

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with **BEMIS - empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities**. 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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**The Scottish and UK Parliaments are in recess until 5 January 2010.
The next issue of MEMO will be 11 January 2010.**

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Asylum Seekers

Sandra White (S3W-29699): To ask the Scottish Executive what representations will be made to the Home Office regarding its policy of directing staff not to deal with MSPs on the issue of asylum seekers.

Reply from Alex Neil: The Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution met with Phil Woolas, Minister of State for Borders and Immigration on 9 November and raised the Home Office policy of directing staff not to correspond with MSPs in individual asylum cases. It was agreed at this meeting that the UK Government would write to the Scottish Parliamentary Authorities to clarify their position on this matter.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pq=S3W-29699>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Debate

Visas: Non-EU Visitors

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/91215-0001.htm#09121547000378>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Foreign Workers

Claire Curtis-Thomas [300490]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effects of migrants in meeting the skills requirements of the economy; (2) [301399] what research his Department has undertaken on the contribution of migrants to reducing skills deficits in the UK.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) is commissioned by the Government to recommend shortage occupation lists for the UK and Scotland. Recommended lists were published in September 2008, April 2009 and October 2009. The next update is scheduled for spring 2010. In its reviews the MAC considers the contribution migration makes to filling skilled labour shortages and meeting the skills needs of the economy.

Greg Mulholland [305768]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many economic migrants of each profession came to the UK from each country in South America, Central America and Europe in each year since 2006.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Information on the profession of migrants entering the United Kingdom is not available. However, statistics on passengers entering the United Kingdom by purpose of journey and country of nationality are published annually in the Home Office publications "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom" which are available from the library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at

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

The statistics can be found in supplementary table 1a in the 2008 edition and in table 2.3 in the 2006 and 2007 editions.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091215/text/91215w0036.htm#0912167000024>

Entry Clearances: Republic of Ireland

Andrew Mackinlay [304490]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions (a) Ministers and (b) officials in his Department have had with their counterparts in the Irish Republic on the implications for the UK of the varying visa requirements of the UK and Irish jurisdictions in the last three years; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas: We have been working closely with the Government of the Republic of Ireland to strengthen the common travel area (CTA) for a significant period of time and remain committed to building on that relationship in the future. No discussions have taken place between Ministers on the differing visa regimes of the UK and the Republic of Ireland. However, officials regularly meet through the bilateral Immigration and Counter Terrorism Group. This allows the two governments to explore and mitigate abuse of the immigration and asylum systems within the CTA. These meetings include discussions on the visa requirements. We continue to work in partnership with the Republic of Ireland to explore ways of aligning our respective visa regimes and further increase cooperation in the field of visa regimes in the future.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091215/text/91215w0036.htm#0912167000022>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Entry Clearances: Skilled Workers

Nicholas Soames [302856]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) people have been granted post-study entry into Tier One of the points based system in each quarter for which information is available and (b) new arrivals have been granted visas under (i) the Highly Skilled Migrants Programme and (ii) Tier One in each quarter since the inception of the former.

Reply from Phil Woolas: In answer to part (a) of the question, please see Table 1:

To read the lengthy tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091215/text/91215w0036.htm#0912167000023>

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Graham Brady [304762]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals there were against the refusal of an application for a visit visa from a Pakistani national in each year between 2004 and 2008; what the cost to the public purse was of such appeals; and how many such appeals resulted in an application being granted.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Only family visits carry full rights of appeal. The information requested is in the following table:

	<i>Family visit visa refusals</i>	<i>Appeals</i>	<i>Allowed appeals</i>
2004	7,256	8,090	3,556
2005	26,359	14,495	5,026
2006	29,197	23,348	7,315
2007	31,903	27,740	9,386
2008	24,076	26,379	10,540

Notes:
1. This data is unpublished and should be treated as provisional.
2. There is only a full right of appeal against the refusal of family visit visas.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091214/text/91214w0021.htm#09121432000033>

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Fiona Mactaggart [304957]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many applicants resident in Pakistan who were granted entry clearance to the UK following an appeal have been waiting for over two months for a visa to be issued.

(2) [304958] what the longest period has been for which a visa applicant in Pakistan has waited for a visa to be issued following a decision on appeal in the last three months.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The information requested is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

UKBA staff aim to process allowed appeals within eight weeks of receiving notification of the appeal outcome. There have, however, been delays in processing allowed appeals in Pakistan in recent months. UKBA sent additional staff to Pakistan in September. They have now contacted almost all successful applicants to process their visas.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091215/text/91215w0036.htm#0912167000021>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were granted student visas in the last (a) 12 months and (b) five years. [301423]

Reply from Phil Woolas: In the 12-month period October 2008 to September 2009, a total of 269,900 visas were issued in the student category.

In the five years from October 2004 to September 2009, a total of 1,184,946 visas were issued in the student category, including 104,596 visas issued to dependents.

Bill Wiggin [301424]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visas were granted to people from each non-EU country in the last five years

Reply from Phil Woolas: The information requested has been placed in the House Library. The enclosed table, shows the number of student visas and student dependent visas issued to each non-EU nationality in the five year period from October 2004 to September 2009.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091214/text/91214w0021.htm#09121432000032>

Visas

Baroness Neville-Jones [HL418]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many student visas have been granted in each year since 1997.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The number of student visas issued in each year since 1998 is shown in the table below. Figures are not available for 1997.

Calendar Years			
Year	Category	Applications	Issued
1997*	Student	N/A	N/A
1998	Student	79,464	69,607
1999	Student_	94,019	75,607
2000	Student	125,239	99,559

Financial Years			
Year	Category	Applications	Issued
2001-02**	Student	151,524	121,466
2002-03	Student	181,905	128,144
2003-04	Student	225,030	146,538
2004-05	Student	276,479	182,409
2005-06	Student_	284,447	194,827
2006-07	Student	312,565	216,860
2007-08	Student	343,095	241,730
2008-09	Student	351,340	236,470

* Student applications in 1997 are not available as the annual entry clearance report was not split into visa categories, only settlement and non-settlement.

** From 1997 to 2000 the annual entry clearance report was published by calendar year but changed to financial year reporting from 2001.

Baroness Neville-Jones [HL422]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the risk of individuals who pose a terrorist threat using the student visa system to enter the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The integrity of the visa system is regularly assessed by the UK Border Agency and other government departments.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

All those applying for UK visas must submit fingerprints, which, in conjunction with their biographical data, are checked against a range of police and security databases.

Those assessing visa applications are trained in identifying applicants who may pose a threat and taking appropriate action. The Government are committed to preventing those who pose a terrorist threat from entering the UK, and have a range of powers at their disposal in order to achieve this, including the ability to exclude individuals permanently from the UK.

Baroness Neville-Jones [HL423]: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there have been any successful attempts since 1997 by individuals who pose a terrorist threat to enter the United Kingdom using student visas.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: We do not comment on individual cases for security reasons. Since 2007, all those applying for UK visas have had to submit their biometrics as part of the application process, which have been checked against security and police databases. This includes those coming to the UK as students. The Government are committed to preventing abuse of the visa system by individuals posing a terrorist threat, and have a range of legal powers to enable this.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/91215w0007.htm#09121577001168>

Student Visas

David Evennett [306220]: What recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the system for processing student visa applications.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The implementation of tier 4 of the points based system took place on 31 March 2009, replacing the previous arrangements for overseas students to come to study in the UK. This ensures that only those colleges and schools which provide quality education and take responsibility for their students are licensed to bring in international students. We continuously monitor the systems, and where improvements can be made we will make them. The Prime Minister recently announced a review of certain elements of tier 4.

David Evennett: I thank the Minister for that response. Last month the Prime Minister gave his first speech on immigration for some 18 months. Having ignored the warnings about loopholes in the immigration and the visa systems for so long, why is he now rushing to implement a policy that will hurt legitimate language schools?

Reply from Phil Woolas: That is slightly unfair. The introduction of tier 4 was in part to clamp down on the area about which I know the hon. Gentleman had been concerned—the so-called bogus colleges. We estimate that about 2,000 of those shut down or ceased that part of their operations. In a cat and mouse game, in which we are dealing with attempts at illegal immigration, continuous review is sensible. On the language point, I ask the hon. Gentleman to consider my letter to hon. Members which emphasises that we have issued a consultation to look at what can be done, not a set of definitive proposals, as he seems to fear.

Denis MacShane: I hope the Minister will not take any lessons from the Opposition, given their general approach to foreigners and immigrants to this country. It must be a good thing if foreigners come to Britain and then speak English with an English accent, not an American accent or some other sub-English accent. Our universities need foreign students, both for economic reasons and for Britain to have a spread in the world as those students go back to their own countries as graduates. I ask my right hon. Friend to err on the side of British universities in this sensitive case, rather than respond to the xenophobic fetishes of the Opposition.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Phil Woolas: My right hon. Friend makes an important point. The value to the United Kingdom of overseas students is very great indeed in cultural and economic terms. It is a question of getting the balance right. We have evidence of abuse of the system under the old system and under the new system, but we are confident because the number of students coming to this country from overseas has increased and we have better controls over those visas.

Elfyn Llwyd: The Minister will recall my championing last summer of the cause of two Patagonian women who wanted to come to Wales to brush up on their Welsh language skills. Both were turned down, but one came in on appeal. It emerged that these matters involve a 40-hour round trip from Patagonia to Buenos Aires and five weeks' wait-and the whole thing then being processed from New York. Is it not possible to introduce a simpler and more sensitive means of dealing with such cases?

Reply from Phil Woolas: Only if the hon. Gentleman can guarantee me that in the case of somebody who gets a student visa but turns out not to be a student and abuses the system and overstays, he will not raise complaints. The two cases in question, which I personally looked at, were not compliant with the immigration rules, and no Government can ignore that fact.

Chris Grayling: The Minister will have seen the press reports at the weekend indicating that the student suspects in the Manchester terror investigation earlier this year had been cleared to work in the security industry. Does the Security Industry Authority carry out the same detailed background checks on all overseas applicants for work in the security industry as it does on all British applicants?

Reply from Phil Woolas: The hon. Gentleman returns to his theme of the security industry and immigration. I hope he will support the Government in our new procedures both for security industry regulation, which we introduced, and for tougher visa controls. The answer to his question is yes.

Chris Grayling: So the answer is yes. Will the Minister therefore confirm that the application form guidance notes for foreigners expressly state that they do not need to submit an application that has been countersigned by a reputable British referee-in contrast with the requirements for a British applicant?

Reply from Phil Woolas: The hon. Gentleman is trying to present a case that is simply not borne out by the facts. The fact is that there are immigration rules, and I again ask him to support our new border controls, because on that he continues to try to have his cake and eat it. Those are the ways in which we check the validity of people's working rights in this country.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091214/debtext/91214-0002.htm#091214700015>

Immigrants: Detainees

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) male and (b) female detainees are held at each immigration removal centre. [304440]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table is consistent with the latest published statistics on the number of persons detained in immigration removal centres in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers, by place of detention and sex as at 30 September 2009.

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

To read the tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091214/text/91214w0021.htm#09121432000036>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Detention of Children (UK Border Agency)

Alistair Carmichael [306216]: What recent discussions he has had with the UK Border Agency on its policy on detention of children.

Reply from Meg Hillier: I have recently assumed responsibility for this area of policy and I most recently met officials on 8 December. However, clearly I meet regularly with officials on this issue.

Alistair Carmichael: The report published last week by the coalition of the royal medical colleges made it clear that children who are detained in immigration removal centres suffer from mental health problems and consider self-harm and occasionally even suicide. There can be no other area of law or public policy where the interests of the child lag so far behind considerations of administrative convenience or political expediency. When will the Government act to end this disgraceful practice?

Reply from Meg Hillier: Clearly, we do not wish to detain families with children where that is avoidable. However, detention is considered when a family has reached the end of the line-when appeals have been made and refused-and they are only detained for a matter of usually a few days immediately prior to a flight being taken. Let me point out that the report in question considered only 24 cases out of those of the 382 children who were in detention during the period of the report-fewer than 10 per cent. It did not take into account the views of the clinicians who worked with those children and who know them. There are many pressures on children, and it is not clear that those pressures and problems arise merely from detention.

Barry Sheerman: The Select Committee on Children, Schools and Families recognises that this is a very difficult area, but the whole issue of people in prison and children in prison has not been wonderful under any Government of any party. Could we be more sensitive in the way we treat these children and ensure that they have the full package of support, even for a short time?

Reply from Meg Hillier: I can reassure my hon. Friend on two counts. First, children who are detained have a full package of support, including education and access to health care. Crucially, they are with their parents, from whom I would not want to see them separated. Secondly, my hon. Friend raises a wider point about how we deal with such children. We have a pilot running in Glasgow, with Glasgow city council and the Scottish Government, to try to find alternatives. That pilot follows on from one in Kent, and we believe that it is much better and might achieve better results.

Chris Huhne: This is not as small a problem as the Minister seems to be suggesting. It was revealed in parliamentary answers in June that 470 children, most of whom were under five, were in such detention. Contrary to the impression that the Minister has given, a third of them had been incarcerated for longer than a month. Does she accept that being locked up is traumatic for many young children and is likely to leave psychological scars? Does she accept that the practice of incarcerating children so young is in contravention of the UN convention on the rights of the child?

Reply from Meg Hillier: I am not sure where to begin! Seriously, though, I must first correct the hon. Gentleman's figures. Up to 30 September this year, 25 children were detained for seven days or less-in time for a flight-five were detained for eight to 14 days, and five were detained for 15 to 28 days. A further 10 were detained for 29 days but for less than two months, and none were detained for longer than that. That is an average of just under 16 days. This is always a difficult issue, but we are a Government who are not afraid to duck the tough challenges. [Interruption.] Indeed, we are not. It is important that children are not separated from their parents, and I am not sure what the alternative is. If a parent repeatedly refuses to go when their case reaches the end of the line, they have some

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

responsibility. They are offered many packages, but some choose not to take them and are then detained. I would not want to see young children separated from their parents.

Chris Huhne: I am glad that the figures have been updated, but the figures that I quoted were from the Home Office. Why has the Home Office not learned lessons from Canada and Sweden, which have abolished the practice of holding children in custody while their parents await clarification of their status? Surely, any means other than custody of ensuring that those people do not abscond would be preferable—the tagging of adults, for example.

Reply from Meg Hillier: We go to great lengths to make sure that we do not detain children. It is only in extreme cases in which parents repeatedly refuse to leave of their own accord that we do so. It is important that the family are a united group at the point at which they are destined for removal. I repeat the simple but important point that I, as the Minister responsible, would not want to see young children separated from their parents.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091214/debtext/91214-0001.htm#091214700012>

Asylum Seekers: Deportation

Baroness Warsi [HL310]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many failed deportations of illegal asylum seekers there were in each of the past five years.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: A centrally recorded robust mechanism for identifying unsuccessful removals was not in place until 2008; therefore, figures for the number of removals which failed before the point of departure are only available for the last two financial years, as set out in the table below. Figures prior to that would only be available through the examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

	2008-09 (1 April to 31 March)	2009 (1 April to 30 November)
Total number of unsuccessful removals of failed asylum seekers before point of departure	5,610 individuals	3,665 individuals

There are a number of reasons why a removal might be unsuccessful—for example, last-minute legal challenges or the disruptive behaviour of the individual. It should be noted that in many cases, the circumstances that led to the failure of the original attempt to remove will have been quickly resolved and a subsequent removal attempt been successful.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed and departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis. National statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/91215w0001.htm#09121577001130>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum: Scotland

Ian Davidson [301730]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers were supported in accommodation in each parliamentary constituency in Scotland on the latest date for which figures are available.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table shows the number of asylum seekers who were supported in accommodation, in Scotland by parliamentary constituency, as at end of September 2009. These figures exclude unaccompanied asylum-seeking children supported by local authorities and those in initial accommodation.

The breakdown of immigration statistics by parliamentary constituency is available from the Library of the House. Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics for 2008 and the latest statistics for Q3 2009 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>

<i>Asylum seekers supported in accommodation^(1, 2, 3), in Scotland by parliamentary constituency, as at end of September 2009</i>	
<i>Parliamentary constituency name⁽⁴⁾</i>	<i>Number</i>
Edinburgh North and Leith	*
Glasgow Central	275
Glasgow East	245
Glasgow North	140
Glasgow North East	1,055
Glasgow North West	400
Glasgow South	195
Glasgow South West	340
Scotland total	2,650

(1) Provisional figures rounded to the nearest 5 with "*" = 1 or 2. Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
(2) Excludes unaccompanied asylum-seeking children supported by local authorities, estimated as less than 50 in Scotland in September 2009.
(3) Excludes those in initial accommodation, 75 in Scotland as at the end of September 2009.
(4) Only those parliamentary constituencies where dispersed cases are resident are shown.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091214/text/91214w0020.htm#09121432000016>

Press Releases

Changes to UK Border Agency policy on judicial reviews

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/december/changes-to-ukba-policy-on-jr>

Media coverage of Chief Inspector's first annual report - UK Border Agency response

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/december/ci-first-annual-report>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

International Migrants' Day: the rights of migrant workers must finally be protected!
<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2009-12-18%20-%20international%20migrants%27%20day.pdf>

New publication

Migration and Diversity: A Rights-Based Approach to Migration
<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/GPP%206%20Migration%20final%20EN.pdf>

News

Alarm at rise in child trafficking
<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/alarm-at-rise-in-child-trafficking-1.992039>

NHS translation service defended
<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1525353>

Minister: We must lock up asylum children like Precious, to stop them ending up dead in lorries at Calais
<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Minister-We-must-lock-up.5914328.jp>

Asylum girl Precious and mother freed for Christmas
<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Asylum-girl-Precious-and-mother.5922677.jp>

Immigration removal centre 'unacceptable' says watchdog
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8419581.stm>

Deportation threat author works in England – to stay in Scotland
<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/news/Deportation-threat-author-works-.5926287.jp>

Britain must stop locking up innocent children
<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/chris-huhne-britain-must-stop-locking-up-innocent-children-1845717.html>

Migrants use student loan scam to get visas
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article6962846.ece>

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Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Community Relations: Religion

Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 5 November 2009, Official Report, column 1120W, on community relations: faith schools, if he will assess the effect on community cohesion of faith schools; and if he will make a statement. [302654]

Reply from Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not currently hold data or have any mechanisms in place to assess the effect of faith schools on levels of cohesion in particular areas.

All maintained schools in England have had a duty to promote community cohesion since September 2007. This has been inspected by Ofsted since September 2008. Data are therefore available on Ofsted's judgment of how schools are performing in fulfilling that duty and many faith schools are included in those receiving good or outstanding. The judgment relates to the contribution an individual school is making given its local context. Schools are not held accountable for the level of cohesion in a local area which will be influenced by a large number of factors.

As part of the Department's work to support schools in meeting their duty to promote community cohesion, the Department's officials have commissioned Ipsos/Mori to assess the impact of the community cohesion duty on different types of maintained schools which includes faith schools. The findings from the study will be published in autumn 2010.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091214/text/91214w0011.htm#09121430000010>

New publication

Muslims in Europe

http://www.soros.org/initiatives/home/articles_publications/publications/muslims-europe-20091215/a-muslims-eu-20091215.pdf

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Equality

Press Release

Commission and GEO research shows impact of recession on equality groups

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/commission-and-geo-research-shows-impact-of-recession-on-equality-groups/>

New publications

Monitoring update on the impact of the recession on various demographic groups

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/impact_of_the_recession.pdf

2007-08 Citizenship Survey: Race, Religion and Equalities Topic Report

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1417955.pdf>

Equality

New publications (continued)

House of Commons Scottish Affairs Committee

Work of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, Scotland: Government Response to the Committee's Third Report of Session 2008–09

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmscotaf/140/140.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Sectarianism

Bill Butler (S3W-29583): To ask the Scottish Executive which of its directorates will participate in the pilot project delivered by Nil by Mouth to tackle sectarianism in the workplace.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government funded Nil by Mouth to take forward this project on the basis that they would identify and work with organisations to deliver the project. This work is being co-ordinated by the Equalities, Social Inclusion and Sport Directorate. The Scottish Government is funding and will be monitoring the project and will not therefore be a participating workplace.

The Scottish Government is and remains committed to tackling sectarianism. Work to tackle sectarianism involved many areas across Scottish Government and is part of a broader strategy of work to tackle all forms of religious intolerance and racism and, as confirmed in my answer to question S3W-29200 on 4 December 2009.

All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/Default.aspx>.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-29583>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Anti-Semitism

David Amess [306095]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether legal provisions are in place to prevent (a) the preaching of hatred and (b) incitement to commit criminal acts against the Jewish community in England and Wales; what plans he has to increase protection to the Jewish community; and if he will make a statement. [R]

Reply from Alan Campbell: Under the Public Order Act 1986, part III Incitement to Racial Hatred, it is an offence to commit an act that is threatening, abusive or insulting and which is intended or likely in all the circumstances to stir up racial hatred. As part of its work to reduce the vulnerability of crowded places to terrorist attack, police counter-terrorist security advisers have identified higher risk crowded places and work is in hand with a range of partners that aims to reduce their vulnerabilities. Additionally, the National Counter Terrorism Security Office has recently published protective security guidance for all places of worship, including synagogues. Third sector organisations such as the Community Security Trust should contact their local authority and local police if they have any specific local concerns. We have also recently published a Cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan to tackle all forms of hate crime, including anti-Semitism.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091214/text/91214w0019.htm#09121432000014>

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Anti-Semitism

David Amess [303917]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government plans to take to monitor and seek to reduce levels of anti-Semitism overseas; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Ivan Lewis: The Government are committed to tackling anti-Semitism. We condemn all instances of persecution and discrimination against individuals and groups wherever they occur.

All the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas missions have a responsibility to monitor and raise human rights in their host countries. We have taken a number of measures to tackle anti-Semitism, many of them in response to the report of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into anti-Semitism, commissioned by John Mann MP and published in 2006. These include supporting the International Task Force for Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, to help educate young people around the world about the destructiveness of hate; working through Embassies worldwide to support efforts to tackle anti-Semitism; and working through multilateral fora, including the UN, EU, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and Council of Europe.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091214/text/91214w0032.htm#09121438000005>

Anti-Semitism

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in implementing the Final Declaration of the London conference on combating anti-Semitism, with particular reference to (a) establishing an international taskforce of internet specialists to measure anti-Semitism online and propose international responses and (b) exposing and isolating (i) governments and (ii) politicians engaging in anti-Semitism; and if he will make a statement. [305397]

Reply from Ivan Lewis: The Government are committed to tackling anti-Semitism. We condemn all instances of persecution and discrimination against individuals and groups wherever they occur.

The recommendations of the London Declaration has informed activity both within cross-Government hate crime programmes and in our international work, particularly within the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister became the first world leader to sign the London Declaration on Combating Anti-Semitism on 25 February 2009 and on signing the declaration he said "So many of the principles it enshrines are already things we are doing here in Britain and while I'm proud of the bold action Britain has taken to combat anti-Semitism such as improved reporting, prosecutions for anti-Semitic internet hate and the funding of Holocaust Education in schools, there is no room for complacency."

The Cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan includes activity in support of the declaration and was launched on 14 September. It can be viewed at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/hate-crime-action-plan>

More recently in December the OSCE Ministerial Council agreed a Decision on Combating Hate Crimes. It contains helpful UK-inspired language on addressing "the increasing use of the Internet to advocate views constituting an incitement to bias-motivated violence including hate crimes". It also encourages OSCE participating states to seek opportunities to co-operate and tasks the OSCE's Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to undertake some exploratory work.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091216/text/91216w0026.htm#091216106000060>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) **Press Release**

Multi-agency system for reporting hate crime incidents in Highland has been hailed a success

http://www.northern.police.uk/news-item.htm?item_id=PR1859_2009

News

Racism heads online list of hate crimes in Highlands

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Racism-heads-online-list-of.5914329.jp>

Patient jailed for threats and racist abuse against nurse

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Patient-jailed-for-threats-and.5925279.jp>

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Other Holyrood

Press Releases

Ten years of devolution marked on the wall for Holyrood

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-09/pa09-067.htm>

Changes to licensing law plans

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/12/17115522>

New publication

Millennium Cohort Study Sweep 3 Scotland Report

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/295055/0091298.pdf>

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Other Westminster

New publication

Any of our business? Human rights and the UK private sector

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt200910/jtselect/jtrights/5/5i.pdf>

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Other News

UK fails to halt female genital mutilation

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-fails-to-halt-female-genital-mutilation-1845731.html>

Other News (continued)

Supreme Court ruling in relation to admissions criteria at JFS

Full Judgment

http://www.supremecourt.gov.uk/docs/uksc_2009_0105_judgmentV2.pdf

Press Summary

http://www.supremecourt.gov.uk/docs/uksc_2009_0136_ps.pdf

Commission welcomes Supreme Court ruling

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/commission-welcomes-supreme-court-ruling/>

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Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill

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

Public Services Reform Bill

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

Bills in Progress Westminster

** Equality Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/equality.html>

Second Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/91215-0003.htm#09121547000392>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/91215-0007.htm#09121563000216>

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Consultations (closing date)

** new or updated this week

** *closes next week!*

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>

Consultations (continued)

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

UK Border Agency Equality Scheme (15 January 2010)

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

Consultation on Revising the OISC's Guidance on Competence (29 January 2010)

<http://www.oisc.gov.uk/servefile.aspx?docid=82>

UNHCR, Canada, Denmark and the UK: A Joint Institutional Strategy Working Together for the World's Displaced Persons (31 January 2010)

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/consultations/jt-org-stgy-unhcr-2007-2009.pdf>

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Implementation: Consultation on Significant Draft Secondary Legislation, Guidance and Regulatory Impact Assessment

(2 February 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/children-families/pvglegislation/Consultation09>

Simplifying Immigration Law - A New Framework for Immigration Rules

(3 February 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/simplifying-imm-law-new-framewrk/>

Reforming asylum support (4 February 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/simplifying-imm-law-new-framew1/>

Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005: Consultation on Options for the Implementation of the Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)

(26 February 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/292195/0090094.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

Scottish Refugee Council AGM and Public Meeting

15 January 2010 (2.00 -)

The theme of the AGM will be that asylum is a human right. Keynote speeches will come from Roland Schilling, UK representative of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Professor Alan Miller, Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission. For more information contact Graeme Corbett on (0141) 223 7930 or graeme.corbett@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

A public appointment – no way? Think again

20 January 2010 in Edinburgh (9.15 – 4.45)

The Equalities and Human Rights Commission, the Commissioner for Public Appointments and Queen Margaret University are working together to increase the diversity of people like who apply for board positions with our public bodies. To attend a seminar contact Karen Elder karen.elder@publicappointments.org / 0131 718 6268 or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09xi_ocpas.pdf

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, or WSREC 0141 337 6626

Judge a Book by its Cover? Not me!

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 / 0131 474 8019

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Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw

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

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

Useful Links (continued)

Scottish Refugee Council 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

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>

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** is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps 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/>*