

## 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

### Holyrood Debate

**Scottish-Polish Connection**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor1028-02.htm#Col20589>

### Holyrood Parliamentary Motions

**Christina McKelvie (S3M-5046): Bad Science at the UK Border Agency**—That the Parliament notes with dismay that, despite widespread condemnation by the scientific community, the UK Border Agency has announced that it will continue with its nationality-swapping Isotope analysis and DNA-testing process, or so-called Human Provenance Project, intended to establish the race and national origin of people seeking asylum in the United Kingdom and specifically to identify Somali nationals; notes that Sir Alec Jeffreys, the pioneer of DNA fingerprinting, has described the project as "wildly premature, even ignoring the moral and ethical aspects"; further notes that an editorial in Nature magazine describes the project as "scientifically flawed, ethically dubious and potentially damaging to science"; believes that, even if these test results are not used to determine the outcome of individual asylum claims, they are nonetheless invasive, of questionable purpose and open to potential abuse, and calls on the Home Office to cancel the Human Provenance Project forthwith.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=17558>

## Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Motions (continued)

**Shirley-Anne Somerville (S3M-4641): Celebrating the Scottish-Polish Connection—** That the Parliament commemorates the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the Polish navy in Leith on 1 September 1939; notes that the three Polish destroyers Burza (Storm), Grom (Thunder) and Blyskawica (Lightning) saw service alongside the Royal Navy during the Second World War, with Grom being sunk with heavy loss of life on 4 May 1940; recognises that the arrival of the destroyers marked the beginning of a strong wartime Scottish-Polish connection, with several squadrons of the Polish Air Force serving in the country and Polish ships based at a number of Scottish ports, including Rosyth, Greenock, Port Glasgow, Ardrossan, Gourock, Dundee and Scapa Flow; further recognises that the main influx of Poles during the war occurred following the collapse of France in 1940 when some 30,000 Polish troops were evacuated to the United Kingdom and were stationed in Scotland, many of whom settled here; notes that a Polish house was organised in Edinburgh by the British Council to help the Polish community socially and educationally at this time; celebrates not just the wartime links but the long historical connection between Scotland and Poland, which includes upwards of 40,000 Scots migrating to Poland during the 17th century, and applauds the work of many organisations, including the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum and the Scottish Polish Cultural Association, for helping to develop awareness of the historical connections, promote cultural understanding and foster strong relations between modern generations of Scots and Poles.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=17105>

## Westminster Debate

### Immigration: Migrant Workers

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/91027-0007.htm#09102776000640>

## Westminster Parliamentary Questions

### Legal Aid: Immigration

**Frank Dobson [294862]:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the Legal Services Commission does not allow consortium bids for funding on immigration cases.

**Reply from Bridget Prentice:** Following consultation, the LSC proposed that consortium arrangements should only be permitted for core social welfare law categories such as debt, housing and welfare benefits. This was in order to ensure that integrated services can be provided for people who will often have multiple problems. In immigration cases, the necessary services are capable of being delivered by single providers; therefore there is not the need to allow consortium bids.

Providers will be able to bid for asylum and immigration new matter starts as part of the 2010 process and the number of starts available will vary from area to area according to demand. Providers will be required to do a minimum volume of cases in each area of law (except in Devon where only non-asylum starts will be made available).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091028/text/91028w0014.htm#09102844000012>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

### Immigration Policy

**Ann Winterton** [295142]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account he takes of potential demographic changes in the UK in formulating his policy on immigration.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The Government have mechanisms in place which are controlling the number of people coming to the UK to work and study through the points based system.

We are also consulting on a new points test for citizenship which will break the link between coming to the UK to work or study on a temporary basis and permanent settlement.

The figures published by the Office of National Statistics last week are projections and as they themselves say they do not take into account the reforms the Government have made to the immigration system. As the ONS points out, they are projections, based on previous years' trends, not forecasts.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091026/text/91026w0036.htm#0910264000044>

### Migrants

**Andrew Robathan** [295147]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many migrants were given permission to remain in the UK in (a) 1996 and (b) the last year for which figures are available.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The number of persons granted indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom was: (a) 61,730 in 1996; and (b) 148,740 in 2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091026/text/91026w0036.htm#0910264000046>

### Immigration: Young People

**Lembit Öpik** [294590]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers Border force officers have no power to detain a British citizen, solely on the basis of age. British citizens are not subject to immigration control and so, do not require permission to enter or remain in the United Kingdom.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** In cases involving minors and young people, the UK Border Agency is committed to ensuring their safety and welfare. Border force officers examine all such arriving passengers and will only allow them entry to the UK once they are satisfied that suitable arrangements are in place for their care.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091026/text/91026w0040.htm#0910264000064>

### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Tim Boswell** [294011]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many private colleges of further education have been denied registration for the purpose of student visas since the introduction of the points-based scheme.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** In total 188 educational establishments have been denied registration under tier 4 of the points based system, with only one being a private college of further education.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091028/text/91028w0009.htm#0910283800032>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

### Entry Clearances: Pakistan

**John Barrett** [293611]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets apply for timescales for processing visa applications at the British consulate in Islamabad.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The UK Border Agency's agreed target times for processing visa applications, including those received by the Visa Section in Islamabad, are published on its Visa Services website: [www.ukvisa.gov.uk](http://www.ukvisa.gov.uk).

They are:

- To complete 90 per cent. of straightforward, non-settlement applications in not more than a week, 98 per cent. in not more than two weeks, and 100 per cent. in not more than 12 weeks.
- To complete 90 per cent. of non-straightforward, non-settlement applications in not more than three weeks, 98 per cent. in not more than six weeks and 100 per cent. in not more than 12 weeks.
- To complete 95 per cent. of applications for settlement visas in not more than 12 weeks and 100 per cent. in not more than 24 weeks.

The quarterly performance against these targets of each visa processing centre is also published on the website.

We are aware that these targets are not being met in respect of applications made in Islamabad and are therefore taking urgent action to rectify this.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091028/text/91028w0009.htm#09102838000033>

### Worker Registration Scheme

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL5729]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people are registered under the Worker Registration Scheme in respect of each of the European Union accession countries.

**Reply from Lord West of Spithead:** Not all European Union accession countries' workers need to register under the Worker Registration Scheme; nationals of Malta and Cyprus are not required to register. Information for the period May 2004 to quarter one 2009 can be accessed via the following link at [http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/accession\\_monitoring\\_report/](http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report/)

Information for quarter two 2009 is available via the following at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immig209.pdf>.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/91029w0003.htm#09102934000625>

### Work Visas

**Harry Cohen:** If [the Minister for Borders and Immigration] will make it his policy to allow those whose applications for work visas are under consideration to work until final determination of their case is made. [295128]

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** Those who have leave to work in the United Kingdom at the time that they apply for an extension may carry on working until their new application is decided. Those who do not have leave to work in the UK when they apply for permission to work must wait until their application is decided. We have no plans to change that.

**Harry Cohen:** My advice surgeries are filled with people who are going to be granted the right to stay but are not allowed to work. If we take Mrs. Pierre-Louis, who is married to a British citizen and has an eight-year-old British son, we find that her only mistake was to fill in the wrong form at the Home Office. She has now received the sack, even though her employer, the council, acknowledges that she is an excellent care home worker.

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

What do the Government have to say to people, such as Mrs. Pierre-Louis, who lose their jobs; and why is the policy implemented so harshly against such people?

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** If there is a particular case that my hon. Friend would like me to take up, I shall look into it. However, the application for the permit is due within three months of its ending, and on this matter we have set a target of achieving decisions on 75 per cent. of applications within four weeks. Mr. Speaker, I can report to you that we are achieving decisions on 94 per cent. of applications within four weeks.

**Tony Baldry:** How can any of us have any confidence that the UK Border Agency is fit for purpose? I had at my constituency surgery on Friday someone who lives in my constituency and who has been waiting for nine years for the UK Border Agency and its predecessors simply to process his first application for consideration as a refugee. Am I the only person in the House who has completely lost the will to live in respect of the UK Border Agency having any competence to deal with work permits, asylum applications or anything else?

**To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091026/debtext/91026-0001.htm#09102612000036>

### Asylum Applications

**Stewart Jackson** [295133]: What recent estimate [the Minister for Borders and Immigration] has made of the average time taken to process an application for asylum.

**Richard Ottaway** [295134]: What [the Minister for Borders and Immigration's] most recent estimate is of the average time taken to process an asylum application.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** In December we met our targets to conclude 60 per cent. of new cases within six months. That means not only that decisions were taken early but that in a significant proportion of refusals, removal from the UK was effected within six months of application.

In 1997 it took on average 22 months merely to reach an initial decision. We can only speculate how much longer than that it was taking to remove those who were refused at that time.

**Stewart Jackson:** Why are Members of Parliament routinely sent letters by the Border and Immigration Agency advising them in respect of individuals applying for asylum and indefinite leave to remain that those cases will not be resolved until July 2011? Is not that a sign of a failing and dysfunctional Department, or as we heard earlier, is that the policy of this Government—

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** It is important not to confuse asylum with immigration. The contrary is the case: the reason why the former Home Secretary, who is in his place, set that target was to ensure that Members of Parliament could be confident that their constituents' cases were being dealt with. To be fair, as we have reported to the Home Affairs Committee, we are getting through the legacy backlog at a significant rate. The date is that by which we must have completed those cases; it does not mean that all the cases with which the hon. Gentleman is dealing will take that long.

**To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091026/debtext/91026-0002.htm#09102612000040>



## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

### Asylum Applications

**Stephen Hammond** [295141]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the average time taken to process an application for asylum.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** In December we met our targets to conclude 60 per cent. of new cases within six months. That means not only that decisions were taken early but that in a significant proportion of refusals, removal from the UK was affected within six months of application. In 1997 it took on average 22 months merely to reach an initial decision. We can only speculate how much longer than that it was taking to remove those who were refused at that time.

**David Evennett** [295148]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the average time taken to process an application for asylum.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** In December we met our targets to conclude 60 per cent. of new cases within six months. That means not only that decisions were taken early but that in a significant proportion of refusals, removal from the UK was affected within six months of application.

In 1997 it took on average 22 months merely to reach an initial decision. We can only speculate how much longer than that it was taking to remove those who were refused at that time.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091026/text/91026w0036.htm#0910264000043>

### Children: Human Trafficking

**Peter Bone** [291034]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions he has had with local authorities on their provision of support for vulnerable children suspected of having been trafficked under (a) section 20 and (b) section 17 of the Children Act 1989; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Dawn Primarolo:** My noble Friend, Baroness Morgan of Drefelin, met officials from the London borough of Hillingdon in March this year to discuss work they are undertaking on child trafficking at Heathrow airport in partnership with the Metropolitan police. She is also a member of the Inter Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking, which meets regularly to discuss such issues. It is for each local authority to shape the services they provide to meet the needs of their local population. Where a local authority identifies a child who requires support, including those that have been trafficked, they are then responsible for identifying appropriate services to meet their needs, including being kept safe from any likely significant harm.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091029/text/91029w0023.htm#09102956000055>

### Human Trafficking: Compensation

**Anthony Steen** [294867]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many compensation orders against convicted human traffickers there have been in each of the last three years; and how much money has been realised as a result.

**Reply from Maria Eagle:** According to the Ministry's court proceedings database, there were no offenders ordered to pay compensation for offences relating to human trafficking in the years 2005-2007, the latest three years for which data are available. Data for 2008 will be available when 'Sentencing Statistics 2008' is published.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091028/text/91028w0012.htm#09102844000008>

## **Immigration and Asylum** (continued) **Press Releases**

**People seeking sanctuary in Scotland forced to survive for up to four years with no cash**

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/Section\\_Four\\_October](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/Section_Four_October)

**Sheffield biometrics go mobile**

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/october/sheffield-biometrics-go-mobile?area=allNews>

**UN human rights expert voices concern over treatment of child migrants**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32746&Cr=migrant&Cr1>

## **New publications**

**Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialized Countries First Half 2009: Statistical overview of asylum applications lodged in Europe and selected non-European countries**

<http://www.unhcr.org/4adebca49.html>

## **News**

**Angus Council set to back Angela's let-me-stay case**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/10/26/newsstory14006405t0.asp>

**Half of homeless crisis centre's clients are eastern Europeans**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/half-of-homeless-crisis-centre-s-clients-are-eastern-europeans-1.929000>

**UK mulls returning failed asylum seekers to Zimbabwe**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/UK--mulls-returning-failed.5780442.jp>

**Hundred children held at Dungavel**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow\\_and\\_west/8335913.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/8335913.stm)

**Child numbers at immigration centres revealed**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/child-numbers-at-immigration-centres-revealed-1813013.html>

**Immigration saga puts end to storyteller's visit**

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Immigration-saga-puts-end-to.5784354.jp>

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## **Race Relations**

### **New publication**

**Conflicts over Mosques in Europe**

<http://www.nefic.org/docs/projects/NEF%20ReIDem%20-%20RELIGION%20&%20MOSQUES%20-%20Final.pdf>

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## Racism and Religious Hatred

### Holyrood Parliamentary Question

#### **Sectarianism**

**Bill Kidd** (S3W-28400): To ask the Scottish Executive when it will present its coordinated approach on tackling sectarianism.

**Reply from Fergus Ewing:** I can confirm that the Scottish Government's strategy on tackling sectarianism will be presented on 23 November 2009 at an event I will be hosting to mark the achievements of those organisations that have been working in this area. I will be inviting those MSPs who have noted their interest in this work to the event.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-28400>

### Holyrood Parliamentary Motions

**Michael McMahon** (3M-5050): **Give All Racism in Scottish Football the Boot**—That the Parliament welcomes the swift response from Show Racism the Red Card and Glasgow Rangers FC to the racial abuse allegedly suffered by Maurice Edu; notes with disappointment that the relevant incident took place during Show Racism the Red Card's annual Fortnight of Action during which all of Scotland's football clubs combine to deliver an anti-racist message; welcomes the demonstration of their support for the campaign through on-pitch activities in a weekend of action on 24 and 25 October 2009; agrees that racism of any kind is totally unacceptable; urges fans of all Scottish football clubs to challenge all examples of racism in football and society in general; believes that the singing of "the Famine Song" in particular has not been challenged vigorously enough, and calls on anti-racist organisations and football authorities to respond as strongly to any and all future incidents of racism in Scottish football and with the same level of condemnation and action as has been the case on this occasion.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=17562>

**Bill Butler** (S3M-5055): **Let's Show Racists the Red Card**—That the Parliament notes that 16 to 31 October 2009 marks Show Racism the Red Card's annual Fortnight of Action; welcomes the fact that all 42 clubs playing at the professional level in Scotland were involved in a weekend of action on 24 and 25 October through on-pitch activities and that £10,000 in grants has been distributed to help 22 community-based initiatives organise a variety of events to promote tolerance; believes that Scottish football, both at club and international level, has benefited hugely from the participation of players born outside of Scotland; abhors the treatment of players who have been racially abused at grounds across Scotland, and unequivocally affirms that racism has no place in Scottish society.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=17567>

### Westminster Parliamentary Question

#### **Religious Hatred: Prosecutions**

**Dominic Grieve** [295749]: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions have been brought for the offence of incitement to religious hatred under Part 3A of the Public Order Act 1986 as amended by the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006; and how many convictions have resulted.

**Reply from the Solicitor-General:** To date one prosecution has been brought but has not concluded: a person has been charged and a trial date has yet to be fixed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091026/text/91026w0003.htm#09102614000051>



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

### **Westminster Early Day Motion**

**Marsha Singh (2182) English Defence League** – That this House notes with concern the activities of the English Defence League (EDL), which is trying to spread fear, violence and hatred against the Muslim community; further notes that, in the light of previous EDL demonstrations, the proposed demonstration in West Yorkshire is likely to threaten race relations and community cohesion especially in a region that has in the past been blighted by riots inspired by racism; and calls on the relevant Government departments to come together to investigate and if necessary quash this new non-political social movement.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=39437&SESSION=899>

## **Press Release**

**Government officials from 40 countries discuss data collection on hate crimes at OSCE meeting in Vienna**

[http://www.osce.org/odihr/item\\_1\\_41036.html](http://www.osce.org/odihr/item_1_41036.html)

## **News**

**Race hate campaign forces two families to flee homes**

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Race-hate-campaign-forces-two.5777285.jp>

**BNP 'on Question Time annually'**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk\\_politics/8330354.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8330354.stm)

**Protesters throw eggs and heckle as BNP leader Nick Griffin appears at Scottish radio station**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/10/28/protesters-throw-eggs-and-heckle-as-bnp-leader-nick-griffin-appears-at-scottish-radio-station-86908-21779827/>

**Protests during BNP leader's Glasgow visit**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/protests-during-bnp-leader-s-glasgow-visit-1.929128>

**British No-show Party as Nick Griffin bottles it**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/British-Noshow-Party-as-Nick.5776294.jp>

**BNP leader skips visit to Springburn**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2533466.0.bnp\\_leader\\_skips\\_visit\\_to\\_springburn.php](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2533466.0.bnp_leader_skips_visit_to_springburn.php)

**Let's work together to make sure the racists are kept at bay**

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/opinion/Cammy-Day-Let39s-work-together.5783964.jp>

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**Jobbik, BNP move to form pan-European far-right alliance**

<http://euobserver.com/843/28888>

**'All white staff' request refused for birth**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/all-white-staff-request-refused-for-birth-1810877.html>

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## Other Holyrood

### Press Release

**Fund to support vital services opens**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/10/30144841>

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## Other Westminster

### Parliamentary Questions

#### **Travelling People: Schools**

**Stewart Jackson** [294898]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether local authority performance targets on Traveller pupils are part of his Department's national indicator set.

**Reply from Vernon Coaker:** Currently local authorities have to set performance targets for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils at key stages 2 and 4 where there is a cohort of 30 or more pupils. Recent changes to the target setting regulations mean that from 2010, performance targets will need to be set where there is a cohort of three or more Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091026/text/91026w0044.htm#09102640000096>

#### **Travelling People: Computers**

**Stewart Jackson** [294966]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many laptops have been issued to Travellers under the E-LAMP scheme since its inception; and at what cost to the public purse.

**Reply from Vernon Coaker:** Since the inception of the E-Learning and Mobility Project in 2003 856 laptops have been loaned to mobile Gypsy and Traveller children at a cost of £481,600. The laptops are owned by the participating local authority's Traveller Education Support Service. The service will recover and reallocate the laptops when pupils leave the area or end their statutory education.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091029/text/91029w0031.htm#09102956000102>

### Press Releases

**Scottish Affairs Committee: Communication between UK Government and Scottish Executive**

<http://news.parliament.uk/2009/10/communication-between-uk-government-and-scottish-executive/>

**Launch of British Hajj delegation 2009**

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=21103044>

### New publications

**Improving Educational Outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Pupils. What Works?**

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR170.pdf>

## Other Westminster New publications (continued)

**The Government Response to the Joint Committee on Human Rights Report  
Closing the Impunity Gap: UK law on genocide (and related crimes) and redress  
for torture victims**

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/gov-response-joint-committee-human-rights-report.pdf>

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## New Publications

**Religion and Healthcare in the European Union**

<http://www.nefic.org/docs/projects/NEF%20ReIDem%20-%20RELIGION%20&%20HEALTHCARE%20-%20Final.pdf>

**Teaching about Religions in European School Systems**

<http://www.nefic.org/docs/projects/NEF%20ReIDem%20-%20RELIGION%20&%20EDUCATION%20-%20Final.pdf>

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## Other News

**Councils to crack down on gypsy sites**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/councils-to-crack-down-on-gypsy-sites-1.928767>

**Gypsy camps crackdown**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2533229.0.gypsy\\_camps\\_crackdown.php](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2533229.0.gypsy_camps_crackdown.php)

**Kirk selects Moderator Designate**

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news/nr711009.htm>

**'I thought I was alone with my MS'**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/8309376.stm>

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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>

**Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill**

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

## Bills in Progress Holyrood (continued)

### **\*\* Public Services Reform Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/26-PubSerRef/index.htm>

Stage 1 evidence from the Scottish Government

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/finance/or-09/fi09-2402.htm#Col1608>

## Bills in Progress Westminster

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

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

### **Crown Employment (Nationality) Bill**

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

### **Equality Bill**

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

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## Consultations (closing date)

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Charging for immigration and visa applications** (1 December 2009)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/charging09/>

### **Integrated Reporting** (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, 29 December 2009)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=ae8a56f1-3abd-4d53-b0c1-0ee5708f4c39>

### **A Road Less Travelled - A Draft Gypsy Traveller Strategy** (Welsh Assembly Government, 5 January 2010)

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/housingcommunity/gypsytravellers/?lang=en>

### **Consultation on Public Sector Equality Duty Specific Duties** (15 January 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/286361/0087195.pdf>

### **\*\* 1st year Implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings** (15 January 2010)

[http://www.antislavery.org/includes/documents/cm\\_docs/2009/c/2\\_call\\_for\\_evidence\\_final.pdf](http://www.antislavery.org/includes/documents/cm_docs/2009/c/2_call_for_evidence_final.pdf)

### **UK Border Agency Equality Scheme** (15 January 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/Stakeholder-questionnaire.pdf>

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## Job Opportunities

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

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## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* New or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator consultation on Integrated Reporting**

3 November 2009 in Aberdeen (1.30)

5 November 2009 in Inverness (1.30)

17 November 2009 in Glasgow (6.00pm)

18 November 2009 in Glasgow (9.30 and 1.30)

24 November 2009 in Edinburgh (6.00pm)

25 November 2009 in Edinburgh (9.30 and 1.30)

1 December 2009 in Dumfries (1.30)

OSCR is looking for comments on our consultation 'Integrated Reporting - The future of reporting and the register' which aims to streamline reporting procedures and to enhance the information about charities made available to the public. For information see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/Events.aspx>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Judge a Book by its Cover? Not me!**

4 November 2009 in Inverness (10.00 – 12.00)

11 March 2010 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 12.00)

SCVO seminar to discover more about the process of stereotyping, and how misinformed judgements may lead to prejudice and discrimination. For information contact Jane Baillie [jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk](mailto:jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk) / 0131 474 8019

**\*\* this week!**

### **Religious and Moral Education and Multi-Culturalism: Scotland in the Wider European Context**

5 November 2009 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 5.00)

Edinburgh University conference to discuss the experiences of majority and minority groups in relation to Religious and Moral Education in Scottish schools, and how Scotland compares with other European countries in its approach to the teaching of Religious and Moral Education. For information contact Helen Christie [helen.christie@ed.ac.uk](mailto:helen.christie@ed.ac.uk) / 0131 651 6459 or see [http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09xi\\_remc.doc](http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09xi_remc.doc)

### **An Introduction to the Needs and Experiences of Refugee Women**

12 November 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 0141 248 9799 / [train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)



## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **Participation and Influence with New Communities**

18 November 2009 in Glasgow

Voluntary Action Fund workshop for organisations working with refugees, asylum seekers and/or migrant communities, and those who have an interest in community participation and partnerships. The workshop will explore what we know of the barriers to involvement in community planning and civic participation by people in Scotland's new communities. For information contact Rhona Morris 01383 620780 /

[rhona.morris@voluntaryactionfund.org.uk](mailto:rhona.morris@voluntaryactionfund.org.uk)

### **The Next 20 Years: The Challenge for Social Welfare, Debt, Housing and Asylum Law**

18 November 2009 in Glasgow (11.30 – 5.30)

Legal Services Agency conference including presentations on mental health, landlord and tenant, mortgage arrears, asylum and trafficking, debt, health and safety at work, poverty, climate change, human rights and management issues. For information see

<http://www.lsa.org.uk/thenext20yearsthechallenge.aspx>

### **Building our Futures: The voluntary sector's vision for equalities and human rights in Scotland**

25 November 2009 in Glasgow (10.15 – 2.30)

SCVO conference to provide space for the voluntary sector to articulate its own vision for building equalities in our society over the next 5 years, and to identify priority actions to deliver this. For information contact Helen Swatton 0141 225 8019 /

[helen.swatton@scvo.org.uk](mailto:helen.swatton@scvo.org.uk) or see [http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09xi\\_hr.doc](http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09xi_hr.doc) and

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/SCVOEvents/ViewSCVOEvents.aspx?al=t&EID=1157&from=EventHome>

### **Making Human Rights Matter**

25 November 2009 in Glasgow (5.30 – 7.00)

SCVO lecture by Professor Alan Miller, Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission.

For information contact Helen Swatton 0141 225 8019 / [helen.swatton@scvo.org.uk](mailto:helen.swatton@scvo.org.uk)

### **Young Scot: Sounds Right!**

26 November 2009 in Edinburgh (7.00pm – 10.00)

For 11 to 17 year olds coming as part of a recognised group

Young Scot: Sounds Right is designed to champion key articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the right to get, and to share, information and the right to relax, play and join in a wide range of activities. For information see

<http://www.youngscotsoundsright.org/> or contact Graeme Park [graemep@youngscot.org](mailto:graemep@youngscot.org) / 0131 313 2488 Ext – 2223.

### **Scottish Charity Accounts and Reporting to OSCR**

30 November 2009 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30)

SCVO seminar to look at what OSCR expects from charities in terms of compliance. For information contact Jane Baillie 0131 474 8019 / [jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk](mailto:jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk)

### **Glasgow, a city of sanctuary?**

30 November 2009 in Glasgow (3.00 – 4.30)

The City of Sanctuary movement is active in 15 towns and cities throughout the UK. It aims to build city-wide support for people seeking sanctuary in the UK. It does this by working with local groups and organisations so that people seeking sanctuary can participate fully in the life of their communities. For information contact

[craig@cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:craig@cityofsanctuary.org)

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

8 December 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](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see

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

### Introduction to Professional Practice in Race Equality

Course starting 3 February 2010 in Paisley (Wed evenings 6.15 – 9.00pm)

Course jointly organised by the University of the West of Scotland, and West of Scotland Race Equality Council to develop a critical understanding of the concepts 'race', racism and ethnicity, develop a working knowledge of the content and impact of the 1976 Race Relations Act and Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, identify key elements of best practice towards race equality in employment and service delivery, and analyse and evaluate current progress and challenges in managing change towards race equality in his/her own workplace. For information see

<http://www.wsrec.co.uk/newsite/images/PaisleyUni/new%20ippire%20leaflet%20print%202009-10.pdf> or contact Duncan Sim [duncan.sim@uws.ac.uk](mailto:duncan.sim@uws.ac.uk), or WSREC 0141 337 6626

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## Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Equality and Human Rights Commission** <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>  
**Scotland Helpline** 0845 604 5510

**Scottish Human Rights Commission** <http://scottishhumanrights.com/>

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

## Useful Links (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**BEMIS** is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting the development of the Ethnic Minority Third Sector and communities. BEMIS aims: To empower and build the capacity of minority formal and informal community organisations; As a strategic partner with Government, to be proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland; and To help develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK and European levels. <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/>