

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, 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 Scottish Parliament is in recess until 28 October 2013.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S4M-08033 Roderick Campbell: Anti-Slavery Day 2013—That the Parliament notes that 18 October 2013 is Anti-Slavery Day in the UK and Anti-Trafficking Day in the European Union; understands that modern-day slavery is defined as child trafficking, forced labour, domestic servitude and trafficking for sexual exploitation; considers that, far from being consigned to the history books, slavery is still a major problem with at least 21 million victims of forced labour globally according to the latest International Labour Organization estimate; understands that this estimate does not include many forms of contemporary slavery such as child slavery, bonded labour, servile marriage and domestic servitude and that the figures available only represent an incomplete picture of reality due to the invisibility of many of the victims; considers that there is a widespread lack of public understanding of the problem and its manifestations, and calls on

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Motion (continued)

government, local authorities, public institutions and private and public companies to take a proactive approach to tackling the issue of slavery and human trafficking both in the UK and abroad.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-08033&ResultsPerPage=10>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

NHS: Migrant Access

Lord Touhig: To ask Her Majesty's Government what provision they intend to make under proposals to regulate migrant access to health services for non-European Economic Area migrants who are victims of (1) violent crime, (2) sexual assault, or (3) female genital mutilation.[HL2489]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what provisions they intend to make under proposals to regulate migrant access to health services for non-European Economic Area migrants experiencing complications in pregnancy.[HL2493]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the compatibility between their proposals to regulate migrant access to health services and their strategy to end violence against women and girls, in particular with regard to victim support.[HL2494]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach) (Con): The Government has proposed in the current Immigration Bill that a person subject to immigration control who applies for time-limited entry clearance or time-limited leave to remain in the UK for more than six months will be required to pay a health surcharge as a precondition of entry to the UK. Those who have paid the surcharge will generally be able to access free NHS care to the same extent as a permanent resident.

Victims of violent crime, sexual assault, female genital mutilation and those experiencing complications in pregnancy will all receive free NHS treatment, where they have paid the Migrant Health Surcharge, where they have permanent residence status or where they fall in an exempt category under enabling powers created by the Immigration Bill.

Short term visitors and illegal migrants will, as now, be generally liable for NHS treatment charges and will not have the option of paying a surcharge in order to access the NHS without further charge. But no chargeable patient in urgent need will ever be denied NHS treatment.

The Government considered the impact of its proposed policy on victims of domestic violence during the policy development process. This consideration has been included in the Policy Equality Statement for the proposals which will be published prior to Second Reading of the Immigration Bill in the House of Commons.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131017w0001.htm#13101775000348>

Immigration

Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what checks and safeguards are in place to ensure that all UK Border Agency staff give consistent advice to those applying for leave to remain in the UK. [169284]

Reply from Mark Harper: There are three primary routes for advice—help lines, website and public enquiry offices. Consistency comes from the overarching policy frameworks, from which customer advice is given, and that advice is further

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

checked by quality sampling, audits and reviews of policy and website content. All policy exceptions are also referred to senior caseworkers for clarification or approval. Customer feedback, including complaints, also provides a valuable measure of the consistency and quality of advice provided to customers by UK Visas and Immigration and any commercial partners.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131014/text/131014w0002.htm#1310152000021>

Visas

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many complaints they have received about the complexity of the United Kingdom's visa application procedures; and whether there are any plans to simplify the visa system.[HL2413]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach) (Con): We are not able to provide a figure for complaints received about the complexity of the visa system as we do not categorise complaint data in this way.

We operate a highly effective visa system for all categories and continue to review and develop our services to improve customer choice and convenience.

To ensure that the visa system is accessible we have expanded and improved the network of visa application centres—there are now over 170 around the world and 12 in each of India and China alone (compared to three or four on offer from most other countries).

During the first half of 2013 we received nearly 1.5 million overseas visa applications, 10% more than in the same period last year. Visitor numbers were up 17% on the same period in 2012.

We have simplified the process by introducing online applications and booking systems, with 95% of applications now submitted online. We continue to improve the online process to make it more intuitive and user friendly and have provided translated 'how to apply' website information on the web pages for 12 countries.

For customers who would like a faster service we offer 3-5 day priority visa services in over 60 countries (including Bahrain, Brazil, China, India, Kuwait, Oman, UAE) and we are expanding this further. In India, we have introduced the super priority visa service which allows regular visitors and business visitors to get their visa processed in just 24 hours.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131017w0001.htm#1310175000365>

Entry Clearances

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average it has taken the UK Border Agency to process visa applications in each of the last five years. [168899]

Reply from Mark Harper: We currently split our customer service standards into two categories, 'settlement' and 'non-settlement'.

The 'settlement' category includes applications:

to enter the UK to join or accompany a spouse or civil partner; and

from children to enter the UK to join or accompany a parent that is settled in the UK.

The 'non-settlement' category includes applications to enter the UK:

as a visitor (including as a tourist, to visit family, to conduct business, as a short-term student);

as a highly skilled migrant under PBS Tier 1;

a skilled worker under PBS Tier 2;

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

a student under PBS Tier 4;
a temporary worker under PBS Tier 5 (including Youth Mobility); and
in all other non-settlement categories (including EEA Family Permits, UK Ancestry, Returning Residents, Transit).

The average processing times for these two categories of applications for the last five years are:

<i>Non-settlement applications</i>					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Average time taken (days)	5.8	7.4	7.6	7.3	7.2
Application volumes (million)	2.49	2.54	2.46	2.37	2.33
<i>Settlement applications</i>					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Average time taken (days)	30.5	40.4	36.2	54.4	51.0
Application volumes	79,000	75,000	78,000	64,000	65,000

We have service standards for processing UK visa applications. Our standards say that we will process:

90% of non-settlement applications within three weeks, 98% within six weeks and 100% within 12 weeks of the application date; and

95% of settlement applications within 12 weeks of the application date and 100% within 24 weeks of the application date.

We define one week as five working days. The figures for average processing times are given in working days. The processing time starts when the biometric data is given by the applicant, and ends when a decision has been made and is ready for collection by the applicant or has been dispatched to the applicant.

Ian Paisley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to reduce the cost of a UK visa to bring it into line with the cost of a Schengen Visa. [169029]

Reply from Mark Harper: We review the cost of UK visas annually and set fees that strike a balance between the cost of processing an application, the importance of attracting certain groups of migrants to the UK in line with wider Government objectives, and the value of a successful application to the migrant.

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in (a) Liverpool, Walton constituency, (b) Liverpool and (c) England have been granted work permits since May 2010. [170510]

Reply from Mark Harper: We do not hold statistical information broken down by constituency.

Tier 2 of the points-based system replaced the work permit arrangements for non-EEA migrants in November 2008.

The Home Office publishes immigration statistics quarterly including statistics for Tier 2 of the points-based system. You can find these at the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/user-guide-to-home-office-immigration-statistics--9>

Since 2008, we have issued work permits to UK-based employers who require them to employ Bulgarian and Romanian workers only.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131015/text/131015w0001.htm#131015108000047>

Entry Clearances: Married People

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what developments there have been on the proposal to introduce the minimum income requirement for UK residents with non-EU spouses since the postponement of its implementation. [168563]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Mark Harper: A minimum income threshold for sponsoring a spouse or partner and dependent children of non-European Economic Area nationality to settle in the UK under the family Immigration Rules was announced on 11 June 2012 and implemented, as planned, on 9 July 2012. Since 5 July 2013 High Court judgment in *MM and Others*, against which the Home Office is appealing, applications have been put on hold where grounds relating to the income threshold would be the sole basis for refusal. They will remain on hold until the legal challenge has been finally determined by the courts.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131015/text/131015w0001.htm#131015108000048>

Migrant Workers

Lord Dykes: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will reconsider their proposed ban on East European and other migrant workers coming to the United Kingdom to pick fresh fruit and vegetables in 2014.[HL2351]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach) (Con): There is no ban on migrant workers coming to pick fruit and vegetables in 2014.

From 1 January 2014, nationals of Bulgaria and Romania will cease to be subject to restrictions on taking employment in the United Kingdom. This means that fruit and vegetable growers will have unrestricted access to workers from the European Union, except Croatia whose nationals continue to be subject to transitional employment restrictions. In his Written Ministerial Statement of 12 September 2013, *Official Report*, columns 60-61 WS, the Minister for Immigration announced that the Government will not introduce a new scheme for seasonal agricultural workers from outside the European Union. The Government believes that there should be sufficient workers from UK and EU labour markets to meet the needs of the horticultural sector, but will keep the labour supply situation under review.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131017w0001.htm#13101775000347>

Immigration

Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests to exercise her discretion in granting leave to remain on compassionate grounds she has received since May 2010; and how many individuals have been granted exceptional leave to remain as a result. [170227]

Reply from Mark Harper: 48,511 applications for leave to remain outside the rules on compassionate grounds were received between 1 May 2010 and 30 September 2013, of which 15,692 have been granted leave to remain on that basis. Exceptional leave to remain was abolished on 1 April 2003.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131015/text/131015w0001.htm#131015108000052>

Asylum

Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 9 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 335W, on asylum, how many immigrants claimed asylum following detection and being served papers as immigration offenders in each year for which figures are available; how many of those were granted asylum; how many of those were refused permission to remain in the UK and asked to leave the UK; and how many left the UK in each year. [164789]

Reply from Mark Harper: In answering this question we have interpreted illegal

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

immigrants as individuals who have been served papers as immigration offenders, prior to claiming asylum.

The information requested is shown in the following table:

Table 1: Identified illegal immigrants, 1 January 2008 to 30 June 2013

Year of asylum claim	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Claimed asylum following detection	17,024	13,368	9,821	10,679	10,477	5,200
Granted	4,703	3,259	2,520	3,602	3,499	1,483
Refused	9,747	7,830	6,103	5,590	4,678	2,068
Other	2,497	2,169	1,141	1,113	956	378
Removed	4,431	3,607	2,589	2,170	1,574	667

Notes: 1. All figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. 2. Figures relate to main applicants only. 3. All data relates to individuals served papers as immigration offenders, who subsequently claimed asylum between 1 January 2008 to 30 June 2013. 4. Grants relate to individuals granted asylum or a form of leave eg Humanitarian Protection and Discretionary Leave at first decision. 5. Refusals relate to individuals refused at first decision. 6. Other outcomes relate to asylum applications that have not been granted or refused eg unconcluded, and withdrawn. 7. Removals relate to asylum claims made in the specified years. However, actual removals may have occurred in year of asylum claim or a subsequent year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131015/text/131015w0001.htm#131015108000042>

Asylum: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applicants receiving support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 have been receiving that support for more than (a) two, (b) four and (c) six years; and if she will make a statement. [169647]

Reply from Mark Harper: Section 4 support is provided only to a limited group of failed asylum seekers who have chosen not to leave the United Kingdom. These include cases where the person is applying for a passport from their national embassy to facilitate their return to their country of origin and cases where the person has made further representations to be allowed to stay in the United Kingdom (despite already having received a negative decision).

The data requested are set out in the following table. The data are taken from management information systems and are not held in a format compatible with National Statistics protocols; it would be hard to reconcile these data precisely to other published numbers.

Duration	Cases (number)
0 to 2 years	1,876
2 to 4 years	773
4 to 6 years	455
6+ years	205
Total	3,309

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131014/text/131014w0002.htm#1310152000013>

Asylum: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the ability of households in receipt of support under section

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

4 of the Asylum Act 1999 to access a landline telephone. [170489]

Reply from Mark Harper: The accommodation provided to failed asylum seekers under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 is not equipped with landline telephones.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131015/text/131015w0001.htm#131015108000043>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will ensure that any reports into allegations of sexual assault at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre that have previously been or will in the future be produced by Serco are made available to the public; [170514]

(2) if her Department will investigate allegations of sexual assault at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre; [170515]

(3) what procedures are in place to (a) ensure women detained for immigration purposes are protected from sexual assault and harassment and (b) facilitate immigration detainees to report incidences of sexual assault and harassment on the immigration detention estate; [170516]

(4) what assessment she has made of the suitability of detaining women for immigration purposes following the allegations of sexual assault at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre. [170517]

Reply from Mark Harper: Detention plays a key role in the maintenance of an effective immigration control. We are committed to ensuring that all detained persons are held safely and that they are treated with dignity and respect. This applies equally to women and men. The allegations relating to Yarl's Wood do not alter that position.

Bedfordshire police are investigating the allegations that have been made and Home Office Immigration Enforcement is offering full assistance to that investigation. Detainee custody officers working in immigration removal centres (IRC) undergo thorough security checks and complete extensive training before they are certificated to work with detainees. There are strict rules governing interaction with detainees. Any member of staff who contravenes any of the rules governing interaction, whether inside or outside centres, will face disciplinary action, which may lead to dismissal. The use of CCTV cameras in the majority of public areas in IRCs and in all vans used for escorting detainees provides an additional safeguard.

A formal complaints system operates in all IRCs and all detainees are advised how to complain. Detainees may complain in confidence to members of the Independent Monitoring Board appointed at each centre. In addition, detainees have access to mobile phones and the internet and are therefore able to contact the police direct to report an allegation of sexual assault or harassment.

All serious misconduct allegations are passed by the Professional Standards Unit of the Home Office to the appropriate authorities, such as the police or other oversight bodies, where appropriate. The police will take forward their own investigations separately to but in parallel with Home Office internal inquiries. Detainees who are not satisfied with the way in which their complaint has been handled may ask for it to be reviewed by the independent prisons and probation ombudsman.

Reports relating to allegations made by individuals contain personal information and are not published in order to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131015/text/131015w0001.htm#131015108000066>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Early Day Motions

George Galloway (591) European Union migrants and benefits – That this House shares the view of the European Commission that the Government has completely failed to provide evidence that the UK benefits system is being abused by European Union migrants; rejects the Government's claim that there is a pull factor attracting EU citizens to this country to claim benefits; notes that there are 2.3 million EU residents in Britain of which only 60,000 are claiming jobseeker's allowance; further notes that EU nationals are net contributors to the UK benefits system; and rejects the Prime Minister's view that EU regulations are a handicap for businesses.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/591>

Simon Hughes (557) Supporting Irish Immigrants – That this House acknowledges that many of the Irish emigrants who came to the UK in the 1950s are now elderly and that some are facing isolation and poverty; believes that some Irish emigrants who came here are still among the most marginalised groups in society; thanks the Irish Chaplaincy in Britain (ICB) for supporting many vulnerable and isolated Irish emigrants in the UK, irrespective of beliefs and attitude to the Christian church; and further acknowledges the wide range of welfare services provided by ICB and other organisations including the Southwark Irish Pensioners Project which works with Irish older people, and other organisations which have worked with members of the Irish Traveller community and Irish prisoners for up to five decades.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/557>

Press Releases

Human trafficking: Tough sentences to help end modern slavery

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/human-trafficking-tough-sentences-to-help-end-modern-slavery>

Ministry of Justice supports almost 1,000 victims of trafficking

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ministry-of-justice-supports-almost-1000-victims-of-trafficking>

Hyslop: 'Scotland won't slam door on foreign students'

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Hyslop-Scotland-won-t-slam-door-on-foreign-students-535.aspx>

Visa applications to be simplified for Chinese visitors

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2013/october/22-simplified-visas-china>

Immigration Rule changes

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2013/october/01-october-rules>

New application forms

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

English language tests for applications under Tiers 1, 2 and 4 of the points-based system

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2013/october/46-english-language>

Victims of trafficking: "Human beings with human rights that must be protected"

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13869&LangID=E>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

GRETA annual report highlights five priorities for fighting human trafficking

https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=2114431&Site=DC&ShowBanner=no&Target=_self&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE

On European Anti-Trafficking Day OSCE Chair calls for efficient implementation by all participating States of their commitment to eliminate trafficking in human beings

<http://www.osce.org/cio/107200>

European Economic and Social Committee calls for a coherent EU policy on immigration

<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.press-releases.29608>

New Publications

Second report of the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/251487/9794-TSO-HMG_Human_Trafficking.pdf

Shadow City: Exposing Human Trafficking in Everyday London

<http://glaconservatives.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Shadow-City.pdf>

3rd General report on GRETA's activities (Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings)

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/Docs/Gen_Report/GRETA_2013_17_3rdGenRpt_en.pdf

A fact finding analysis on the impact on the Member States' social security systems of the entitlements of non-active intra-EU migrants to special non-contributory cash benefits and healthcare granted on the basis of residence

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=10972&langId=en>

News

Lord Advocate: 'Human trafficking is slavery'

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/lord-advocate-human-trafficking-is-slavery-1-3148098>

Visa rules for Chinese coming to the UK will be relaxed

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-24512781>

UK to relax visa rules for Chinese

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/wider-political-news/uk-to-relax-visa-rules-for-chinese.22406432>

Britain to relax visa rules for Chinese nationals

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/britain-to-relax-visa-rules-for-chinese-nationals-1-3140230>

Met picked up 9% of human trafficking victims, report says

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-24512447>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Benefit tourism claims: European Commission urges UK to provide evidence
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-24522653>

Police file report on alleged sectarian singing by soldiers during Armed Forces Day celebrations at Ibrox
<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/sport/football/football-news/police-file-report-alleged-sectarian-2457831>

In pictures: Immigrants tell their stories of living in Scotland through photo exhibition
<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/pictures-immigrants-tell-stories-living-2458058>

Human trafficking: Why do so many victims refuse help?
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-24548143>

Traffickers using 880,000 people as slave labour in EU
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/traffickers-using-880000-people-as-slave-labour-in-eu-8882190.html>

Modern slavery law 'is needed to stop human trafficking'
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article3898827.ece>

Human trafficking gets life sentence in slavery crackdown
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-24571971>

Immigration texts 'sent in error' prompt complaints
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-24575795>

Immigration text messages spark complaints
<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/wider-political-news/immigration-text-messages-spark-complaints.22453744>

Labour demands answers over 40,000 'go home' texts to immigrants
<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/oct/18/labour-answers-40000-go-home-texts-immigrants>

Wrong people texted on migrant status
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article3898770.ece>

More than 100 complaints about TEXTS warning suspected illegal immigrants: 'You're required to leave the UK'
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2465701/More-100-complaints-TEXTS-warning-suspected-illegal-immigrants-Youre-required-leave-UK.html>

Anti-racism campaigner and immigration caseworker sent 'go home' text messages by Home Office
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/antiracism-campaigner-and-immigration-caseworker-sent-go-home-text-messages-by-home-office-8886200.html?origin=internalSearch>

Government's 'Go home' vans backed by Immigration Minister Mark Harper
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/governments-go-home-vans-backed-by-immigration-minister-mark-harper-8889358.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

English not the first language in 240 schools - with five primary schools having no native-speakers at all

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/english-not-the-first-language-in-240-schools--with-five-primary-schools-having-no-nativespeakers-at-all-8886572.html>

Five schools where not one pupil has English as their first language... and there are another 240 that are not far behind

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2463685/Five-schools-pupil-English-language--240-far-behind.html>

People worry about immigration if they have little contact with migrants

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/oct/14/worry-immigration-poll-crackdown-migrants>

Theresa May's immigration bill is a valuable tool for racist landlords

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/oct/15/theresa-may-immigration-bill-racist-landlords>

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Race Relations

News

Faith schools are 'most ethnically segregated schools in English education system'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/faith-schools-are-most-ethnically-segregated-schools-in-english-education-system-8889622.html?origin=internalSearch>

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Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Race Equality

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-17153 by Shona Robison on 26 September 2013, who was consulted prior to the publication of the statement in April. (S4W-17576)

Shona Robison: In April 2013 the Scottish Government published its thinking on how race equality should look over the next three years. The approach states “that towards the end of 2013 we will commence work with stakeholders to develop the approach to be taken and we will publish the refreshed statement in Spring 2014”.

A copy of our approach can be found under the heading Statement of Race Equality Refresh

at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Equality/18934/historyofstatement>.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-17576&ResultsPerPage=10>

Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-17153 by Shona Robison on 26 September 2013, how it will consult communities and stakeholders to inform the statement to be published in Spring 2014. (S4W-17577)

Shona Robison: Officials will shortly be conducting one-to-one meetings with their intermediary bodies (Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland, Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations, Scottish Interfaith Council and the Scottish Refugee Council, to help form a project plan for the most appropriate way to consult with communities and stakeholders. They will also discuss which organisations and community groups would be best placed to consult in the formulation of the statement.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-17577&ResultsPerPage=10>

The answer referred to in the two questions above can be read at

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-17153&ResultsPerPage=10>

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-17155 by Shona Robison on 26 September 2013, what the reason is for the preference for a statement rather than a strategy for individual protected equality characteristics. (S4W-17580)

Shona Robison: Although the Scottish Government does not currently have any strategies for individual protected equality characteristics, there are a number of strategic approaches under development around various specific characteristics, e.g. Violence Against Women Strategy. The Scottish Government has committed to refreshing the 2008-11 Race Equality Statement. However, our approach to any long term work is always informed through consultation with key stakeholders and communities. The contents and form will be drawn out through the consultation process when discussions take place and areas for development are identified.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-17580&ResultsPerPage=10>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-17155&ResultsPerPage=10>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Keith Vaz (577) Diversity in the Football Association Commission – That this House encourages diversity and representation of UK society and current football players in the Football Association Commission; notes that there are no ethnic minority members of the Football Association Commission; acknowledges that 25 per cent of professional football players are from an ethnic minority background; welcomes the steps that have been taken to encourage diversity in English football such as the Kick it Out racism campaign; and calls on the Football Association to ensure the Football Association Commission is diverse and representative of the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/577>

Equality (continued) **Press Release**

Increasing minorities' representation in the European Parliament: Time to act!

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/2013-10-15%20political%20participation%20press%20release.pdf>

News

Christian sues over Sunday shifts

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/10391853/Christian-sues-over-Sunday-shifts.html>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Press Release

'No Dogs, No Blacks' new findings show that minority ethnic groups are still discriminated against when trying to rent private housing

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/525/272/No-Dogs-No-Blacks-new-findings-show-that-minority-ethnic-groups-are-still-discriminated-against-when-trying-to-rent-private-housing.html>

News

The latest MET Islamophobic hate crime figures to September 2013

<http://tellmamauk.org/the-latest-met-crime-figures-are-now-online/>

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Other Holyrood

Press Release

White Paper date

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/White-Paper-date-549.aspx>

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Other Westminster

Press Releases

Eid al-Adha 2013: message from David Cameron

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eid-al-adha-2013-message-from-david-cameron>

Eid al-Adha 2013: message from Nick Clegg

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eid-al-adha-2013-message-from-nick-clegg>

Other Westminster Press Releases (continued)

Foreign Secretary sends best wishes for Eid al-Adha

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-sends-best-wishes-for-eid-al-adha>

Baroness Warsi sends her best wishes for Eid ul-Adha

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/baroness-warsi-sends-her-best-wishes-for-eid-ul-adha>

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New Publication

Scotland's Population 2012: The Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files2/stats/annual-review-2012/rgar-2012.pdf>

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Other News

Comic Relief offers charities free use of its online Gift Aid software

<http://tinyurl.com/nxjpy6q>

'I was forced into marrying my relative ... and there was nowhere to go, no way out'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/i-was-forced-into-marrying-my-relative-and-there-was-nowhere-to-go-no-way-out.22454532>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Holyrood

Children and Young People Bill

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

**** Criminal Justice Bill**

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

Justice Committee: Stage 1 evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8572&mode=pdf>

Marriage and Civil Partnership Bill

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

Scottish Independence Referendum Bill

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

Bills in Progress

Holyrood (continued)

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 Bill

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

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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.charitySORP.org/media/513587/charity-sorp-exposure-draft.pdf>

Consultation document

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

Consultations (continued)

**** Voluntary Sector Survey - Local government responses to migrant families who have no recourse to public funds**

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

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/all-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>

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Job Opportunities

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

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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)

**** this week!**

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

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>

Women, Power, and Politics

6 November 2013 in Glasgow (10.30 – 12.30)

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre referendum event with speakers from both the Better Together and Yes campaign. For information contact Samina Ansari 0141 585 8026 / info@mwrc.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Universal Periodic Review Process**

6 November 2013 in Edinburgh

7 November 2013 in Glasgow

Human Rights Consortium Scotland workshops to provide information about the Universal Periodic Review process and international Human Rights Law. For information contact Naheem Waheed naheem@gdaonline.co.uk / 0141 556 7103.

**** The census in Scotland: 2011 and Beyond**

7 November 2013 in Glasgow (12.30 – 4.15)

8 November 2013 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 1.15)

National Records of Scotland events as part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science, including a presentation about the 2011 census, and the “Beyond 2011” proposals for the future of the census in Scotland. For information contact

NRS_Beyond_2011@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or see

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/5544586006> (Glasgow) or

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/7719349783> (Edinburgh)

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

Women’s Interfaith Dialogue

11 November 2013 in Dundee (2.00 – 4.00)

Interfaith Scotland event for women of all faiths and none on the theme of ‘Values and Visions for the future of Scotland’. For information contact Frances Hume

frances@interfaithscotland.org / 0141 420 6982 or see

<http://www.interfaithscotland.org/events/>

**** Third Sector Summit**

21 November 2013 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 7.30)

SCVO events and workshops relevant to the diverse organisations that make up the third sector in Scotland. For information see <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo-events/third-sector-summit-2013/> or contact events@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 6150

**** Poverty and Ethnicity in Scotland**

22 November 2013 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

CRER event to bring people with an interest in poverty and ethnicity together with the researchers studying these issues, discussing the latest research findings and their implications for tackling economic disadvantage. For information contact Nadia Rafiq nadia@crer.org.uk / 0141 418 6530 or see <http://www.crer.org.uk/81-front-page-articles/415-poverty-and-ethnicity-in-scotland>

“Domestic Abuse and Minority Ethnic Women, Children & Young People”

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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

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

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/>

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>

Useful Links (continued)

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

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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 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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