

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.*

Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Race Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)

[Other Holyrood](#)

[Other Westminster](#)

[New Publications](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Events/Conferences/Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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 Ministerial Statement

UK Border Agency Strategy

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): I am today publishing a new strategy entitled "Protecting our Border, Protecting the Public". Copies will be available in the Vote Office and in the Libraries of both Houses.

Since its creation in 2008, the UK Border Agency has become one of the UK's largest law enforcement bodies, operating across the UK and in 135 countries overseas. It stands at the forefront of efforts to protect the United Kingdom from overseas threats posed by dangerous people, goods and materials, while at the same time enforcing our immigration rules and facilitating the flow of legitimate travel and trade on which our economy depends.

This document both clarifies the extent of our law enforcement activities and sets out our vision as to how, over the next five years, we will develop our capability to protect the public from the harm caused by illegal immigration and smuggling. It also sets out how the agency will support the work of its criminal justice partners in tackling non-immigration crime committed by foreign nationals in the UK.

In support of the wider Government priority of tackling organised crime, the document identifies tackling organised immigration and smuggling crime as a key priority for the

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

agency, with particular focus on the detection of class A drugs at the border and the targeting of groups that facilitate illegal entry or stay in the UK. The underlying themes of the strategy include encouraging compliance with our immigration rules, the benefits of disrupting criminal activity before it reaches our shores and greater targeting of the assets of criminal groups.

Tackling border and immigration crime and protecting the public is a responsibility that the UK Border Agency shares with law enforcement partners, such as the police and Serious and Organised Crime Agency. The UK Border Agency has much to contribute, for example through the e-Borders programme; but success will be multi-agency. We already have strong partnership arrangements; our regional immigration crime teams for example, are comprised of both border agency and seconded police officers. We also have local immigration teams across the country that work alongside the police, HM Revenue and Customs, local authorities and other local partners to ensure compliance with, and enforce, our immigration laws.

This strategy explains our relationship with the wider law enforcement community and sets out how we will work more closely together to deter, disrupt, detect and deal with crime, in order to make the UK a hostile environment for criminals and a safer place for the public.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100222/wmstext/100222m0001.htm#1002221000012>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Visas

Lord Marlesford: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether visas for immigrants are granted in response to requests from companies which are having difficulty in finding bus drivers; and, if so, how many such visas have been granted in the last 12 months. [HL1691]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Bus driving is not registered as a skill shortage under tier 2 of the points-based system.

Lord Crisp: To ask Her Majesty's Government why citizens of Pakistan are required to leave their passports with the Consulate whilst applying for a United Kingdom visa, thus precluding their travel elsewhere. [HL1853]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: In accordance with the Immigration Rules (paragraph 320(3)), all visa applicants are required to produce a valid national passport or other document satisfactorily establishing their identity and nationality. These checks need to be carried out by the Entry Clearance Officer prior to fixing a vignette sticker into the passport, when a visa is granted. If the passport has to be handed back during the decision phase, and the applicant then recalled when the decision is made, this will complicate the process and could cause delays, and inconvenience, to applicants.

Lord Crisp: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they make or will make special arrangements for academics from Pakistan who collaborate on a regular basis with British academics to have their visas to the United Kingdom expedited. [HL1854]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Our general policy is to deal with visa applications strictly in turn. We believe that to give priority to applications in any particular category would be unfair to other applicants. We will, however, prioritise individual applications if necessary e.g. if there are urgent, compassionate circumstances.

Current waiting times in Islamabad are three weeks; applicants are advised to take this into account before making an application.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many dependants of students from countries outside the European Union granted visas to study in the United Kingdom have themselves been granted visas and admitted in the past five years. [HL1975]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The latest available statistics relating to the number of dependants of students (1) granted visas (prior entry clearance) and (2) admitted to (given leave to enter) the United Kingdom, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals, in the five calendar years from 2004 to 2008, are given in the table below. Data for 2009 are scheduled for publication in August 2010.

Statistics on passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom by country of nationality and purpose of journey are published annually in the series "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom". These publications 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>.

Year	Visas Issued	Admitted
2004	14,140	13,100
2005	16,045	13,200
2006	20,941	17,000
2007	19,294	17,100
2008	24,203	20,300
Total	94,623	80,700

(1) The data for visas issued are based on management information. It is provisional and subject to change.

(2) It is not possible to determine how many of those admitted as dependents of students arrived with prior entry clearance.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100222w0014.htm#10022236003619>

Entry Clearances: Married People

Mark Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of applications for spouse settlement visas was rejected in each of the last five years; how much revenue accrued in fees in respect of reapplications; and what the percentage increase in fee charges was in each of the last five years. [317561]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table shows the percentage of applications for spouse/civil partner settlement visas that were refused in each of the last five financial years:

<i>FY</i>	<i>Percentage refused</i>
2004-05	15
2005-06	16
2006-07	16
2007-08	19
2008-09	21
<i>Source:</i> Internal management information-International Group	

Revenue accrued in respect of re-submissions cannot be provided as it is not possible to extract this information from the recording system.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The following table shows the percentage increase for fee charges for spouse settlement visas in each of the last five financial years.

	<i>Percentage fee increase</i>	<i>Fee (£)</i>
2004-05	0	260
2005-06	0	260
2006-07	0	260
2007-08	92	500
2008-09	3	515
<i>Source: Published Fee Rates</i>		

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100223/text/100223w0015.htm#10022418000017>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Tier 4 student applications are pending in each consulate in the Indian sub-continent as a result of the suspension of processing; how many dependants are included in such applications; whether such applications will be considered against the criteria in force at the time of their application or under the new criteria; and whether applicants enrolled in education institutions which have subsequently had their licence to sponsor suspended or revoked will be refused a visa. [317851]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The suspension of tier 4 student visa applications in North India, Bangladesh and Nepal on 1 February means that we are not accepting any new applications in this category. No applications, including those from dependents, are therefore pending as a result of the suspension.

Applications submitted before 1 February are being processed as normal against the criteria in force at the time of their application.

The suspension will be lifted in North India from 1 March for tier 4 students intending to undertake higher education courses (foundation degree, undergraduate, postgraduate)

Applicants intending to study at educational institutions which have had their sponsor licence subsequently revoked will not meet the requirements for entry and will be refused a visa. In cases where the sponsor licence has been suspended, a decision on the visa application will be deferred until a decision is made on whether to revoke or re-instate the licence.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100223/text/100223w0015.htm#10022418000018>

Immigration: Deportation

Baroness Warsi: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many foreign national prisoners were deported in each of the last three years. [HL1871]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Published figures for the UK Border Agency show that in 2007 over 4,200 foreign national prisoners were removed or deported, in 2008 almost 5,400 were removed or deported and in quarters 1-3 of 2009 3,890 were removed or deported. Figures for those removed or deported in the period from October to December 2009 will be published on 25 February 2010.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100222w0009.htm#10022236003576>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Yarl's Wood

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the cause of the recent hunger strike at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre; how many people were arrested; how many suffered injuries; and how many were locked down within the Centre. [HL2010]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: A passive protest was undertaken by some of the residents of Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre over the weekend of 6 to 7 February which was resolved on Monday 8 February.

No arrests were made although four women were detained by Bedford Police under immigration administrative powers. The incident was resolved without any use of force.

One woman sustained a minor cut to her finger for which medical treatment was given.

In total, 47 women were involved in the disturbance, in three different parts of the centre.

The incident is subject to a management review.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100222w0009.htm#10022236003577>

Immigration

Baroness Warsi: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people (a) took, and (b) passed, the Life in the UK Test in each month of 2009. [HL1855]

Lord West of Spithead: The attached table shows the number of people who took the Life in the UK Test and how many passed throughout 2009.

2009	No. of tests delivered	Passes
Jan	17,187	13,038
Feb	18,332	13,542
Mar	22,236	16,248
Apr	18,229	13,384
May	16,341	12,267
Jun	15,167	11,370
Jul	15,821	11,970
Aug	15,539	11,786
Sep	16,305	12,202
Oct	15,975	11,877
Nov	14,995	10,956
Dec	12,529	9,195
Total	198,656	147,835

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100222w0009.htm#10022236003575>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum Seekers

Baroness Warsi: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum cases they are dealing with; and how many of them are legacy cases. [HL1857]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: In 2008 asylum intake was 25,935.

Published figures show that at the end of September 2009 there were 9,300 asylum applications (excluding dependants) awaiting an initial decision.

Information on asylum applications is published annually in the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom bulletin and on a quarterly basis in the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary.

These publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate web site at:

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

There were approximately 215,000 cases remaining in the legacy backlog, as of December 2009.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100222w0001.htm#10022236003536>

Asylum Seekers: Deportation

Baroness Warsi: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 15 December 2009 (WA 192), how many of the 9,275 failed asylum seekers have now been removed. [HL1723]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Of the 9,275 unsuccessful removals of failed asylum seekers for the period 1 April 2008 to 30 November 2009, 4,303 have since been successfully removed from the UK (2,754 in financial year 2008-09, and 1,549 in financial year 2009-10 to 5 February). These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional and subject to change.

Baroness Warsi: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 3 December 2009 (WA 63), how much money was spent on removing failed asylum seekers in each of the last three years. [HL1728]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: It is not possible to provide a definitive figure on how much money is spent on removing failed asylum seekers. As I previously explained in my answer of 3 December 2009 (WA 63), due to the many different factors which may or may not be involved in the cost of a removal, we are unable to disaggregate the specific costs and any attempt to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100222w0001.htm#10022236003537>

Immigration: Fraud

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign-born nationals have been permitted to retain (a) their UK citizenship and (b) indefinite leave to remain subsequent to their documentation being found to be fraudulent in each year since 2005. [317731]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The information requested as to how many were permitted to retain citizenship since 2005 could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost. Although no one has been deprived of British citizenship, on the basis that that status was acquired on the basis of fraud, since 2005, the UK Border Agency has recently implemented a new deprivation policy and are pursuing deprivation action in a number of cases.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

As regards indefinite leave to remain, a person who obtains (or seeks to obtain) leave to remain by deception is liable to removal under section 10 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. We do not however have records for those that have been identified as using deception but have none the less been allowed to retain their indefinite leave to remain, as these could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100223/text/100223w0016.htm#10022418000024>

Human Trafficking: Victims

Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps his Department has taken to support victims of human trafficking. [316986]

Reply from Maria Eagle: From 2003-09 we invested £5.8 million in the Poppy Project to provide specialist support to women trafficked into sexual exploitation only. Over the current and next financial year we have invested an additional £3.9 million in the provision of specialist support to victims of all forms of human trafficking, including victims of sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and forced labour. This includes as a minimum: safe accommodation; advocacy; access to counselling; access to legal advice and interpretative services.

A National Referral Mechanism (NRM) has been put in place to systematically identify victims and refer them to specialist support. Identified victims are granted an extendable 45-day recovery and reflection period in which to consider their options and access specialist support services, and one-year temporary residency permits in certain circumstances.

A victim's information leaflet, produced in October 2009 is now available in a range of languages. The leaflet provides information for victims on the support available to them, their options and legal rights.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100222/text/100222w0055.htm#10022314000011>

Westminster Early Day Motions

Diane Abbott (890) Asylum Seeker Support – That this House is concerned by the low level of support provided for asylum seekers; notes that the current level is below subsistence; further notes that a single 25-year-old adult seeking asylum receives £35.13 a week which is 55 per cent. of income support and which equates to just £5 per day; is further concerned at the level of destitution faced by asylum seekers as a result of this low level of support; believes that this policy drives asylum seekers into social exclusion rather than alleviates them from it; recognises that this is a punitive measure and not a form of welfare designed to allow asylum seekers adequately to subsist during an application; and urges the Government to consider raising the asylum support subsistence payment to a minimum of £45 a week, representing 70 per cent. of income support, for single adults.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=40499&SESSION=903>

John McDonnell (919) Hunger strike at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre – That this House notes that women detained in Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre have been on hunger strike since 5 February 2010 in protest against being detained for up to two years; condemns the detention of victims of rape and other torture, of mothers separated from their children and anyone who does not face imminent removal; believes that such detention flouts international conventions and UK immigration rules; requests

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Early Day Motions (continued)

that HM Inspector of Prisons urgently carries out an independent investigation into reports of violence, mistreatment and racist abuse from guards, being kettled for over five hours in a hallway, denied access to toilets and water and locked out in the freezing cold, which women have made to their lawyers, the media and supporters, including the All African Women's Group and Black Women's Rape Action Project; and calls for a moratorium on all removals and deportations of the women who took part in the hunger strike pending the results of that investigation.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=40528&SESSION=903>

Westminster Petition

Bristol Refugee Rights

The Petition of supporters of Bristol Refugee Rights and others, Declares that Britain has an international obligation to provide sanctuary to people fleeing conflict or persecution; declares that three quarters of those seeking safety here are refused protection, but that many cannot go back to their home country; further declares that people in this situation are not allowed to work or claim benefits, and frequently become destitute rather than go back to countries where they would be in real danger; further declares that the Petitioners believe that such people deserve to be treated fairly, humanely and with dignity.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls on the Government to grant temporary protection to people who cannot return to their countries of origin; to end the threat and use of destitution as a tool of Government policy against refused asylum seekers; and to allow asylum seekers, including those whose application has been refused, the right to work if they have not been given a decision and/or they cannot leave the UK after six months. [P000655]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department, received on Monday 22 February 2010:

The United Kingdom has a long and proud tradition of providing protection to those who need it and considers all protection claims carefully, on their individual merits, and in accordance with our legal obligations. All asylum claims are considered on their individual merits in accordance with the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the European Convention on Human Rights, against the background of the latest accurate, objective, sourced and up-to-date information on asylum seekers' countries of origin produced by the UK Border Agency Country of Origin Information Service.

Asylum and human rights applicants that are found to be in need of protection are granted it. Those found not to be in need of protection have a right of appeal to the independent appellate authorities. In this way we ensure that we provide protection to those asylum seekers who need it. Where a decision has been made that a person does not require international protection, and there are no remaining rights of appeal or obstacles to their return, unsuccessful asylum seekers are expected to return voluntarily to their country of origin. Return and reintegration assistance is available through the International Organization for Migration.

The Government do not have a policy of destitution. The asylum support policy is properly balanced. No person who has sought protection need be destitute whilst they have a valid reason to be here. Asylum seekers who need support to avoid destitution are given it from the time they arrive in the UK until their claim is fully determined (appeal rights exhausted). Support takes the form of accommodation or subsistence or both.

To continue reading the lengthy response see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100223/petntext/100223p0001.htm#10022415000035>

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

Change to the list of approved English language test providers

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/February/16-english-test-providers>

New guidance and application forms for migrant workers and students

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/February/28-migrant-guidance-and-forms>

Final phase of Tier 4 is launched

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/February/final-phase-tier-4-launched>

New guidance for points-based system sponsors

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/February/29-sponsor-guidance>

Government response to Children's Commissioner report on Yarl's Wood

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/February/yarls-wood-media-coverage>

Migrant detainees - UK Border Agency response

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/February/14-migrant-detainees>

EU social policy to ease the integration of immigrants

<http://eesc.europa.eu/activities/press/cp/docs/2010/communique-presse-eesc-020-2010-en.doc>

Migrants sent 32 bn euro to their former country of residence in 2008

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/10/20&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

UK Border Agency now a major anti-crime force

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/UKBA-anti-crime-force.html>

Immigration and asylum statistics released

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/immigration-asylum-stats-release.html>

New publications

Control of immigration: quarterly statistical summary

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/immig409.pdf>

Criminalisation of migration in Europe: Human Rights implications

<http://www.statewatch.org/news/2010/feb/coe-hamm-criminalisation-of-migration.pdf>

Migrants Rights News

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/downloads/newsletters/MRN_Newsletter_Feb_2010.pdf

Gender and Migration

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/publications/FS42%20-%20Gender%20and%20Migration%20EN%20final.pdf>

Immigration and Asylum(continued) **News**

Visa appeal key to reuniting family

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2010/02/15/newsstory14549851t0.asp>

We'd love to stay in friendly Glasgow

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/editor-s-picks-ignore/we-d-love-to-stay-in-friendly-glasgow-1.1006619>

Murphy: Immigrants must accept core British values

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/murphy-immigrants-must-accept-core-british-values-1.1006728>

Yarl's Wood 'must still improve child detention'

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8518574.stm

Stop locking up asylum children, ministers told

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/stop-locking-up-asylum-children-ministers-told-1901736.html>

Charities recruiting migrants as volunteers might gain access to European funding

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/DailyBulletin/984937/Charities-recruiting-migrants-volunteers-gain-access-European-funding/2674B1BCEE44A58C60D8C8DD2CD58C45/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

Somali woman in London wins EU case to claim benefits

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/8535625.stm>

Scottish health guide available in 17 languages

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/health/scottish-health-guide-available-in-17-languages-1.1008937>

UK Border Agency asylum case target 'unachievable'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8537987.stm>

Number of foreigners given British citizenship rises by more than half

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Number-of-foreigners-given-British.6106824.jp>

Tourists and immigrants may have to buy health insurance to enter the UK

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Tourists-and-immigrants-may-have.6109851.jp>

Education minister goes to war with London over immigration

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/education-minister-goes-to-war-with-london-over-immigration-1.1009883>

If you don't want immigrants, will you then do their jobs?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/yasmin-alibhai-brown/yasmin-alibhaibrown-if-you-dont-want-immigrants-will-you-then-do-their-jobs-1906513.html>

Immigration bosses to be quizzed after asylum seekers were 'beaten' by guards

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/feb/28/yarls-wood-assaults>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

New publications

2008-09 Citizenship Survey: Community Cohesion Topic Report

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1473353.pdf>

A Comparative Study of the Representations of “Suspect” Communities in Multi-Ethnic Britain and of their Impact on Irish Communities and Muslim Communities – Mapping Newspaper Content

<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/londonmet/fms/MRSite/Research/iset/WP13%20H%20Nickels%203.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Westminster Debate

Privilege

Andrew Dismore: ...The Joint Committee on Human Rights met on 9 February to discuss a draft report on the Equality and Human Rights Commission. It emerged at the start of the meeting that Trevor Phillips, the chair of the EHRC, had recently spoken to at least three members of the Committee about its consideration of the draft report and the publication of written evidence with the report. In our view, these discussions could constitute a contempt of both Houses in that they may have been an attempt to influence the views of certain members of the Committee shortly before it considered a draft report directly relevant to Mr. Phillips in his role as chair of the commission. We therefore recommended that the matter should be subject to investigation by the privileges Committees of both Houses, and so I ask the House to refer the matter in accordance with my motion. ...

To read the short debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100223/debtext/100223-0005.htm#10022358000003>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Faith Schools

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether provision will be included in the Equality Bill to permit any publicly-funded faith schools to require teaching staff to promote the ethos of the relevant religious faith; and if she will make a statement. [318476]

Reply from Maria Eagle: We would expect all staff at schools to act in accordance with the ethos of their school, as we would expect them to maintain standards of behaviour and a high educational standard.

The Equality Bill maintains exceptions contained in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA), which permit faith schools to discriminate on religious grounds in relation to certain staff. These exceptions are different according to the different types of maintained faith schools.

Voluntary aided schools may apply religious criteria to all applicants to teaching posts. Voluntary controlled and foundation schools are required to have reserved teachers who are appointed specifically to teach religious education. These reserved teachers must be appointed for their fitness and competence to teach

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

religious education according to the tenets of the relevant faith; they may account for up to a fifth of all the teaching staff and may include the head teacher. In these schools such religious criteria cannot be applied to any other teaching posts.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether provision will be included in the Equality Bill to empower governors of any publicly-funded faith school to decline employment to staff or applicants for teaching posts who are not prepared to teach pupils in accordance with the ethos on values of the relevant religious faith. [318477]

Reply from Maria Eagle: The Equality Bill maintains exceptions contained in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA), which permit faith schools to discriminate on religious grounds in relation to certain staff. These exceptions are different according to the different types of maintained faith schools. Voluntary aided schools may apply religious criteria to all applicants to teaching posts. Voluntary controlled and foundation schools are required to have reserved teachers who are appointed specifically to teach religious education. These reserved teachers must be appointed for their fitness and competence to teach religious education according to the tenets of the relevant faith; they may account for up to a fifth of all the teaching staff and may include the head teacher. In these schools such religious criteria cannot be applied to any other teaching posts.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100224/text/100224w0021.htm#100224110000046>

Press Releases

Commission to launch a Construction Leadership Diversity Forum

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/commission-to-launch-a-construction-leadership-diversity-forum/>

Commission issues warning over counter-terrorism measures

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/commission-issues-warning-over-counter-terrorism-measures/>

News

Trevor Phillips will face 'contempt' inquiry

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8528922.stm

Think Tank: The race card upsets the scales of justice

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article7043985.ece>

You're next on Trevor Phillips' hitlist

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest_contributors/article7043749.ece

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Sectarianism

Bill Butler: To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-30032 by Fergus Ewing on 13 January 2010, whether it plans to second any of its staff to anti-sectarianism projects in Scotland. (S3W-31355)

Reply from Fergus Ewing: There are no plans to second Scottish Government staff to any of the organisations delivering anti-sectarian projects in Scotland. Our approach is to develop anti-sectarian activity through partnerships which bring together the organisations working in this area to co-ordinate effort and work together to deliver initiatives. Specifically I have established the Scottish Working Group on Unacceptable Behaviour which brings together voluntary and non-governmental organisations working in this area.

The Working Group includes Sense Over Sectarianism; Nil by Mouth; Learning and Teaching Scotland; the Iona Community; YouthLink Scotland; Young Scot, and Show Racism the Red Card as well as representation from the Scottish Government. The members of the Working Group have been supporting the redevelopment of the on-line anti-sectarian resource Sectarianism: Don't Give It, Don't Take It and are helping to shape a programme of activity to tackle abusive behaviour, including sectarianism, in football.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-31355>

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-5827 Elaine Murray: Scottish Defence League Not Welcome in Lockerbie— That the Parliament deplores the announcement by the so-called Scottish Defence League that they intend to march in Lockerbie on 27 March 2010; believes that this is an extremist group trying to use the Lockerbie tragedy of 1988 to spread its racist and anti-Islamic views; further believes that this event would be an affront to the people of Lockerbie, to the 270 people who lost their lives in the tragedy and to their families, and calls on the Scottish and English Defence Leagues to call off this march forthwith.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=18437>

S3M-05818 Bob Doris: Supporting Tir Conaill Harps and Scotland's Irish Diaspora— That the Parliament expresses its disgust at those people who disgracefully destroyed the minibus of Glasgow's Tir Conaill Harps Gaelic Athletic Club on Monday 22 January 2010 by throwing a gas canister through the window; notes that this bus contained valuable sporting equipment worth an estimated £3,000 and that both the bus and equipment were to be used for a sporting tournament involving seven primary schools at the Kelvin Hall Arena on Friday 26 February; congratulates all the hardworking and committed volunteers involved with Tir Conaill Harps who have ensured that the tournament goes ahead and, in particular, thanks the Ulster Council of the Gaelic Athletic Association, which has donated almost £1,500 worth of equipment; considers fears by some people that the minibus attack may have been racially motivated against Scotland's Irish diaspora community as deeply worrying and believes that such concerns should be fully investigated by the police; believes that the members of Scotland's Irish diaspora have made a long-standing and valued contribution to the fabric of the Scottish nation, and calls on everyone to stand shoulder to shoulder in unity with Scotland's Irish community to reject any such acts of either mindless violence or racism.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=18428>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Prisons: Gypsies and Travellers

Baroness Whitaker: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the 46,000 complaints of racism in prisons since 2006 relate to Gypsies and Travellers. [HL2030]

Reply from Lord Bach: The ethnicity of parties involved in a reported incident is not collected centrally. This information will not often be collected locally with reports submitted not always identifying parties involved in an alleged incident. While ethnicity data is not always collected, information that is reported will be regularly scrutinised locally. This would include any issues regarding the victimisation of a particular group such as Gypsy, Traveller and Roma prisoners. We don't request that this information is reported centrally and to collate these data would require examination of every individual report submitted.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100223w0005.htm#10022368000853>

Anti-Semitism

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1127W, on anti-Semitism, whether figures on occurrences of anti-Semitism have been added to the annual data requirements for police community safety figures; [317145]

(2) with reference to the answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1154W, on anti-Semitism, whether the five data requirements of hate crime have been added to the annual police community safety figures; and what data has been collected on anti-Semitic incidents. [317103]

Reply from Alan Johnson: The Annual Data Requirement (ADR) has not yet been extended to cover crime data disaggregated by the five hate crime strands. The situation is being resolved in order that this data can be collected as part of the ADR from April 2011. This is the next occasion in the annual data cycle that this will be possible. The extension to the ADR will not enable us to disaggregate the data on racist offences in order that we can identify specific data on anti-Semitic crimes.

The ACPO National Community Tension Team (NCTT) has been collating data on anti-Semitic crimes since April 2008. The data are collated as an intelligence document and has not been published previously. We are seeking publication of this data at the earliest opportunity in order that indicative figures on anti-Semitic hate crime for the year 2009-10 can be made available.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100223/text/100223w0009.htm#10022418000004>

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1154W, on anti-Semitism, what meetings the cross-government champion on reducing incitement on the internet has attended in that role; and what the outcomes were of these meetings. [317104]

Reply from Alan Johnson: In his role as cross-Government internet hate crime champion, Home Office Minister Mr. Alan Campbell has met with the Internet Watch Foundation and the Trades Union Congress. The topics for discussion were the blocking of internet service providers and tackling the Redwatch website respectively.

Since becoming the cross-Government champion, the Minister has overseen the progress of the Internet Hate Crime Action Plan. This is part of the wider Cross Governmental Hate Crime Action Plan. Work on this plan has included the creation of an online reporting mechanism for hate crime on the internet.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100223/text/100223w0010.htm>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Jobcentre Plus: Racism

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints of racism have been made by Jobcentre Plus staff against other Jobcentre Plus staff in each of the last five years, broken down by the smallest geographical area for which information is available; and if she will make a statement. [316597]

Reply from Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh, dated 24 February 2010:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many complaints of racism have been made by Jobcentre Plus staff against other Jobcentre Plus staff in each of the last five years, broken down by smallest geographical area for which information is available. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Department does not maintain any automated data to capture the volumes of formal complaints from current or former staff relating to race discrimination. Although Jobcentre Plus retains clerical information on official written complaints from existing or former members of staff; this data does not identify where complaints relate specifically to any allegations of racism.

Although formal investigations into allegations of harassment, bullying and discrimination are handled through our Department for Work and Pensions Human Resources Investigation Service, some complaints may be addressed separately through local management investigations and there is no available data to provide the requested information in full.

I am, therefore, unable to provide a more detailed reply.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100224/text/100224w0005.htm#10022482000022>

News

Come and join the party, says Nick Griffin as BNP votes to allow in non-whites

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Come-and-join-the-party.6071303.jp>

Sikh tells why BNP membership is the right thing for him

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1607412>

Norfolk boy posted racial hatred videos

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/norfolk/8520702.stm>

Violence fears as anti-racist and anti-Islam groups both plan Edinburgh demos

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Violence-fears-as-antiracist-and.6082440.jp>

Thousands to take to the streets in anti-fascist demo

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/topstories/Thousands-to-take-to-the.6078949.jp>

Warning issued days before anti-Islam march

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/warning-issued-days-before-anti-islam-march-1.1007530>

Campaigners stage anti-racism demo in Edinburgh

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/8525939.stm

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

SDL rally threat fizzles out

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/news/SDL--rally--threat.6091005.jp>

Defence leagues humiliated in Edinburgh

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/defence-leagues-humiliated-in-edinburgh-1.1008155>

Man fined for racial abuse of his Native American neighbour

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Man-fined-for-racial-abuse.6089899.jp>

[TOP](#)

Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Question

Gypsies/Travellers

Marlyn Glen (S3W-3143): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it reviewed the local housing strategies for 2004 to 2009 produced by local authorities for evidence that equalities issues had been addressed and, if so, what information was obtained regarding the specific housing needs of Gypsies/Travellers.

Reply from Alex Neil: Communities Scotland assessed all local housing strategies submitted in 2004 for evidence that the particular needs of key groups in the community were being addressed and sought a further update from local authorities on progress in assessing and meeting the needs of Gypsies/Travellers in 2006. There was a strong focus in local housing strategies on plans to research the needs of Gypsies/Travellers and establish good consultation arrangements. Specific housing needs identified included the development of new sites and upgrading of site facilities.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pq=S3W-31431>

Parliamentary Motions

S3M-5812 Shirley-Anne Somerville: Congratulations to Edinburgh Central Mosque—That the Parliament welcomes the shortlisting of the Edinburgh Central Mosque's kitchen in the 2010 Scottish Restaurant Awards Best Indian Restaurant category; considers that, while ultimately missing out on the award, this shortlisting represents a marvellous achievement for a charitable venture selling high quality cuisine for £4 per plate; recalls that the kitchen was launched to make the mosque more accessible and to counter negative feelings towards the Muslim community after the 9/11 attacks; congratulates the 50 volunteers who run the kitchen on this tremendous success and wishes them well for the future, and also congratulates the staff of Mother India's Café, Edinburgh, for winning the Best Indian Restaurant award.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=18411>

Other Holyrood (continued) e-petition

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to remove the Trespass (Scotland) Act 1865 from all future guidance on the management of Gypsy/Traveller temporary and halt sites.

http://epetitions.scottish.parliament.uk/view_petition.asp?PetitionID=378

Press Release

Referendum consultation

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/02/24170252>

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Forced Marriage

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of vulnerable people being forced to marry against their will as a result of a financial agreement between family members and a foreign national; [317260]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of vulnerable people who have been forced to marry against their will as a result of a financial agreement between their family members and a foreign national seeking UK citizenship. [317261]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) provides confidential information and assistance to potential victims of forced marriage, those who have already been forced to marry and concerned professionals. The FMU also works with partners both in the UK and overseas, to ensure that appropriate action is taken to prevent forced marriage taking place.

In the last two years over 1,600 incidences of suspected forced marriage were reported in each year to the FMU. Forced marriage is, by its nature, an underground practice and therefore detailed statistics on the scale of the problem and patterns of abuse are not fully known. While the FMU are aware of some of the key motivators for forcing a person to marry and have seen cases where both these issues appear to be a factor among those with learning and physical disabilities we do not collect specific data on the motivators as it is not always possible to clearly identify one particular cause.

However, data on the number of suspected incidences of forced marriage that involved a person with learning and or physical difficulties have been collected since August 2009. From August 2009 to the end of January 2010 at least 18 cases involving people with learning difficulties and seven cases involving people with physical difficulties were reported to the FMU.

In July last year the FMU published revised Multi-agency Practice Guidelines which provide step by step guidance for frontline professionals on how to deal with cases of forced marriage including cases that may involve children and adults with support needs. The FMU are also funding research to look at the prevalence of forced marriage among those with learning disabilities. One of the objectives of the research will be to examine the motivations for forcing people with learning difficulties into marriage.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100223/text/100223w0016.htm#10022418000021>

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the oral answer by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 69WH, on Travellers, what his Department's definition of (a) fairness and (b) equality is in relation to planning applications for sites for Gypsy and Traveller caravans. [317605]

Reply from Shahid Malik: Fairness and equality, in relation for the planning applications for Gypsy and Traveller sites, means that the law is applied equally to Gypsies and Travellers and to those of the settled community; any proposal for development must be considered purely on its planning merits taking account of all relevant planning matters.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance (a) his Department and (b) the Planning Inspectorate has issued on the length of time a (i) traveller and (ii) demonstration encampment may be in place before it is deemed permanent for planning purposes; and how long temporary encampments may be in place before becoming rateable for (A) council tax and (B) business rate purposes. [317805]

Reply from Shahid Malik: The Planning Inspectorate has issued guidance on the length of time a (i) Traveller or (ii) a demonstration encampment may be in place before it is deemed permanent or authorised. The guidance issued by the Planning Inspectorate is in the form of the Inspectors Handbook, which covers professional planning matters dealt with by Inspectors. Annex E of ODPM Planning Circular 01/2006 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller sites' states that planning permission may not be required for any development if the use of the land has been established over a period of time without valid planning enforcement action have been taken by the local authority.

No guidance has been issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government or the Planning Inspectorate on the length of time a temporary encampment may be in place before becoming rateable for council tax or business rates. No minimum period is defined by statute. It is established rating law that a transitory occupation of land does not amount to rateable occupation. Whether the necessary permanence of occupation has been established for liability to arise will depend on the facts in each case.

A Traveller⁽¹⁾ or demonstration⁽²⁾ encampment can become permanent, and authorised, for planning purposes through the express grant of planning permission for such a use, unencumbered by a condition limiting its use to a specified period, or by the imposition or removal of an appropriate condition attached to an existing planning permission by the formal process set out in s.73 and 73 A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The only other means by which a use of land can become lawful is where it continues, uninterrupted and in essentially the same form, for a period of 10 years and the evidence exists to prove that this has occurred, on the balance of probabilities, such that a Certificate of Lawful Development under s.191 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 can be granted. In a similar way a use can become immune from enforcement action under S.171B of the 1990 Act after a period of 10 years, if a local planning authority has not taken enforcement action before that time.

⁽¹⁾ Assumed to mean the occupation of a site by Travellers for residential purposes.

⁽²⁾ Assumed to mean an unauthorised use of land for demonstration purposes.

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether unmet need for traveller sites is a material consideration in the planning process when considering a retrospective application of the development of an unauthorised traveller site. [317879]

Reply from Shahid Malik: ODPM Circular 2001-06 Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites confirms that unmet need for Gypsy and Traveller sites is one of several material considerations which decision makers should take into account when determining planning applications. The material considerations relevant to a retrospective application for the development are no different for those submitted prospectively.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100225/text/100225w0015.htm#100225127000017>

Press Releases

Prime Minister's Chinese New Year message

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page22446>

Chinese New Year reception: Prime Minister's speech

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page22483>

New publications

Report of the Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity (England and Wales)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/advisory-panel-judicial-diversity-2010.pdf>

Attitudes, values and perceptions - Muslims and the general population in 2007-08

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1484586.pdf>

[TOP](#)

New Publications

Policy for Prosecutors in respect of Cases of Encouraging or Assisting Suicide

http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/prosecution/assisted_suicide_policy.pdf

Improving data collection for equality and diversity monitoring (NHS Scotland)

<http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/files/Ethncity-Briefing-Paper-as-Feb2010-%282%29kb.pdf>

Integrated Reporting: The future of reporting and the Register

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=284824d5-3ee3-4fc1-9b57-a84b1d8b545d>

Mapping rapidly changing minority ethnic populations: a case study of York

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/ethnicity-population-change-york-full.pdf>

**High Level Conference on the Future of the European Court of Human Rights:
Interlaken Declaration**

http://www.eda.admin.ch/etc/medialib/downloads/edazen/topics/europa/euroc.Par.0133.File.tmp/final_en.pdf

[TOP](#)

Other News

Law clarified on assisted death

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/8536231.stm>

Expansion of Islamic centre 'can help remove barriers'

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/Expansion-of-Islamic-centre-39can.6072053.jp>

Scottish Muslims tackle Islamic far-right

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/scottish-muslims-tackle-islamic-far-right-1.1008158>

Improving ethnic data collection for equality and diversity monitoring

<http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/6136.html>

Mosque kitchen curries favour at awards

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article7034869.ece>

Charity Awards highlight sector's vital contribution

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Charity-Awards-highlight-sector39s-vital.6094494.jp>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

End of Life Assistance Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/38-EndLifeAssist/index.htm>

Public Services Reform Bill

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

Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc. Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/39-SPCC/index.htm>

Bills in Progress Westminster

**** Equality Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/035/amend/am035-c.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/035/amend/am035-d.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/035/amend/am035-e.htm>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

(closing date)

** new or updated this week

Equality Bill: Draft Codes of Conduct (2 April 2010)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legislative-framework/equality-bill/equality-bill-codes-of-practice-consultation/#1>

Options for future charity appeals route in Scotland (5 April 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/48453/0093191.pdf>

Inquiry into Migration and Trafficking (9 April 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/inquiries/migration/mtcallforev.htm>

** **Inquiry into the Budget Strategy and Equality Groups** (9 April 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/Budget%20process%202011-12/BSPcallforev.htm>

Equality Bill: Draft Guidance (16 April 2010)

<http://ehrc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>

Death Certification, Burial, and Cremation (Scotland) (21 April 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/300112/0093686.pdf>

** **Scotland's Future: Draft Referendum (Scotland) Bill** (30 April 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/303348/0095138.pdf>

** **Publication of monthly asylum application statistical data** (30 April)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-asylum-stat-data/asylum-consultation2835.pdf?view=Binary>

** **2011 Census Statistical Outputs** (14 May 2010)

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/census/censushm2011/preparations/consultation-and-research/formal-consultations/spring-10-consultation.html>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

NHS Quality Improvement Scotland is looking for volunteers to get involved in a range of different types of work, for example as a member of a review team visiting health boards in Scotland to assess their performance, or as a member of a project group developing advice and guidance to support improvement in health services. For information contact Joyce Mouriki 0141 225 5565) joyce.mouriki@nhs.net or see <http://jobs.nhshealthquality.org/index.php?action=ViewItUser&id=31015625>

[TOP](#)

**** this week!**

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

2 March 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course is for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland. It is particularly relevant to people working in social work, housing, welfare, education, employment, health, community development or the justice system.

For information contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=82>

**** this week!**

Faith, Culture & Honour

4 March 2010 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.00)

Seminar by Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre in collaboration with Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid to explore domestic abuse, rape, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, honour killing, and the role of faith, culture and honour in understanding them.

For information contact Tabassum Sarfraz tabassum@mwrc.org.uk / 0141 585 8026

**** this week!**

Domestic Abuse and BME Women and their Children

4 March 2010 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30)

10 March 2010 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30)

Shakti seminars to explore the link between domestic abuse and culture, community and faith, and barriers that minority ethnic women face in accessing services. For information

contact Thilini or Mirdul info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk / 0131 475 2399

**** this week!**

Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion in Europe through Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education

4 -5 March 2010 in Glasgow

BEMIS conference to highlight the topic of tackling poverty and social exclusion, share experiences from EU and Scotland, and debate progress since the Lisbon Treaty. For

information contact Tanveer Parnez conference@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

**** Scottish Refugee Council Women's Morning**

8 March 2010 in Glasgow (10.00 – 12.30)

All asylum-seeking and refugee women are invited to receive advice and support in a female-only environment. Female interpreters are available. For information contact

info@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9749.

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

Domestic Abuse and BME Children & Young People

11 March 2010 in Midlothian (9.30 – 12.30)

25 March 2010 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 12.30)

Shakti training providing an opportunity for staff working with children and young people to gain greater understanding of how domestic and culture-based abuse affects black minority ethnic (BME) children and young people. For information contact

info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk / 0131 475 2399.

Events/Conferences/Training

Working with Interpreters

18 March 2010 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 how to work with interpreters. For information contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=80>

Human Trafficking and the Criminal Process

18 March 2010 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.30)

Legal Services Agency conference about working with Victims of Trafficking and the Criminal Justice System. For information contact 0141 353 3354 or see http://www.isa.org.uk/humantraffickingandthecriminalprocess_1.aspx

Sustaining and Reinventing Community Regeneration

24 - 25 March 2010 in Edinburgh

SURF annual conference to explore the realities of delivering regeneration in Scotland's most disadvantaged communities. In doing so, we will showcase the assets and resources that are at hand to support and sustain regeneration. For information see <http://www.scotregen.co.uk/events/default.asp?ItemID=1099> or contact Derek Rankine derek@scotregen.co.uk / 0141 585 6879.

An Introduction to the Needs and Experiences of Refugee Women

9 April 2010 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 Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=77>

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

23 April 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course is for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland. It is particularly relevant to people working in social work, housing, welfare, education, employment, health, community development or the justice system. For information contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=82>

[TOP](#)

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>

Useful Links (continued)

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/>
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

[TOP](#)



*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/>*