

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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Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month.

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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Debate

Operation Pathway (includes discussion about student visas)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090420/debtext/90420-0004.htm#0904203000002>

Westminster Ministerial Statements

Language Analysis (Race Relations Act 1976)

Phil Woolas (Minister for Borders and Immigration): I have made an authorisation under section 19D of the Race Relations Act 1976 as amended, to enable the Secretary of State to request that asylum applicants claiming to be nationals of Afghanistan submit to language analysis.

Language analysis carried out for some Afghan asylum applicants demonstrates that significant proportions of those tested have claimed to be of a nationality, or from a region or grouping, that is not their own in order to try to gain residence in this country. This authorisation will assist the Secretary of State to make decisions in individual Afghan cases, and to ascertain the extent of abuse within this nationality.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

The Secretary of State may take a refusal to submit to testing into account when determining whether an applicant has assisted in establishing the facts of his case or her case.

The authorisation will remain in place for 12 months (until April 2010), at which point we will review whether it is still necessary and appropriate.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090420/wmstext/90420m0001.htm#090420200009>

Armed Forces: Gurkha Pensions

Lord West of Spithead (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office): My honourable friend the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration (Phil Woolas) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

In 2004, the right to settle in the United Kingdom was given to Gurkhas who had been discharged from the British Army on or after 1 July 1997. This was the date of the handover of Hong Kong from Britain to China and the point at which the Brigade of Gurkhas moved its headquarters from Hong Kong to the United Kingdom.

Guidance was issued to immigration caseworkers on how to consider applications from Gurkhas who had been discharged before 1 July 1997.

In September 2008 the High Court ruled that the policy of using 1 July 1997 as a cut-off date was fair, but also found that the guidance used by caseworkers when making decisions on those discharged before 1997 needed to be much clearer in setting out the factors which were to be given weight in assessing which individuals should be offered settlement in the UK.

The Government fully accepted this judgment. The guidance has now been revised and is available on the UK Border Agency website. In considering changes to the guidance, we have taken on board not only the letter of what the judge said in this case but also the spirit of his judgment. The new guidance will ensure that those who have given outstanding service will be entitled to settle in the UK. In summary, under the terms of the guidance, Gurkhas and their families will be able to come to the UK to settle where they meet one of the following criteria:

three years' continuous lawful residence in the UK during or after service; close family settled in the UK with whom they enjoy family life within the meaning of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR); a level 1-3 award for gallantry, leadership or bravery for service in the brigade; 20 or more years' service in the brigade; and a chronic/long-term medical condition which is attributable to, or was aggravated by, service in the brigade.

Additionally, discretion will normally be exercised and settlement in the UK granted if two or more of the following criteria are met:

claimants were previously awarded a UK Ministry of Defence disability pension but no longer have a chronic/long-term medical condition attributable to, or aggravated by, service in the brigade; claimants received a mention in dispatches (level 4 award) for service in the brigade; and claimants completed 10 years' service in the brigade or served less than 10 years but received a campaign medal for active service in the brigade.

We estimate that this guidance will mean that over 4,000 ex-Gurkhas and around 6,000 spouses and children will qualify for settlement rights in the UK. We will be proud to welcome those individuals to the UK in recognition of the outstanding service that they gave. We will work with the Ministry of Defence to ensure that those who might be eligible in Nepal are fully aware of these changes and of the opportunity for settlement.

The Government both recognise and honour the huge contribution that the Brigade of Gurkhas has made, and continues to make, to the Armed Forces. This contribution is chiefly recognised through the arrangements made to support Gurkhas following their

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

discharge. Prior to 2007 the Gurkhas completed their service at the age of 33, and from that time and the rest of their lives they received a pension which allows for a very good standard of living in Nepal. The pension is generous and has been significantly increased over the last decade.

I hope that former Gurkhas and their supporters will work with us to raise awareness of the new guidance and ensure that those eligible to settle in the UK under its terms are aware of that choice. In line with our commitment to the High Court, we will now reconsider all outstanding appeals by 11 June 2009. I intend to initiate a review of the impact of the guidance in 12 months' time

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90424-wms0001.htm#09042439000038>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Lord Avebury [HL2690]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what fees are payable by a British citizen resident abroad (a) to sponsor his non-citizen spouse and three children to apply for entry clearance to reside in the United Kingdom; (b) to renew their resident status from time to time until they were granted indefinite leave to remain; and (c) to apply for them to acquire British citizenship when they become eligible.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The total fees payable by the non-EU spouse of a British citizen and three non-EU children aged below 18 from 6 April 2009 are as follows:

Entry clearance: £2,340

Further leave to remain (if applicable): £615

Indefinite leave to remain: £970

British citizenship: £1,200

Additionally, the non-EU spouse is required to take the knowledge of life test prior to applying for indefinite leave to remain, for which the fee is £33.28, and to attend the British citizenship ceremony prior to the grant of British citizenship, for which the fee is £80.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90420w0002.htm#09042043002031>

Lord Avebury [HL2691]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what fees are payable by a Commonwealth citizen resident abroad (a) to obtain a United Kingdom ancestry visa; (b) to sponsor his non-citizen spouse and three children to apply for entry clearance to reside in the United Kingdom; (c) to renew their resident status from time to time until they are granted indefinite leave to remain; and (d) to apply for them to acquire British citizenship when they become eligible.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The total fees payable by a Commonwealth citizen, their non-Commonwealth spouse and three children aged below 18 from 6 April 2009 are as follows:

Entry clearance: £1,075

Further leave to remain (if applicable): Postal application £665

Indefinite leave to remain: Postal application £1,020

British citizenship: £1,250

Additionally, the Commonwealth citizen and non-Commonwealth spouse are required to take the knowledge of life test prior to applying for indefinite leave to remain, for which the fee is £33.28 each person, and are required to attend the British citizenship ceremony, for which the fee is £80 per person.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90420w0002.htm#09042043002031>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Warsi [HL2632]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people in each of the last five years have been denied entry into the United Kingdom on grounds of (a) national security, and (b) threat to public harmony.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: In total, 3,829 persons were refused entry at the UK border on grounds relating to the public good. This figure cannot be broken down into a) national security and b) threat to public harmony, as specific reasons on refusals relating to the public good are only recorded under the categories "Exclusion Conducive to the Public Good" or "(EEA) Regulations 2006". The annual breakdown for these types of refusal in the last five years is as follows:

| Year | Number of refusals |
|-------|--------------------|
| 2004 | 977 |
| 2005 | 645 |
| 2006 | 626 |
| 2007 | 828 |
| 2008 | 753 |
| Total | 3829 |

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90420w0009.htm>

Claire Curtis-Thomas [268794]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on (a) human rights abuses in countries from which people undertake enforced migration to the UK and (b) levels of inequality in such countries; and what discussions he has had on measures to reduce levels of enforced migration.

Reply from Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) 2008 Human Rights Report which gives details on the FCO's engagement with states on human rights issues including with reference to migration.

The UK works with other states, bi-laterally and through the EU, to reduce illegal migration, tackle the root causes of forced migration and manage legal migration into the UK.

The FCO 2008 Human Rights report is available for viewing online at:

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/fco-in-action/conflict/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090421/text/90421w0009.htm#09042279000116>

Andrew Rosindell [269484]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Kenyan citizens have been granted asylum in the UK in the last 12 months.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Information on the number of Kenyan citizens who were recognised as a refugee and granted asylum in the United Kingdom in 2008 is published in table B of the supplementary web tables published with the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary—Fourth Quarter 2008. This table shows applications received for asylum in the UK (excluding dependants) and initial decisions broken down by country of nationality.

2008 figures are provisional and may be subject to change. Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Statistics for Q1 2009 will be available in May 2009 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/cm090421/text/90421w0015.htm#09042279000173>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

John Grogan [268632]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been granted leave to remain on the grounds of at least 14 years continuous residence in the UK in each year since 2004.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table shows the number of main applicants (excluding dependants) granted indefinite leave to remain on the grounds of 14 years long residency each year since 2004.

| | <i>Main applicants</i> |
|-------|------------------------|
| 2005 | 725 |
| 2006 | 820 |
| 2007 | 815 |
| 2008 | 910 |
| 2009 | 305 |
| Total | 4,430 |

Notes:

1. 2009 figures are for a partial year—1 January to 30 March.
2. The figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.
3. The individual figures and total have been rounded to the nearest five.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090422/text/90422w0020.htm#0904239000126>

John Battle [269085]: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the Government's official development assistance has been spent on providing temporary assistance to refugees from developing countries in the last two years.

Reply from Michael Foster: Nearly all of the UK Government's support for refugees in developing countries is through the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the lead UN agency for providing support to refugees. The assistance to UNHCR includes some support for internally displaced people as well as for refugees. Some funding is provided to other agencies. The most substantial of which is that given to the Thai Burma Border Consortium which provides support to refugees on the Burma/Thai border.

| <i>Funding</i> | <i>2007</i> | <i>2008</i> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| UNHCR (£ million) | 30.7 | 27.7 |
| Thai Burma Border Consortium (£ million) | 0.3 | 1.1 |
| Total (£ million) | 31.7 | 28.5 |
| | | |
| As a proportion of official development assistance (percentage) | 0.57 | 0.50 |

There may be some other small elements of funding through other organisations which support refugees as part of grants not specifically focused on refugees.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090423/text/90423w0014.htm#09042364000036>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Andrew Rosindell [269486]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Zimbabwean citizens were granted (a) asylum and (b) right to remain in the UK in 2008.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Information on the number of Zimbabwean citizens that were granted (a) asylum and (b) right to remain in the United Kingdom in 2008 can be found in table B of the supplementary tables published with the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary—Fourth Quarter 2008. This table shows applications received for asylum in the UK (excluding dependants) and initial decisions broken down by country of nationality. 2008 figures are provisional and may be subject to change. 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/cm090421/text/90421w0016.htm#09042279000180>

Damian Green [269746]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign students were prosecuted for breach of the work conditions of their visa in 2008.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The system used by the UK Border Agency to record data relating to prosecutions for immigration offences (including those found working in breach of their conditions) does not categorise individuals by the nature of their stay in the UK. To establish the number of foreign students prosecuted for this offence, therefore, would require the examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

It should be noted, however, that the UK Border Agency would normally seek to remove an individual under such circumstances, rather than to prosecute them, as the former presents a more cost effective alternative

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090422/text/90422w0020.htm#0904239000123>

Martin Horwood [270190]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are in place to enable UK Border Agency caseworkers to examine new evidence in respect of individuals seeking asylum.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The procedure followed by UK Border Agency case owners in examining new evidence in respect of individuals seeking asylum depends on the stage the asylum claim has reached when the new evidence comes to light.

If the individual's asylum claim is outstanding, the new evidence will form part of the initial consideration.

If the individual has had an initial decision on their asylum claim, but they have an appeal outstanding, they may have a reconsideration of the original decision by the UKBA case owners, or the new evidence may be considered at appeal by an immigration judge, depending on the similarity of the new evidence to that which has previously been considered.

If the individual has come to the end of the asylum process and has exhausted their appeal rights, any new evidence put forward will be considered under paragraph 353 of the Immigration Rules.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090423/text/90423w0015.htm#0904236000006>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Ken Purchase [267845]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria apply to decisions on whether to grant asylum to a Bahraini national.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Bahrain generates very few asylum claims here. In accordance with our international obligations, trained case owners will consider any claim that is made on its individual merits consistent with the established refugee and human rights criteria, referring to the latest available country of origin information. The UK Border Agency provides country specific guidance to case owners on common types of asylum claim from countries which generate significant numbers of such claims. Because there are no common types of Bahraini asylum claim, reflecting very low numbers of applications, no such country specific guidance is produced for Bahrain.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090423/text/90423w0015.htm#09042366000007>

Chris Huhne [264766]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review the UK's opt-out from the EU returns directive; and if she will adopt a maximum time limit for the detention of illegal immigrants.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: While the United Kingdom has not opted-in to this directive, we agree that a collective approach to removal would have advantages. However, we are not persuaded that this directive delivers the strong returns regime that is required for dealing with irregular migration. We prefer to formulate our own policy in line with retaining control over conditions of entry and stay; including the returns procedure. Our current practices on the return of illegal third country nationals are in line with the prescriptions of the directive.

Detention is a final option and is only used for the shortest period necessary. Every decision to detain is taken on a case by case basis and we do not have a maximum time limit.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090423/text/90423w0015.htm#09042366000014>

Damian Green [267450]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals under the points-based immigration system have resulted from errors in registering the date on which an application was submitted.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Under the points-based system, where an application for leave to enter the UK is refused, the applicant does not have a right of appeal, although they may ask for us to review our decision. This is known as Administrative Review.

Where an application for leave to remain in the UK is refused a right of appeal is available.

Although the Case Information Database records the number of appeals that are the result of decisions made by migrants applying under the new points-based system, it does not record the grounds for each appeal. It is therefore not possible to generate a report which shows which of these were lodged due to an error in registering the date on which the application was submitted. This information could be obtained only by manually cross-checking a large number of individual case files, which could be completed only at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090423/text/90423w0016.htm#09042366000019>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Nicholas Soames [256880]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits for intracompany transfers were issued in each month of 2008; and how many dependants were included in such permits.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table provides numbers of Intra Company Transfer work permits issued by month for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008. The number of dependants is not available as work permits were issued to companies who applied on behalf of individuals.

| | <i>Number</i> |
|----------------|---------------|
| January 2008 | 4,315 |
| February 2008 | 3,875 |
| March 2008 | 3,680 |
| April 2008 | 4,680 |
| May 2008 | 4,455 |
| June 2008 | 3,790 |
| July 2008 | 4,850 |
| August 2008 | 4,735 |
| September 2008 | 4,550 |
| October 2008 | 4,195 |
| November 2008 | 3,505 |
| December 2008 | 1,385 |
| Total | 48,010 |

Notes:

1. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. Figures are rounded to nearest five so the monthly figures may not quite add up to the total.

2. The figures do not equate to the number of individuals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

Nicholas Soames [256881]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued under the Storage Occupation Scheme in 2008; and how many dependants were included in such permits.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The number of work permits issued under the shortage occupation application category in 2008 was 7,595⁽¹⁾. The number of dependants is not available as work permits were issued to companies who applied on behalf of individuals.

⁽¹⁾ The figure quoted is not provided under National Statistics protocols and has been derived from local management information and is therefore provisional and subject to change. Figure is rounded to nearest 5.

The figures do not equate to the number of individuals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090423/text/90423w0017.htm#09042366000029>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Nicholas Soames [256882]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many permits were issued in each month of 2008 under the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme and Tier One of the points-based system; how many dependants were included in those permits; which the top 10 countries of origin were for such permit holders in 2008; and how many permits were issued to applicants from each such country.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The information requested on tier 1 of the points based system is not currently available. It will be published as part of the Migration Statistics in August 2009.

Information for the Highly Skilled Migrant programme (HSMP) is set out as follows. The table shows the number of permits (approvals) granted under the HSMP route by month, from January 2008 until December 2008 and includes information on both In Country and Out of Country grants for main applicants and dependants.

| <i>HSMP</i> | | | | <i>Main applicants</i> | <i>Dependents</i> |
|-------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------------------|-------------------|
| | <i>Main applicants</i> | <i>Dependents</i> | | | |
| January | 4,505 | 1,710 | July | 1,455 | 270 |
| February | 4,210 | 1,545 | August | 1,105 | 285 |
| March | 3,415 | 1,045 | September | 2,170 | 180 |
| April | 3,025 | 975 | October | 1,580 | 260 |
| May | 1,395 | 630 | November | 80 | 265 |
| June | 1,525 | 370 | December | 50 | 225 |
| | | | Total | 24,515 | 7,760 |

HSMP: Top 10 countries

The following table shows the top 10 countries of origin (nationalities) for which permits (approvals) have been granted under the HSMP route in 2008. It includes in country and out of country data for main applicants only.

| <i>Top 10 Countries</i> | <i>Number of permits issued</i> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| India | 6,635 |
| Pakistan | 2,500 |
| Australia | 1,870 |
| Nigeria | 1,835 |
| South Africa | 1,030 |
| New Zealand | 1,010 |
| United States of America | 525 |
| China | 365 |
| Sri Lanka | 350 |
| Russian Federation | 210 |

Note: The "out of country" portion of HSMP data is sourced from CRS system; the "in country" portion of HSMP data is sourced from Adept and CID system. Data has been extracted from the aforementioned systems on 25 February 2009.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090423/text/90423w0017.htm#09042366000029>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Mark Oaten [261850]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many academic advisors the UK Border Agency employs to assess whether students have made sufficient academic progress under the requirements of Tier 4 of the immigration controls established in 2008.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency does not assess whether students have made sufficient academic progress under the requirements of tier 4 of the points based system (PBS). The education provider, as a licensed sponsor, will be relied upon to make this assessment.

The phased implementation of tier 4 of the points based system 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. No student has yet been assessed under tier 4 of the PBS.

UK Border Agency officers are not best-placed to make academic judgments about the ability for a student to carry out a course, that is why under tier 4 we are replacing the current subjective criteria with clear and objective tests. Under tier 4, the education provider, as a licensed sponsor, will be relied upon to make the assessment as to whether a student has made sufficient academic progress. The sponsor may only issue a visa letter to the student if it is satisfied that the student both intends and is able to follow the course of study concerned.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090423/text/90423w0016.htm#09042366000018>

Frank Field [269101]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provisions in law govern the acquisition of the right of permanent settlement of foreign nationals who have been legally resident in the UK for five years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Immigration Rules can be accessed via the UK Border Agency website at:

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/immigrationlaw/immigrationrules/>

Copies of the Immigration Rules are also available in the House Library.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090422/text/90422w0021.htm#0904239000132>

Press Releases

Highly skilled migrant programme (HSMP) Forum Judicial Review - Judgement of 6 April 2009

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/indefiniteleavetoremainforhsmmp1>

[see <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/indefiniteleavetoremainforhsmmp> for the previous press release to which this refers]

Statement on Gurkhas right to settle in the UK

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/gurkhas-statement>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

New guidance for Gurkhas wishing to settle in the United Kingdom

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/guide-Gurkhas-wishing-to-settle>

Platform for dialogue: 'European Integration Forum' and interactive 'European Web Site on Integration': two new tools to make integration work.

<http://eesc.europa.eu/activities/press/cp/docs/2009/communique-presse-eesc-049-2009-en.doc>

Europe must deliver a common immigration policy, say MEPs

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/018-54071-111-04-17-902-20090421IPR54070-21-04-2009-2009-false/default_en.htm

New publication

Migration: A long-run perspective

http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=/ecomm/files/migration_a_long_run_perspective.pdf&a=skip

News

Salmond intervenes in deportation

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside_and_central/8006940.stm

Salmond calls on Smith to help family's deportation fight

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Salmond-calls-on--Smith.5184446.jp>

Home Office to reconsider case of family facing deportation over £78

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/04/20/home-office-to-reconsider-case-of-family-facing-deportation-over-78-86908-21291083/>

Possible reprieve for Dr Salins

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/04/21/newsstory12991485t0.asp>

Indian man to fight deportation

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside_and_central/8012930.stm

Indian man wins deportation fight

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside_and_central/8012930.stm

Delight as doctor won't be deported

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/04/24/newsstory13013085t0.asp>

Indian man wins appeal to stay in Scotland with his family

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Indian-man-wins-appeal-to.5202077.jp>

Joy for family in deportation fight

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2504074.0.joy_for_family_in_deportation_fight.php

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Deportation threat family can stay two more years

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1186546>

New rules a 'disgrace' to Gurkhas

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/04/25/newsstory13020167t0.asp>

Gurkhas 'betrayed' by residency ruling

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2504224.0.Gurkhas_betrayed_by_residency_ruling.php

Tears over 'shameful betrayal' of Gurkhas denied right to live in UK

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Tears-over-39shameful-betrayal39-of.5205433.jp>

Fury at Gurkhas' immigration rules

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2504103.0.fury_at_gurkhas_immigration_rules.php

'Betrayed' Gurkhas to fight on

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1187863>

Briefing: Gurkhas: Soldiers spurned

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/article6168865.ece>

Don't be sentimental. We have treated the Gurkhas well

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/edwin-bramall-dont-be-sentimental-we-have-treated-the-gurkhas-well-1674259.html>

Welcome to Scotland ... if you're white and rich

http://www.sundayherald.com/oped/opinion/display.var.2504263.0.welcome_to_scotland_if_youre_white_and_rich.php

Nothing's lost in translation as NHS' interpreter bill soars

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Nothing39s-lost-in-translation-as.5188555.jp>

Field hits out over immigration levels

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Field-hits-out-over-.5206592.jp>

Police poised to launch people trafficking unit

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Police-poised-to-launch-people.5206529.jp>

Tootae toon: how Poles catch Glesga patter on the buses

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/comment/Peter-Ross-Tootae-toon-how.5206601.jp>

New Ideas For The 21st Century: Immigration and welfare: a bad mix

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article6168821.ece>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Inside Yarl's Wood: Britain's shame over child detainees

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/inside-yarls-wood-britains-shame-over-child-detainees-1674380.html>

Why low migration levels threaten the UK's economic and social health

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/joepublic/2009/apr/23/migration-emigration-uk-dorling>

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Race Relations

New publication

Citizenship Survey April – December 2008, England

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1208751.pdf>

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Equality

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Women: Black, Asian and Minority-ethnic Councillors

The Lord President of the Council (Baroness Royall of Blaisdon): My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Government Equalities Office (Maria Eagle), has made the following Statement.

In May 2008 the Government Equalities Office established a cross-party task force chaired by Baroness Uddin to take practical action to make local councils more representative.

Black, Asian and minority-ethnic women account for less than 1 per cent of England's 20,000 councillors. To be more representative of society as a whole, the number of black, Asian and ethnic-minority women councillors needs to be increased from around 149 of all councillors in England to nearer 1,000.

The task force has been leading a national outreach programme to raise awareness of the role of councillors, provide practical advice and encourage more women to engage in public life.

Today I am announcing a councillor mentoring/shadowing scheme as part of the task force's work programme. It will be delivered by Operation Black Vote and will allow 50 women to shadow councillors from participating local authorities around Britain and receive training. The scheme will commence in the autumn and will provide women with support in taking their next steps to becoming a local councillor.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90424-wms0001.htm#09042439000042>

Equality (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Lord Taylor of Warwick [HL2212]: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will encourage gender and racial equality in British business boards; and, if so, how.

Reply from Baroness Royall of Blaisdon: We are committed to increasing the diversity on boards and support the annual publication of the Female FTSE report which acts as a benchmark on progress for women and ethnic minorities holding directorships. We also support initiatives like the FTSE 100 cross company mentoring programme which is backed by 33 chairmen and CEOs who are crucial in getting women into directorships. We established the Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force, which is working to improve employment outcomes for ethnic minorities. It is working with employers, via representative bodies such as the CBI, to encourage greater diversity at senior levels in business. We are also taking measures in the Equality Bill to broaden the range of positive action measures that can be taken by employers or service providers to the full extent allowed by European law. In addition, the EHRC is conducting formal inquiries into the financial services sector and construction sector, as there is evidence that women and ethnic minorities are not fairly represented within these sectors. We will consider the results of these reviews carefully to see if further government action is needed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90420w0006.htm#09042043002063>

Press Release

Commission's enforcement team takes on more than 300 cases in first 18 months

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/newsandcomment/Pages/Commissions-enforcement-team-takes-on-more-than-300-cases-in-first-18-months.aspx>

New publications

Public Sector Equality Duties

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Documents/Equalities/PSDgen.pdf>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Durban Review Conference

Webcast of proceedings

(video available in English translation and in original languages)

20 April <http://un.org/webcast/durbanreview/archive.asp?go=090420>

21 April <http://un.org/webcast/durbanreview/archive.asp?go=090421>

22 April <http://un.org/webcast/durbanreview/archive.asp?go=090422>

23 April <http://un.org/webcast/durbanreview/archive.asp?go=090423>

24 April <http://un.org/webcast/durbanreview/archive.asp?go=090424>

Racism and Religious Hatred

Durban Review Conference (continued)

Summaries

- **Pre-session panel discussion 20 April**
http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/coverage/pdf/Panel_Discussion.pdf
- **Morning session 20 April**
<http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/coverage/pdf/Durban%20Review%20ConferenceRC.pdf>
- **Morning session, 21 April**
http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/coverage/pdf/21.04.09_meeting_summary_am_en.pdf
- **Afternoon session, 21 April**
http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/coverage/pdf/21.04.09_meeting_summary_pm_en.pdf
- **Summary of the afternoon session, 21 April**
http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/coverage/pdf/21.04.09_meeting_summary_pm_en.pdf
- **Morning session, 22 April**
http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/coverage/pdf/22.04.09_meeting_summary_am_en.pdf
- **Morning session, 23 April**
http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/coverage/pdf/23.04.09_meeting_summary_am_en.pdf
- **Afternoon session, 23 April**
http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/coverage/pdf/23.04.09_meeting_summary_pm_rev1_en.pdf
- **Morning session, 24 April**
http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/coverage/pdf/24.04.09_meeting_summary_am_en.pdf
- **Afternoon session, 24 April**
http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/coverage/pdf/24.04.09_meeting_summary_pm_en.pdf
and
http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/coverage/pdf/24.04.09_meeting_summary_roundup_en.pdf

Press Releases

Statement by the European Network Against Racism on the occasion of the UN Durban Review Conference

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2009-04-20%20Durban%20Statement%20final.pdf>

Divisiveness perpetuates racism, Secretary-General warns

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30526&Cr=racism&Cr1=>

Opening Statement of Ms. Navanethem Pillay United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/stmt20-04-09_pillay.shtml

Racism and Religious Hatred Durban Review Conference (continued)

Press Releases

United Nations Secretary-General tells Durban Review Conference that despite decades of advocacy, racism still exists

http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/stmt20-04-09_sg_address.shtml

Statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the remarks by the President of Iran at the Durban Review Conference

http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/coverage/press/pr_20-04-09_iran.shtml

UN rights chief 'shocked' at US withdrawal from anti-racism conference

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30520&Cr=racism&Cr1=>

UN human rights chief welcomes agreement on document for anti-racism conference

http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/pr_17-4-09.shtml

Durban Review Conference: draft outcome document

http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/pdf/Draft_outcome_document_Rev.2.pdf

Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, has called President Ahmadinejad's remarks about Israel at the Durban Review Conference in Geneva 'offensive, inflammatory and utterly unacceptable.

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=News&id=16643925>

Anti-racism Durban Review Conference adopts final outcome document

<http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/story23.shtml>

Highlights of press conference by High Commissioner for Human Rights on adoption of Durban Review Conference outcome document

http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/coverage/press/pr_21-04-09.shtml

Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis speaks at the Durban review Conference in Geneva

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1435475&Site=DC&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE>

High Commissioner: Crucial role of civil society in the implementation of anti-racism conference outcome

<http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/story26.shtml>

Anti-racism report adopted despite 'disinformation' campaign

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30590&Cr=racism&Cr1=>

Opening remarks by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, at the closing press conference of the Durban Review Conference

http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/coverage/press/pr_24-04-09_pillay.shtml

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

UK statement at Durban Review Conference

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=PressS&id=16724307>

Racism and Religious Hatred Durban Review Conference (continued)

Publication

Final outcome document

http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/pdf/Durban_Review_outcome_document_En.pdf

News

Six countries boycott UN racism event

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/foreign/display.var.2502971.0.Six_countries_boycott_UN_racism_event.php

More nations to boycott UN race summit

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/More-nations-to-boycott-.5184445.jp>

Boycott-hit racism forum to open

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/8007440.stm>

Boycott blow for UN racism forum

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/8006852.stm>

Walkout at Iran leader's speech

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/8008572.stm>

In quotes: Ahmadinejad speech

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/8008850.stm>

Fault lines split UN racism summit

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/8007673.stm>

EU split over racism conference

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/thereporters/markmardell/>

Racism and Religious Hatred Press Release

EU survey of minorities and immigrants sheds new light on extent of racism in EU

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/press/mr-220409_en.htm

New publication

European Network Against Racism: European Parliament Elections Toolkit

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/EP%20elections%202009%20T-Kit.pdf>

News

Race furore sparked by rugby man's comment on skin colour

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Race-furore-sparked-by-rugby.5191755.jp>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

I'm going to quit Scotland because people have been nasty to me, says bomb-threat racist facing jail term

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/04/22/i-m-going-to-quit-scotland-because-people-have-ben-nasty-to-me-says-racist-would-be-bomber-86908-21296065/>

BNP leader defends policy on race

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8011878.stm

Nick Griffin defends BNP leaflet that says black and Asian Britons 'do not exist'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1172801/Nick-Griffin-defends-BNP-leaflet-says-black-Asian-Britons-exist.html>

Teachers report 'racist bullying'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8014880.stm>

Archbishop rubbishes BNP British 'genocide' claims

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2503875.0.archbishop_rubbishes_bnp_british_genocide_claims.php

New research exposes undercurrent anti-Semitism

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article6155355.ece>

Black beauty queen 'targeted by racist abuse'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/5189596/Black-beauty-queen-targeted-by-racist-abuse.html>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Questions

Andrew Welsh (S3O-6662): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to extend the teaching of Chinese culture, history and language.

Reply from Fiona Hyslop: We have taken a number of steps to extend the teaching of Chinese culture, history and language over the past year, including launching eight Confucius classrooms in Scotland and several national qualifications in Chinese languages, increasing the number of teachers of Chinese, and funding 51 young people to undertake a study visit to China this summer.

Andrew Welsh: I thank the Government for the introduction of Chinese language teaching at school level and commend Angus Council's on-going pioneering work to promote direct cultural, educational and commercial contacts, which I originally instigated and which now leads the whole of Scotland. That work shows what can be done by positive co-operation and action at local government level.

Will the cabinet secretary further encourage the teaching of Chinese language, culture and history at school, college and university levels to promote mutual understanding and friendship between and economic benefits for Scotland and China? One of the world's oldest civilisations is now reaching out to the world. Through knowledge, we can break down any barriers to communication.

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Fiona Hyslop: I congratulate the member and Angus Council on leading the way in many ways on relationships with China and particular areas of the country. I want language teaching to be encouraged in colleges and universities. Qualifications in languages for work purposes, which will include units on Cantonese and Mandarin, are among the interesting new qualifications that are coming on board. I think that those qualifications will readily lend themselves to a college or university situation.

I completely agree with Andrew Welsh. Having returned from my visit to China, I realise the importance of ensuring that we can communicate with one of the oldest cultures and societies in the world and one of the biggest growing markets in the world. The economic and educational links certainly bode well for Scotland in the future.

Margo MacDonald: When the cabinet secretary was in China, did the Chinese say whether they have maximum class sizes or whether they determine the number of pupils in classes by the subject that they are studying, the teacher's experience of teaching that subject and the socioeconomic range that the school caters for?

Reply from Fiona Hyslop: The classes that I saw in China—certainly in Shanghai—were slightly larger than those in Scotland. However, there is an important message for Scotland. When I was in Hong Kong, it was clear to me that people there had just embarked on educational reforms that are very similar to the curriculum for excellence reforms. They were concerned that the previous rote learning in large classes, which was done in a chalk-and-talk way, was no longer fit for purpose. We have agreed to collaborate closely with the Hong Kong Government in particular. They are several years ahead of us, but it is clear that there are lessons that we can learn from them. Individuals learning to learn is becoming increasingly important. It should be remembered that Hong Kong performs strongly in the international tables, particularly in science and maths. There is a lot to learn both ways about education and schools in China.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor0423-02.htm#Col16728>

News

MSP wins her fight to bring suicide bill to Holyrood

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2504227.0.MSP_wins_her_fight_to_bring_suicide_bill_to_Holyrood.php

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Paul Goodman [270451]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 89 of the report, The United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering International Terrorism, published in March 2009 and the development of a set of standards and a recruitment framework for all chaplains engaged in public service, what criteria will be used to select chaplains; who will select the chaplains; and what role the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board will play in the development of the set of standards and recruitment framework

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Sadiq Khan: Following a tendering process in August 2008, Faith Matters were awarded the contract to pilot a draft framework of standards and recruitment process for public institutions to use when engaging Muslim chaplains, developed by The Experience Corps. Pilots will be undertaken in a number of public institutions, including prisons, hospitals and police forces.

Pilot sites will be selected by Faith Matters, based on public institutions which will be looking to engage a Muslim chaplain within the next couple of months, and willing to follow, or be assessed against, the recruitment process and use the framework of standards to assess candidates' suitability for the post.

As the framework of standards and recruitment process documents have already been developed by The Experience Corps, the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB) have not played a role in developing these.

Faith Matters' evaluation of the pilots will incorporate the views of relevant officials within participating institutions, as well as wider stakeholder consultation with imams, other faith leaders, chaplains, and officials from other Government Departments and relevant associated agencies. Individuals who take part in MINAB may feed into the evaluation of the pilots as part of the wider stakeholder consultation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090423/text/90423w0023.htm#09042372000018>

Baroness Falkner of Margravine [HL2824]: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, since 2008, they have consulted (a) working groups, (b) committees, or (c) expert or advisory groups, on Sharia law.

Reply from Lord Bach: In July 2008 Oxford University's Family Law and Policy Unit held a seminar under Chatham House Rules, at which leading Muslim academics and practitioners gave their views on Sharia law in family cases and Sharia councils. The ministry encouraged the university to convene this conference and members of ministry staff attended it. In October 2008, Dr Syed Aziz Pasha, Secretary-General of the Union of Muslim Organisations of the UK and Ireland, met my right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Justice (Jack Straw), when my right honourable friend made clear that Her Majesty's Government were wholly opposed to any system of Sharia law running separately from the established laws of the United Kingdom.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90421w0002.htm#090421114000229>

Baroness Warsi [HL2390]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many reverse female circumcision operations have been carried out by the National Health Service in each of the past six years.

Reply from Baroness Thornton: The number of reverse female circumcision operations that have been carried out by the National Health Service in each of the past six years is not held centrally. There are over 12 specialist clinics in the NHS that treat women and girls who have been mutilated. All the clinics have trained and culturally sensitive staff who offer a range of healthcare services for women and girls, including reversal surgery (deinfibulation).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90420w0006.htm#09042043002066>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Patel of Blackburn [HL2647]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of the people stopped in stop and search cases in 2008 were of Muslim, Indian, Bangladeshi and Pakistani heritage.

Reply from Lord Bach: It is not part of the stop and search procedure for the police to ask for an individual's religion, so no information on the number of Muslims stopped and searched is available.

An Official Statistics publication—Statistics on Race in the Criminal Justice System 2007/08—will be published on Thursday 30 April. This will include a 16+1 ethnicity breakdown, where numbers for people who self-define as Indian, Bangladeshi and Pakistani will be shown. This will be the first time that this level of detail will be published; former publications gave only police-officer-defined ethnic appearance, commonly known as 4+1.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90420w0013.htm#09042043002128>

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department issues on the land area to be allocated to a Traveller's pitch on a local authority site. [270527]

Reply from Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government does not specify the land area to be allocated to a Traveller's pitch on a local authority site. However, "Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites: Good Practice Guide" provides guidance on what an average family pitch should be capable of accommodating. The site design guidance, which is aimed at socially rented sites, makes clear that there is no one size fits all measurement for a pitch and this will depend on the size of families and their needs. The guide is available on our website at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/designinggypsiesites>
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090423/text/90423w0024.htm#09042372000026>

Press Release

All young people expected and supported to help their communities

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2009/090424_dcsf.aspx

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Other News

Imams used in fight against drugs

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/8008362.stm

Traditional virtues under threat as charities face meltdown

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/-Traditional-virtues-under-threat.5205395.jp>

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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>

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

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

Stage 2 consideration of amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/ellc/or-09/ed09-1102.htm#Col2171>

**** Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill**

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

Finance Committee: evidence from the Scottish Government, Perth and Kinross, and North Lanarkshire Councils, Criminal Justice and Substance Misuse Services, North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, the Scottish Prison Service, the Scottish Police Services Authority, and the Scottish Court Service

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/finance/or-09/fi09-0902.htm#Col1049>

Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill

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

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>

Bills in Progress Westminster

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

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldbills/036/amend/am036-c.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldbills/036/amend/ml036-i.htm>

House of Lords: Third Reading

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90422-0006.htm#09042268000055>

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Consultations

(closing date)

** new or updated this week

Equality and Human Rights Commission Legal Grants Programme 2009

(no closing date given)

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/Documents/Corporate_info/grant_forms/Legal_Grants_consultation_S.doc

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>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator Corporate Plan 2009-11 (20 May 2009)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=a98d0e42-1f22-456f-94f9-2478749f650e>

**** Working together to protect crowded places (10 July 2009)**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-crowded-places/working-together-crowded-places?view=Binary>

and

Safer Places: a counter-terrorism supplement

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-crowded-places/safer-places?view=Binary>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund

Closing date for applications: 30 April 2009

Grants of up to £15,000 over three years for locally based faith groups in Scotland wishing to undertake practical action in response to community need, particularly in the economically poorest urban and rural communities. For information see

<http://www.fiscaf.org/index.htm>

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**** this week!**

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

Consultation on the Equality and Human Rights Commission Legal Grants Programme 2009

6 May 2009 in Glasgow

EHRC consultation on the definition and scope of casework, measuring outcomes, priorities, yearly funding and funding criteria. For information contact Julia Evans 0141 228 5914 / julia.evans@equalityhumanrights.com

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>

Protecting Vulnerable Groups: Check to Protect

2 June 2009 in Edinburgh (9.30-1.30)

10 June 2009 in Glasgow (9.30-1.30)

16 June 2009 in Aberdeen (9.30-1.30)

17 June 2009 in Dundee (9.30-1.30)

24 June 2009 in Inverness (9.30-1.30)

25 June 2009 in Perth (9.30-1.30)

Scottish Government events to inform organisations about the new Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme. This new membership scheme for people who work with children and protected adults will replace current disclosure arrangements for people whose post requires an enhanced disclosure. For information see <http://www.protectingvulnerablegroups.com/> or contact Holyrood Events 0131 272 2136

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>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Hate crime and community safety** (event for Muslim Women)

1 July 2009 in Falkirk (10.00-1.30)

Event organised by AMINA women's resource centre, and Central Police with speakers from the Crown Office, Police, Victim Support, and AMINA, and including round table discussions on issues affecting Muslim Women in relation to policing. For information contact Samina or Gabrielle 0141 585 8026 / info@mwrc.org.uk or Fiach 01786826012 / fiach.obroin-molloy@centralscotland.pnn.police.uk

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

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

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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/>