding trafficking for sexual exploitation, as well as allowing for close scrutiny of progress on the Action Plan and the Council of Europe Convention.

As Minister for Women and Equality, I ensure all Government Departments are considering the specific concerns of vulnerable women. The Home Office and the UK Border Agency continue to work with our international partners both to raise awareness of human trafficking and further strengthen our ability to prevent this crime taking place.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090316/text/90316w0003.htm#09031619000038>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Peter Bone [263881]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been imprisoned following conviction for human trafficking offences in each of the last three years.

Reply from Shahid Malik: The available information is shown in the following table; it shows the number of offenders sentenced to an immediate custodial sentence following conviction for a human trafficking offence.

<i>Persons given immediate custodial sentences for human trafficking offences⁽¹⁾, 2005-07</i>	
	<i>Number of offenders</i>
2005	14
2006	20
2007	22

⁽¹⁾ Asylum and Immigration Act 2004 or Sexual offences Act 2003—includes offences of trafficking into, within and out of United Kingdom for purposes of exploitation or sexual exploitation. This data is presented on the principle offence basis.

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090318/text/90318w0017.htm#090318108000035>

Lord Laird [HL2011]: To ask Her Majesty's Government for each year since 2005, how many applications there have been to the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal, from appellants and from the Secretary of State, for review of determinations under Section 103A of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002; and how many orders for reconsideration have been made by the tribunal in favour of appellants and the Secretary of State.

Reply from Lord Bach: Latest information from the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal shows that since April 2005 it received the following applications for review of determinations under Section 103A of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002:

	Applications from Appellant	Applications from Secretary of State
2005-06	21,136	2,730
2006-07	19,875	3,061
2007-08	23,941	2,640
2008-09 (up to and including February 09)	21,831	2,263

The number of orders for reconsideration that were made by the Tribunal in favour of appellants and the Secretary of State are as follows:

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

	Orders in favour of Appellant	Orders in favour of Secretary of State
2005-06	* Not available	* Not available
2006-07	4,744	2,008
2007-08	4,686	1,760
2008-09 (up to and including February 09)	3,680	1,436

* A total of 6,978 applications for a reconsideration hearing were granted during 2005-06. However, a breakdown of orders in favour of appellants and of the Secretary of State is not available for that period due to a problem with recording data. This information cannot be recovered from reports or the database. Case files for 2005 and part of 2006 have been destroyed in line with the normal destruction policy.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90319w0003.htm#09031952000495>

Lord Laird [HL2091]: To ask Her Majesty's Government for each year since 2005, how many applications there have been to the Administrative Court, from appellants and from the Secretary of State, for review of determinations under Section 103A of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002; and how many orders for reconsideration were made by that court, in favour of the appellant and the Secretary of State.

Reply from Lord Bach: The relevant information is shown in the tables below.

Table 1				
Number of applications received by the Administrative Court from appellants and from the Secretary of State, for reconsideration under s103a NIAA 2002 for each year since 2005				
Applications Received	2005 ⁽¹⁾	2006	2007	2008
Lodged by Secretary of State for the Home Department	26	385	13	34
Lodged by the Appellant	3,346	2,897	3,716	4,150
Total	3,372	3,282	3,729	4,184

(1)2005 figures are from April to December only.

Please note that in 2006 a high number of the applications received from the Secretary of State for the Home Department were in relation to decisions made in cases involving Zimbabwean nationals. These cases were stayed until earlier this year (2009) pending test cases, and are only now in the process of being considered.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Table 2

The results of applications from appellants and from the Secretary of State, considered under s103a NIAA 2002 by the Administrative Court for each year since 2005

Applications Determined by the Court	2005 ⁽¹⁾		2006		2007		2008	
Result	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused
Lodged by Secretary of State for the Home Dept	11	5	8	7	9	14	4	13
Lodged by the Appellant	343	2,753	285	2,338	311	3,239	448	3,449
Total	354	2,758	293	2,345	320	3,253	452	3,462

(1) 2005 figures are from April to December only.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90319w0003.htm#09031952000497>

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the allegation in the paper *Underground Lives* by Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (PafRAS) that up to 500,000 asylum seekers in the United Kingdom are destitute.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, the Government's support policies are such that no person who has sought protection need be destitute while they have a valid reason to be here. Accommodation and subsistence are available to avoid destitution until an asylum seeker has had their claim fully considered, including appeals. Beyond that stage, there is support to avoid destitution for families, vulnerable people and those with a genuine barrier to going home immediately.

Lord Avebury: My Lords, does the Minister acknowledge that this report demonstrates that there are in fact tens of thousands of people, largely those who are classed as legacy cases, who are in this inhumane position of being destitute as a result either of their claims not being considered or being put on the shelf for many years, because no one quite knows how to deal with the huge backlog that accumulated under the previous system? In these circumstances could the Government not get on with the consultation that they have signalled to all the refugee agencies about supporting failed asylum seekers and legacy cases? Meanwhile, would they consider extending Section 95 support to families who are in this desperate position?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, first I should say that we do not actually recognise this 500,000 figure referred to by PafRAS, which is quite a small group which we have not engaged with yet. In fact, it would have been very useful if it had engaged with us and maybe talked with us, as we do with many other organisations already, before this report came out. I imagine that the 500,000 figure relates, as the noble Lord mentioned, to the figure of about 450,000 that the then Home Secretary in 2006 referred to as a backlog. It was wrong that that backlog built up, we have put huge effort into addressing it, more than 155,000 of those people have been dealt with, there are case officers dealing with each block, and we are clearing the backlog at a rate of 10,000 a month and really addressing that area.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90319-0002.htm#09031954000942>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Petition

Immigration and Citizenship

The Humble Petition of the Malayalee community of Southend-on-Sea, Essex,

Sheweth: that the proposal in the Home Office's Green Paper 'The Path to Citizenship' to increase the minimum period of temporary residency on the path to permanent settlement from five years to as much as ten years would not be fair to immigrants already in the United Kingdom who had anticipated they could permanently settle after only five years, and would result in one of the longest delays in access to citizenship in the European Union.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House do urge the Secretary of State for the Home Department to allow those already in the United Kingdom to keep their entitlement to settle as per the existing rules.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c. —[Presented by Mr. David Amess, *Official Report*, 18 December 2008; Vol. 485, c. 1343.]

[P000303]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

The Government are currently taking forward the most radical reform of the immigration system in a generation. We are making changes to the way people come here and how we police our borders. To ensure these changes take real effect, we have proposed a fundamental overhaul of the law. Our earlier consultations showed widespread support for our ambition to reform and strengthen the law.

Having listened to and responded to the concerns of the British public we set out in the Government's response to the Green Paper on citizenship what the new path to citizenship will be. Full details of our proposals were also published in the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill on 15 January. As part of our work we examined the requirements which will enable a migrant to progress on his path towards citizenship and also the rights and benefits available to him during that journey.

The measures we are introducing will ensure that economic migrants seeking citizenship have earned the right by demonstrating English language ability, contributing economically over a period of time and obeying the law. Where these requirements are met citizenship can be obtained after eight years. It can also be obtained more quickly—after six years—where the economic migrant undertakes active citizenship in the community.

We believe it is right to allow those who demonstrate their commitment to the UK by playing an active part in the community to achieve citizenship more quickly than those who do not. In addition, the Government want to encourage those who wish to remain in the UK to become British citizens. That is why we have proposed those who choose not to do so should be required to spend up to 10 years before they can remain permanently and access benefits. The deliberate intention of this proposal is to encourage more eligible migrants to become British and we believe that this is a clear incentive that will help achieve that aim.

We will set out in due course how the proposals will affect those already in the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090313/petntext/90313p0001.htm#09031368000015>

Press Releases

Government announces £70m fund to support communities with migration

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1180107>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

£3.7m for victims of human trafficking
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/11770.htm>

New rules for skilled and highly skilled migrant workers
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/newruleskilledhighlyskilled>

Important changes to the Knowledge of Life requirement for settlement applications
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/knowledgeofliferequirement>

How open should our borders be?
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/018-51869-082-03-13-902-20090316STO51822-2009-23-03-2009/default_en.htm

Britain's biggest immigration removal centre opens
<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/Biggest-imm-removal-centre-opens>

New publications

Managing the Impacts of Migration: Improvements and Innovations
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1179350.pdf>

UK Border Security: Issues, systems and recent reforms
http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=/ecomm/files/UK_border_security.pdf&a=skip

UNHCR Comments on the European Commission's Proposal for a recast of the Directive laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum-seekers
<http://www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/49be19db2.pdf>

News

Migrant workers 'can help recovery'
http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2495649.0.Migrant_workers_can_help_recovery.php

English not first tongue of 1-in-7
<http://thescotzman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/English-not-first-tongue-of.5081706.jp>

Migrants to pay extra for visas
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7951721.stm

Government confirms new migrant tax
<http://thescotzman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Government-confirms-new-migrant-tax.5086831.jp>

Illegal immigrant removal centre is biggest yet
http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2496388.0.illegal_immigrant_removal_centre_is_biggest_yet.php

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Language no barrier for Polish pupil

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7953650.stm

Language ban postmaster quits

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Language-ban-postmaster-quits.5096541.jp>

Dispatched: The post office boss who insisted his customers speak English

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1163765/Dispatched-The-post-office-boss-insisted-customers-speak-English.html>

Union Jack postmaster quits

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/union-jack-postmaster-quits-1651324.html>

Immigrants unlikely to return home during recession, equalities watchdog warns

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/5018494/Immigrants-unlikely-to-return-home-during-recession-equalities-watchdog-warns.html>

Migration adviser says companies should train UK staff

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/mar/20/migrant-labour-staff-training>

Migrants 'face growing hostility'

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7953764.stm

Don't forget – we need immigration

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/articles/?id=3441>

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Race Relations

Ministerial Speech

Speech by Sadiq Khan to the National Association of Muslim Police Conference

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/muslimpoliceconference>

Press Release

Empowering community leaders

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1176921>

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Equality

Holyrood Committee

Equal Opportunities Committee

Evidence on the Scottish Government Race Equality Statement from BEMIS, CEMVO, GARA, the Irish Diaspora in Scotland Association, the Scottish Refugee Council, and the Scottish Gypsy Travellers Law Reform Coalition.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/or-09/eo09-0402.htm#Col860>

Westminster Early Day Motion

John McDonnell (1119) Equality and Human Rights Commission Helpline – That this House notes with concern the Equality and Human Rights Commission's proposal to cut 50 posts from the Helpline Advice Service and to close down its Manchester helpline team; believes that the decision is ill-timed with the number of calls to the Equality and Human Rights Commission helpline increasing due to the recession; further notes with concern that women, people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, disabled people and carers will be particularly disadvantaged by the decision; and therefore calls on the Equality and Human Rights Commission to review its plans and to do more to promote the service so that those people already at a disadvantage are not further disadvantaged by such inopportune cutbacks.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=38230&SESSION=899>

New publication

Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/Documents/Inequalities%20experienced%20by%20Gypsy%20and%20Traveller%20communities%20-%20a%20review.pdf>

News

Mooted cuts at discrimination helpline condemned

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2495683.0.Mooted_cuts_at_discrimination_helpline_condemned.php

Scotland takes 'too few' black students

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Scotland-takes-39too-few39-black.5096602.jp>

A step in the right direction

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/mar/20/race-work-and-careers>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Prisoners: Racial Harassment

Claire Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1216W, on prisoners: racial harassment, what steps he has taken to reduce the number of the incidents of alleged racism; and how many such incidents took place in each year from 1995 to 2007. [262944]

Reply from Shahid Malik: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is committed to eradicating all forms of racism. The recently published 'Race Review 2008', which is available in the library of the House, sets out the current assessment of race equality in the Prison Service and recognises that there has been considerable success in moving towards the elimination of more blatant forms of racism.

Among the ways in which this has been achieved is by making racist incident report forms (RIRFs) more accessible, we have also introduced a level of confidentiality, and improved confidence through increased external scrutiny of the reporting process locally.

This has resulted in an increase in the number of reported incidents. While all reported incidents are taken seriously, few consist of serious allegations of misconduct by staff, and all such matters are subject to disciplinary investigation under the code of conduct and discipline.

The following table presents the number of incidents of alleged racism reported by prisoners from 2004-05 to the present—prior to this there was no central record. The table distinguishes between reports about the behaviour of other prisoners and those concerning service provision or the actions of members of staff.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Prisoner behaviour</i>	<i>Services/actions of staff</i>
2004-05	5,641	2,268	3,373
2005-06	6,912	2,719	4,193
2006-07	7,569	2,993	4,576
2007-08	8,051	2,758	5,293
2008-09 ⁽¹⁾	6,862	2,186	4,676

⁽¹⁾ Figures for 1 April to 31 December 2008

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090316/text/90316w0032.htm#09031646000021>

David Amess [263256]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to allow the separate identification of offences committed against the Jewish community under (a) the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 and (b) section 18 of the Public Order Act 1986; what recent representations she has received supporting separate identification; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Alan Campbell: From April 2009, the Annual Police Community Safety figures will add five data requirements on hate crime. These figures will enable us to identify the number of hate crimes reported due to an individual being targeted because of their race or religion. The Home Office is currently considering the potential for further subcategories within these broader categories.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090318/text/90318w0004.htm#09031889000064>

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

David Amess [263257]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to combat anti-Semitism since January 2009; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Alan Campbell: A range of work is ongoing to reduce hate crime including anti-Semitic crimes. In February 2009, a ministerial seminar agreed an action plan on tackling hate crime on the internet. I have become the cross-government champion for this work on reducing incitement on the internet. Moving forward, tackling anti-Semitic attacks forms part of the work in the development of the cross-government Hate Crime Strategy.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090318/text/90318w0004.htm#09031889000064>

David Lidington [263625]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what matters he plans to propose for inclusion on the agenda for the Durban II conference in Geneva in April 2009.

Reply from Gillian Merron: The United Kingdom has been active in negotiations for the Durban Review Conference. We have, on several occasions, expressed our view on the Durban Review Conference: we want the conference to forge a collective will to fight against racism in all its forms, in all countries in the world. The Government remain deeply concerned about the draft outcome document.

We have made numerous drafting proposals for the concluding document, including on the following issues:

contemporary forms of slavery;

multiple and aggravated forms of discrimination, including on the grounds of sex, religion or belief, disability, age, sexual orientation and gender reassignment;

combating anti-Semitism (including through the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the media, the role of law enforcement, statements by national leaders, education);

Holocaust remembrance and condemning Holocaust denial, including the role of the International Task Force for Holocaust Education Remembrance and Research, the UN and Council of Europe;

national strategies to promote cohesion and tackle community tension;

conflict, including inter-ethnic and intra religious or communal violence;

crimes against humanity, war crimes, ethnic and genocide prevention;

the use of irregular militia;

international justice;

discrimination and victimisation in employment and training, the provision of goods, facilities and services, education, housing and public functions;

cultural diversity;

UN institutional issues;

civil society;

general duties on public authorities to promote race equality.

We have also opposed many amendments that we judge would reduce the prospect of consensus, for example on defamation of religions, singling out one particular country for criticism, and language suggesting a hierarchy of victims.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090318/text/90318w0012.htm#09031889000132>

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Whitaker [HL1801]: To ask Her Majesty's Government (a) whether they will be represented at the United Nations Durban Review Conference; (b) if so, whether this representation will be at ministerial level; (c) what outcomes they hope to achieve from their participation in the conference; (d) how they will report on progress made since the 2001 conference, in particular in relation to their commitment to a national action plan against racism; and (e) how they are engaging with non-governmental organisations in the preparations for and follow-up to the conference.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: The UK is still engaged in the Durban Review process and we will keep our position under review. No decisions have yet been taken on the composition of our delegation.

The Government have on several occasions expressed their view on the Durban Review Conference, the follow-up to the 2001 World Conference Against Racism. We want the conference to forge a collective will to fight against racism in all its forms, in all countries in the world. However, the Government remain deeply concerned about the draft outcome document.

The UK responded to a questionnaire circulated by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights that sought an assessment of how states had implemented the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. This included information on the UK's national strategy to increase race equality and community cohesion, called Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society, which was launched in January 2005.

The Government have received a number of representations from non-governmental organisations on the Durban Review Conference and engage with them at every opportunity.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90318w0004.htm#09031890000373>

Press Releases

Racism denies fundamental right to equality, say top UN officials

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30253&Cr=racism&Cr1=>

Speak out against discrimination

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1422531&Site=DC&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE>

As U.N. Antiracism Day Is Marked, Racist Violence on the Rise

<http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/media/disc/2009/alert/422/index.htm>

International Day Against Racism: The economic crisis must not become tantamount to racism

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2009-03-21.pdf>

Global challenges fuelling rise in anti-Semitic incidents in the OSCE area, says OSCE Personal Representative

<http://www.osce.org/item/36844.html>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) **News**

'I've never hated anything as much as sectarianism. It is destructive, dreadful'
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/sport/football/scotland/article5928421.ece>

English man's eye smashed in racist attack
<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/English-man39s-eye-smashed-in.5082486.jp>

BA pilot sues airline over 'jock' racism claim
http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2496451.0.BA_pilot_sues_airline_over_jock_racism_claim.php

Scottish pilot sues British Airways for 'canteen culture of racist abuse'
<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Scottish-pilot-sues-British-Airways.5086679.jp>

Police hunt women after racial assault
<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Police-hunt--women-after.5092334.jp>

'BNP membership' officer sacked
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/merseyside/7956824.stm>

Merseyside Police sacks officer named in leaked list of BNP members
<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Merseyside-Police-sacks-officer-named.5096618.jp>

Muslim inmates in racism claims
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7954992.stm>

Shop 'turned girl away because she's British'
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/5017824/Shop-turned-girl-away-because-shes-British.html>

Head teacher who suffered stress from racism accusations wins £400,000 damages
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/5017550/Head-teacher-who-suffered-stress-from-racism-accusations-wins-400000-damages.html>

Pilot loses 'racist culture' case against BA
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/pilot-loses-racist-culture-case-against-ba-1647365.html>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Question

Patrick Harvie (S3O-6274): To ask the Scottish Executive what discussions it has had with the UK Government concerning the need for anti-discrimination protection for the Scottish Gypsy/Traveller community and whether it would support legislation in this area.

Reply from Alex Neil: On 26 June 2007 the Deputy First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon MSP, wrote to the then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Ruth Kelly, on this issue, seeking to open the debate and suggested that the UK Government takes the opportunity of the Single Equality Bill to establish Scottish Gypsies/Travellers as a minority ethnic group. Scottish ministers have not yet received a response to this letter. During 2008 this issue was discussed with UK Government officials.

Equalities and discrimination legislation is a reserved matter. However, the Scottish Government recognise Gypsies/Travellers as a distinct ethnic group and have confirmed as much in a number of published documents including the *Scottish Government Race Equality Scheme*.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3O-6274>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Question

Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 947-48W, on Travelling people: caravan sites, what the level and structure of the appropriate fee that should be charged for rubbish collections is; and what guidance her Department issues to local authorities in the event of Travellers refusing to pay. [262671]

Reply from Iain Wright: Section 45(4) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 provides the appropriate power to enable local authorities to seek payment of a reasonable charge for the collection of waste from an unauthorised site. The issue of whether a fee should be charged for the collection of such waste, and the level of that fee, is a matter for the relevant local authority to consider in the light of the circumstances that apply in each individual case. Local authorities have strong powers under section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, to deal with any incidences of fly-tipping that might arise if the council cannot come to an agreement with the occupiers of the site about the level of fee.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090316/text/90316w0016.htm#09031639000024>

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New Publications

Gypsies and Travellers - simple solutions for living together

<http://edit.equalityhumanrights.com/Documents/Gypsies%20and%20Travellers.pdf>

New Publications (continued)

Assessing local housing authorities' progress in meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities in England

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/Documents/Assessing%20local%20housing%20authorities%27%20progress.pdf>

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Other News

Travelling people site development: refusal of appeal

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/03/16/newsstory12778570t0.asp>

Council acts to move on travellers who set up camp at business park

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1125782>

Call for religious schools to open up intake

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2495681.0.Call_for_religious_schools_to_open_up_intake.php

Church and health board battle over patient

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2497083.0.church_and_health_board_battle_over_patient.php

Child safety sham puts lives at risk

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/-Child-safety-sham-puts.5096619.jp>

Hindu Davender Kumar Ghai fight for right to open-air funeral pyre

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/article5947035.ece

Third Force News Annual Charity Awards (closing date for entries 17 April 2009)

Categories include Charity of the year, Campaign of the year, Charity Champion, Community Action, and Partnership. Entry is open to voluntary organisations, registered charities, non-profit social enterprises, campaigning groups and agencies and partners that help voluntary organisations reach their potential. For information see <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvocms/images/TFNScottishCharityAwardsentryform.doc>

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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>

Bills in Progress

Holyrood (continued)

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

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-09/bb-03-18g.htm>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-09/bb-03-19g.htm>

and (bottom of page)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-09/bb-03-20g.htm>

**** Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/24-CrimJustLc/index.htm>

Equalities Impact Assessment

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/264471/0079248.pdf>

Health Boards (Membership and Elections) Bill

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

Bill as passed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor0312-02.htm#Col15803>

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

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

Stage 1 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor0318-02.htm#Col15871>

Scottish Local Government (Elections) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/21-SLGelections/index.htm>

**** Sexual Offences Bill**

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/11-sexualOffences/b11s3-stage2-ml2.pdf>

Justice Committee consideration of amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/or-09/ju09-0902.htm#Col1646>

Bills in Progress (continued) **Westminster**

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

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

Scottish Parliament Legislative Consent Motion debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor0319-02.htm#Col16064>

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldbills/029/amend/am029-c.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldbills/029/amend/am029-d.htm>

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Consultations (closing date)

**** new or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

Inquiry into Race in the Construction Industry (24 March 2009)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/policyresearch/usinglegalpowers/pages/raceandconstructionfi.aspx>

**** closes this week!**

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

Scottish Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan (31 March 2009)

http://scottishhumanrights.com/documents/SHRC_StrategicPlan.pdf

Call for submissions of practices and initiatives in education that aim to combat intolerance against Muslims (15 May 2009)

<http://tandis.odhr.pl/index.php?p=edu,mus,map>

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Job Opportunities

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

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**** this week!**

Promoting Equality, Dignity and Respect in the Workplace

25 March 2009 in Glasgow (10.30 – 3.00)

BEMIS / STUC conference to promote a better understanding and deployment of employment rights within the race equality agenda. For information contact Adnan Miyasar 0141 548 8047 / Adnan.miyasar@bemis.org.uk

Refugee Integration: the interface between policy, research & practice

27 March 2009 in Glasgow (9.00 – 3.30)

Scottish Refugee Council, and Institute for Advanced Studies conference to inform delegates of the current policy-making agendas at EU, UK and Scottish levels; highlight the implications of changes to those working with refugees and asylum seekers; give delegates opportunities to feed their views into the development of research into refugee integration; highlight the work of service providers delivering refugee integration programmes and the experiences of refugees themselves; and provide networking opportunities to delegates from across different fields. For information see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/SRC_Spring_Conf or contact graeme.corbett@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

2 April 2009 in Glasgow

9 June 2009 in Glasgow

20 August 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council seminar for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=67>

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 / 0131 474 8019.

Working with interpreters

28 April 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work with non-English speaking service users, including asylum seekers and refugees, who need a comprehensive understanding of some of the key issues of working with interpreters. For information see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=72> or contact SRC 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Introduction to the Needs of Refugee Women

21 May 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting women seeking sanctuary in Scotland. For information contact SRC 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=65>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

9 June 2009 in Glasgow

20 August 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to identify the issues and concerns participants have in relation to working with asylum seekers and refugees, provide information on legal, political, economic and historical factors in relation to people seeking asylum, share ideas for developing good practice, and to identify strategies and resources for work with refugees. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=73>

UKBA (formerly NASS) Asylum Support - The Essentials

3 September 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course covering the asylum process and the legal framework, support arrangements available to asylum seekers from the beginning to the end of the asylum process, and entitlements for refugees and unaccompanied or separated asylum-seeking children. For information contact SRC 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=60>

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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

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

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

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

Useful Links (continued)

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

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

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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/>