

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 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, and that the Scottish Parliament website has recently been redesigned, so that links published in previous issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on the Scottish Parliament website, copy the details from MEMO into the search facility at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/help/searchadvanced.aspx>.

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and requests to be added to circulation to mail@bemis.org.uk

The UK Parliament is in recess until 8 October 2013.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

UK Student Visa Rules

Sandra White: 16. To ask the Scottish Government what it considers the impact is of United Kingdom student visa rules on Scotland's universities and colleges. (S4O-02457)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning (Michael Russell): As I indicated earlier, we welcome talented people to live, learn, work and remain in Scotland. However, the negative message that is sent to prospective students by the UK Government's student visa policies is a significant concern. Those policies threaten a detrimental impact on the international competitiveness of Scottish education, create additional burdens on institutions and students, and could well deter prospective students from applying to study in the UK. The Government has made clear its concerns to successive UK ministers of various hues on several occasions.

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

An independent Scotland would manage immigration in a way that effectively meets our nation's economic, social and demographic priorities for a sector that is one of the largest in our economy.

Sandra White: ... Is he also aware of the problems facing many students from so-called blacklisted countries in opening bank accounts in Scotland, which mean that many are unable to continue studying and, ultimately, are forced to return home?

Reply from Michael Russell: I understand that the UK immigration bill is expected to be introduced during the second week in October. That bill will propose that banks should no longer be permitted to operate bank accounts for certain migrants. I also understand that the Home Office intends to consult on additional powers to compel banks to close bank accounts for certain illegal migrants. My understanding is that that should not affect the bank accounts of those who are studying legitimately in Scotland, but I stress that the Scottish Government has not seen the draft legislation, and we will monitor it closely.

I cannot imagine that any legislation of that nature will draw people to study in Scotland, and that is the issue. If those actions are deterring people from studying in Scotland, they are deeply undesirable. The Scottish Government should have a responsibility there, and I do not think that any Scottish Government of any hue would act in that way.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8538&mode=html#job_77360

Press Release

Application forms are changing

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2013/september/59-form-changes>

New Publication

Immigration statistics, July to September 2012

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2012/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2012>

News

Theresa May: Deport foreign criminals before appeal

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-24335368>

Deportation plan to target foreign 'criminals'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/wider-political-news/deportation-plan-to-target-foreign-criminals.22300587>

Tory immigration bill to curb right of appeal against deportation

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/sep/30/tories-curb-right-appeal-deportation>

End of free NHS care for migrants

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/10358569/End-of-free-NHS-care-for-migrants-under-new-bill.html>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

News

How British is Britain?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-24302914>

[TOP](#)

Equality

News

One in three Britons 'uncomfortable' with prospect of non-white Prime Minister

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/one-in-three-britons-uncomfortable-with-prospect-of-nonwhite-prime-minister-8857405.html>

One in three Britons 'uncomfortable' with prospect of ethnic minority PM

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/03/britons-uncomfortable-ethnic-minority-pm>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

News

Victim of racist attack is now scared to walk streets alone

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/victim-of-racist-attack-is-now-scared-to-walk-streets-alone.22317686>

Warning for Dundee SDL and anti-fascist protests

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/warning-for-dundee-sdl-and-anti-fascist-protests-1-3126758>

Conservative Party conference: Attempts to make Shakespeare's plays cool is 'viciously racist'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/conservative-party-conference-attempts-to-make-shakespeares-plays-cool-is-viciously-racist-8852185.html>

Tory conference: Hip-hop Hamlet 'racist and evil'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-24351371>

Tottenham v West Ham: Hammers fans issued with warning over anti-Semitic chanting

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/tottenham-v-west-ham-hammers-fans-issued-with-warning-over-antisemitic-chanting-8858879.html?origin=internalSearch>

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Press Release

Home Secretary announces £60,000 Sikh Council grant

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-60000-sikh-council-grant>

[TOP](#)

New Publications

The 2011/12 Annual Report of the Scottish Information Commissioner

<http://www.itspubliknowledge.info/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.aspx?IID=5764&sID=6606>

Religious education: realising the potential

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/surveys-and-good-practice/r/Religious%20education%20-%20realising%20the%20potential.pdf>

More than an Educated Guess: Assessing the evidence on faith schools

<http://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/files/files/More%20than%20an%20educated%20guess.pdf>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Annual Review 2012-13

http://www.oscr.org.uk/media/448871/2013-10-02_annual_review_2012-13_final.pdf

[TOP](#)

Other News

Concern over rise in Scottish Fol failures

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-24332210>

More than half of schools found to be failing pupils on religious education

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/more-half-of-schools-found-be-failing-pupils-religious-education?news=21667>

Over half of schools failing in religious education, says Ofsted

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-24399813>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Holyrood

**** Children and Young People Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/62233.aspx>

Education and Culture Committee: Stage 1 evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8536&mode=pdf>

Bills in Progress

Holyrood (continued)

Criminal Justice Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/65155.aspx>

**** Marriage and Civil Partnership Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/64983.aspx>

Equal Opportunities Committee: Stage 1 evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8525&mode=pdf>

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee report

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_SubordinateLegislationCommittee/Reports/suR-13-51w.pdf

**** Scottish Independence Referendum Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/61076.aspx>

proposed amendments

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Scottish%20Independence%20Referendum%20Bill/b25s4-stage2-ml.pdf

Victims and Witnesses Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/59133.aspx>

Bills in Progress

Westminster

Asylum Seekers (Return to Nearest Safe Country) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/asylumseekersreturntonearestsafecountry.html>

Charitable Status for Religious Institutions Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/charitablestatusforreligiousinstitutions.html>

Collection of Nationality Data Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/collectionofnationalitydata.html>

Face Coverings (Prohibition) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/facecoveringsprohibition.html>

Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/illegalimmigrantscriminalsanctions.html>

Immigration Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/immigrationact1971amendment.html>

Lobbyists (Registration of Code of Conduct) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/lobbyistsregistrationofcodeofconduct.html>

Romanian and Bulgarian Accession (Labour Restriction) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/romanianandbulgarianaccessionlabourrestriction.html>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated this week

Inquiry on Race and Higher Education (closing date 31 October 2013)

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/492/272/APPG-Inquiry-on-Race-and-Higher-Education.html>

Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) (closing date 4 November 2013)

Draft SORP

<http://www.charitycorp.org/media/513587/charity-sorp-exposure-draft.pdf>

Consultation document

<http://www.charitycorp.org/media/513666/charity-sorp-invitation-to-comment.pdf>

Language Controls for Doctors - Proposed Changes to the Medical Act 1983

(closing date 2 December 2013)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/237302/language_controls_doctors_consultation.pdf

Proposed Human Trafficking Bill (closing date 6 December 2013)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_MembersBills/20130909_Human_Trafficking_Consultation_final_version.pdf

Review of migrant employment in low-skilled work (closing date 13 December 2013)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/call-evidence.pdf>

The census and future provision of population statistics in England and Wales

(closing date 13 December 2013)

<http://ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/get-involved/consultations/consultations/beyond-2011-consultation/index.html>

** **Inquiry on Lobbying** (closing date 10 January 2014)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_StandardsProceduresandPublicAppointmentsCommittee/Inquiries/CfELobbying.pdf

Scottish Football Association Equality Survey (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VKJQQ95>

Experiences of Race and Religion-Related Hate Speech in the UK (no closing date given)

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HR7RBZ3>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

** *this week!*

Black History Month

1 to 31 October

Full programme available at <http://www.crer.org.uk/BlackHistory/2013Brochure.pdf>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Photographic exhibition: 'Lost Life'**

14 October 2013 in Glasgow (11.00 – 5.00)

Exhibition of portraits of Iranian refugees now living in Glasgow by Iman Tajik. It explores the emotional journey of Iranian refugees as they attempt to rebuild their lives in Scotland and the memories, loss and hopes they carry with them. For information contact arts@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/lwmjgoz>

"Domestic Abuse and Minority Ethnic Women, Children & Young People"

17 (9.30-4.30pm) & 18 (9.30-12.30pm) October 2013 in Edinburgh

28 (9.30-4.30pm) & 29 (9.30-12.30pm) November 2013 in Edinburgh

Shakti training to raise awareness and understanding of issues facing Minority Ethnic women, children & young people affected by domestic abuse. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/owhjaq2> or contact Ola, Mridu, or Lisa 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

Working with interpreters

22 October 2013 in Glasgow (9.15 – 1.00)

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. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/9fs8ae5> or contact 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk.

**** Get Connected**

30 October 2013 in Glasgow (10.45 – 3.00)

Skills Development Scotland event in partnership with BEMIS to provide networking opportunities between community groups which are engaged with and support young people from minority communities. For information contact Hazel Mathieson conference@sds.co.uk

Mental Health and Ethnicity

30 October 2013 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

West of Scotland Health and Ethnicity Conference to present an evidence based approach to influence the development of a healthier minority ethnic community in Scotland. Deadline for submissions: 31 July 2013. For information contact Sidra Shirjeel sidra.shirjeel@cc3.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/bmvj354>

Discrimination Law in 2013 – Trick or Treat?

31 October 2013 in Edinburgh

Scottish Discrimination Law Association conference in partnership with the Equality and Human Rights Commission, covering the year's key developments in discrimination law. Reduced rates may be available for voluntary organisations. For information contact Angela Barclay angela.barclay@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5951.

**** Scottish Refugee Council Housing Conference**

2 November 2013 in Glasgow

Conference in association with the Scottish Refugee Policy for asylum seekers and refugees to find out their rights and options, share experiences and raise issues about housing. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/ktevalr> or contact 07734 030760 / communities@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Scottish Parliament Day

4 November 2013 in Arbroath

Parliament Days aim to take the Scottish Parliament out of Edinburgh to enable people to see it at work, be it 'official' Parliamentary business, or on a less formal level. They also provide an opportunity for people to meet MSPs, the Presiding Officer and Parliament staff. For information see <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/gettinginvolved/67553.aspx>

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

8 November 2013 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council training to identify fundamental issues facing asylum seekers and refugees today, and highlighting current legislation and entitlements. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/burro73> or contact 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Scottish Refugee Council Employment Conference**

14 December 2013 in Glasgow

Conference in association with the Scottish Refugee Policy for asylum seekers and refugees to find out their rights and options, share experiences and raise issues about employment. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/ktevalr> or contact 07734 030760 / communities@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Scottish Refugee Council Education Conference**

25 January 2014 in Glasgow

Conference in association with the Scottish Refugee Policy for asylum seekers and refugees to find out their rights and options, share experiences and raise issues about education. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/ktevalr> or contact 07734 030760 / communities@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Scottish Refugee Council Health Conference**

22 February 2014 in Glasgow

Conference in association with the Scottish Refugee Policy for asylum seekers and refugees to find out their rights and options, share experiences and raise issues about health. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/ktevalr> or contact 07734 030760 / communities@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

[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.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>

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/>

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com>

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

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

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 Charitable Incorporated Organisation 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/>

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