



# MEMO

7 April 2008  
ISSUE 125

## Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with **BEMIS**.*

*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](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Funding 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.*

*Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to [MEMO@scojec.org.uk](mailto:MEMO@scojec.org.uk) and requests to be added to circulation to [mail@bemis.org.uk](mailto:mail@bemis.org.uk)*

**Since both the Scottish and UK Parliaments are currently in recess, the next issue of MEMO will be on Tuesday 22 April.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Westminster Debate

#### **Ms Deborah Philips**

David Davis: The outcome of this debate will decide whether an elderly constituent of mine, Betty Phillips, will spend her remaining years supported by the love and care of her daughter and granddaughter or separated, lonely and at risk.

The issue that I wish specifically to address is the prospective deportation of Deborah Phillips, the daughter of my constituent, Betty Phillips. That deportation is a matter of weeks away if the Minister does not use his powers to act. Let me start by describing Deborah and how she came to be in the position she is in today. The story starts when Betty, Deborah's mother, falls in love with a sailor in the US navy, a world war two veteran, when he is on shore leave in Hull. They then get married, and go to live in America, where they live on a variety of military bases. Deborah was born in 1959 and her brother David was born in 1962. In 1963, the family returned to Hull. Mr. Phillips, who was an American citizen, got indefinite leave to remain in the UK, as did their children, and he took a job at the university, where he stayed until he retired in 1992.

**To continue reading the debate see:**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080331/debtext/80331-0031.htm#08040121000002>

## Immigration and Asylum (continued)

### Westminster Ministerial Statement

**Jacqui Smith (Secretary of State for the Home Department):** In a statement to Parliament on the 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 667, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced a wide range of measures to counter terrorism, increase the resilience of communities to resist extremism and to strengthen our borders. The statement announced the decision to establish a UK Border Agency, a global organisation that will improve the UK's security through stronger border protection while welcoming legitimate travellers and trade.

The new UK Border Agency is today established as a shadow agency of the Home Office. The agency's purpose and objectives are set out in its first business plan which I am laying in the House today. That purpose is clear: it is to secure our border and control migration for the benefit of our country; protecting our borders and national interests; preventing border tax fraud, smuggling and immigration crime; and implementing decisions quickly and fairly.

The UK Border Agency will unite the work of the Border and Immigration Agency, Customs detection work at the border from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and UKVisas from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), to create an organisation with a budget of over £2 billion, 25,000 staff, and operating in local communities, at our borders, and across 135 countries worldwide. The agency will deploy unprecedented power in pursuit of its goals.

The new agency will deliver new powers to front line officers. I can announce that by the summer we will have cross conferred customs and immigration powers on over 1,000 front line staff. In addition, staff in England and Wales will be equipped with police-like powers as set out in the UK Borders Act. Passengers and goods will now be checked at a single primary line. Uniformed UK Border Agency officers will protect the UK searching for signs of smuggled goods or immigration abuse and will have new powers to improve their ability to detain suspected law breakers. Legislation to provide for full integration of customs staff will be presented to the House shortly. Wider powers demand tough accountability. The Independent Police Complaints Commission has therefore taken over investigation of individual cases from 25 February and we intend to appoint an independent inspector of the UKBA shortly.

Further, the new agency will unlock a new relationship with 1,600 uniformed police officers at ports and airports and the UK's 1,400 Special Branch officers for whom funding has been increased to around £75 million. Today I am placing in the Library of the House a new framework of co-operation between the police in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The framework establishes strategic direction for intelligence sharing and delivery of frontline operations.

In a response to a recommendation in the Cabinet Office report "Security in a Global Hub—Establishing the UK's New Border Agency Arrangements" published last November, the Home Office is working with the Association of Chief Police Officers for England, Wales and Northern Ireland to consider how policing—which is currently delivered by the local force for each port and airport—may be best organised to deliver a fuller level of integration at the border, taking into consideration the drive for greater collaboration which is at the heart of the Government's programme for improving protective services.

We are discussing with the Scottish Devolved Administration and the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland ways of strengthening working relationships between the Scottish police service and the new agency taking into account the devolved nature of policing in Scotland.

By working in partnership with HMRC and the FCO, the UK Border Agency will contribute to the collection of £22 billion in tax revenue and the facilitation of international trade worth £600 billion per annum.

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

The agency will be more powerful than today's separate forces and will therefore deliver on tougher targets. It will:

Expel 5,000 FNPs from Britain, up from 4,200 last year.

Sustain last year's increase in the seizure of class A drugs by seizing at least 2,400 kg of cocaine and 550 kg of heroin by April 2009.

Increase by 50 per cent. the number of asylum cases concluded in less than six months.

Extend the UK's visas regime to cover a larger proportion of the world's population.

Increase our detention capacity by 20 per cent. over the next two years to help us increase the number of immigration offenders we can remove from the country.

Lin Homer as chief executive will be supported by a board including an HMRC Commissioner, Mike Eland, a senior FCO representative, James Bevan and a senior police representative, Roger Baker, the Chief Constable of Essex.

I am also placing in the Library of the House a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Home Office and the FCO which underpins the move of UKVisas into the new global agency.

The MOU sets out the respective commitments of the Home Office and the FCO. It details the financial, resource and management framework within which the UK Border Agency's overseas operations will function. From today UK Border Agency's overseas staff, drawn from the FCO, the Home Office and from external organisations will work as an integrated team to achieve the Government's objectives for immigration and border security.

Finally on 1 April my hon. Friends the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration (Liam Byrne), and the Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Kim Howells) wrote to the Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs Select Committees outlining the new procedures for dealing with correspondence on visa-related matters. On the same day my right hon. Friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy) wrote to the Treasury Select Committee about procedures for dealing with correspondence relating to frontier detection. I am placing a copy of these letters in the Library of the House today.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080403/wmstext/80403m0002.htm#08040372000022>

## Westminster Parliamentary Questions

**James Clappison** [195358]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department further to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-7W, on asylum, if she will give a break down by nationality of the other nationalities granted leave to remain under the 2003 family indefinite leave to remain exercise.

**Reply from Liam Byrne** : The requested information is contained in the following table.

Copies of asylum statistics 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/immigration1.html>.

**To read the table see**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080403/text/80403w0040.htm#08040443000007>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Lord Laird** asked Her Majesty's Government [HL2628]: Under what circumstances a foreign citizen married to a United Kingdom citizen and living in the United Kingdom can become a British citizen.

**Reply from Lord West of Spithead:** The British Nationality Act 1981 contains three provisions which allow certain adult foreign citizens to register as a British citizen if they are of good character and: they were born to a British mother between 7 February 1961 and 1 January 1983; they renounced citizenship of the United Kingdom and colonies before 1 January 1983; or they renounced British citizenship on or after 1 January 1983.

In other cases, foreign citizens who wish to acquire British citizenship need to apply for naturalisation provided they meet certain residence and other requirements set out in the 1981 Act. Those who are married to a British citizen must be of good character and have a satisfactory knowledge of the English language and life in the United Kingdom. They must also have lived lawfully in the United Kingdom, without long absences, for at least three years and be free from immigration conditions by the time they apply.

Further information about the requirements for registration and naturalisation is available on the Home Office website at leaflets

[www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/britishcitizenship/information](http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/britishcitizenship/information)  
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80331w0001.htm#08033129000008>

**The Earl of Sandwich** asked Her Majesty's Government [HL2766]: What lessons they have drawn from the case of Ama Sumani in Ghana; and whether they would allow an asylum-seeker to remain temporarily in this country for dialysis treatment, provided that sufficient funds were available for such treatment.

**Reply from Lord West of Spithead:** Common humanity means we all feel sympathy when dealing with individuals who face challenging medical and personal circumstances, but this in itself is not enough to entitle someone to a different process or consideration. Cases such as Ms Sumani's will continue to be assessed and reviewed by independent judicial processes on an individual basis and in accordance with existing legislation and guidance.

Individuals who make formal applications for asylum in the United Kingdom are eligible for free NHS treatment while their applications, including any appeals, are being considered. Unsuccessful applicants who have exhausted their appeal rights are expected to leave the country as soon as possible and may be charged for any new course of medical treatment. Nevertheless, immediately necessary treatment would never be withheld or delayed, regardless of chargeability or ability to pay. This would be a matter for medical decision on a case-by-case basis.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80331w0002.htm#08033129000024>

**James Clappison** (198258): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 16th January 2008, Official Report, column 1297W, on asylum, if she will give a breakdown by nationality of the asylum claimants who received leave to remain as a result of grant of (a) asylum, (b) humanitarian protection and (c) discretionary leave in the categories (i) Europe other, (ii) Americas other, (iii) Africa other, (iv) Middle East other and (v) Asia other; and how many dependants received leave to remain in each of these categories and nationalities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80401w01.htm>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**John Bercow** (198371): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if the Government will exempt from the no recourse to public funds rule persons fleeing all forms of violence who are subject to immigration control.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80401w01.htm>

**John Bercow** (198372): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Government plans to extend the domestic violence rule to include all abused women with insecure immigration status.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80401w01.htm>

## Westminster Early Day Motions

**Austin Mitchell** (1275) **Employment in ethnic catering** - That this House welcomes the major contributions that Chinese, Indian, Malaysian and other ethnic restaurants, curry houses, takeaways and catering businesses make not only to culinary diversity, interest and excitement but also to the economy and British society in general; is concerned about their increasing difficulties in recruiting chefs and cooks of all kinds which have forced many to employ asylum seekers many of whom are now being dismissed or arrested under the Stop Illegal Working drive; feels that these problems are compounded by the new points-based system which requires unreasonably high English language skills at a level not attainable in the schools of their country of origin and formal qualifications not attainable by those who acquire their cooking skills from experience, often in family businesses; points out that all this has produced real difficulties for ethnic catering, excessive overtime hours, tens of thousands of staff shortages and in several cases closures of these small and medium enterprises; and observes that these problems are all brought out in the research report compiled for the Chinese Immigration Concerns Committee which comes to the conclusion that, if Chinese catering cannot quickly replace its workforce there is a real danger of a meltdown, a problem which also faces other ethnic catering businesses unless they are urgently recognised as an area of skill shortage with rules relaxed accordingly to allow urgent recruitment.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80331e01.htm>

**Alan Meale** (1300) **Gurkhas right to remain** - That this House recalls the Government's announcement in September 2004, following a lengthy 18 month review of policy, that Gurkhas who had served in the British Army and who wanted to settle in the UK with their families should be allowed to do so and that immigration rules would be changed to enable this; was therefore alarmed to learn that this offer had only been extended to cover those Gurkhas who had served at least four years and been discharged after 1st July 1997, the date at which their brigade's headquarters had moved to the UK from Hong Kong; notes that Nepalese Gurkhas have played an active front line part in the British Army's activities in times of war and peace for nearly 200 years, with approximately 300,000 of them fighting alongside UK soldiers in both World Wars and other conflicts since, with 45,000 of them either killed or wounded in the process; and believes that, given the exceptional service they have given to the UK, their ties to the nation should be immediately interpreted as sufficiently strong as to warrant their fast track eligibility for either the right to remain or citizenship.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80402e01.htm>

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

### **New unified border agency launches**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/uk-border-agency-launch>

### **Minister of the Interior and JHA President Dragutin Mate at the Meeting of the Future Group on European Asylum Policy, Integration and Police Cooperation**

[http://www.eu2008.si/en/News\\_and\\_Documents/Press\\_Releases/April/0401MNZ\\_Future.html](http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Press_Releases/April/0401MNZ_Future.html)

## **News**

### **Immigration 'small benefit' to UK**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk\\_politics/7322825.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7322825.stm)

### **Lords call for immigration cap**

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2160603.0.Lords\\_call\\_for\\_immigration\\_cap.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2160603.0.Lords_call_for_immigration_cap.php)

### **Minister enters row on immigration**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Lords-in-call-for-immigration.3932607.jp>

### **Salmond rejects plea to curb immigration**

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2160531.0.Salmond\\_rejects\\_plea\\_to\\_curb\\_immigration.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2160531.0.Salmond_rejects_plea_to_curb_immigration.php)

### **The workers paying £650 a month to live in a Glasgow slum**

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/features/display.var.2160364.0.The\\_workers\\_paying\\_650\\_a\\_month\\_to\\_live\\_in\\_a\\_Glasgow\\_slum.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/features/display.var.2160364.0.The_workers_paying_650_a_month_to_live_in_a_Glasgow_slum.php)

### **Brown rejects cap on immigration**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk\\_politics/7324485.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7324485.stm)

### **Peers' inquiry calls for cap on number of immigrants**

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/uk/Peers39-inquiry-calls-for-.3933181.jp>

### **PM defends immigration policy as 'beneficial' and attacks cap plan**

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2163797.0.PM\\_defends\\_immigration\\_policy\\_as\\_beneficial\\_and\\_attacks\\_cap\\_plan.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2163797.0.PM_defends_immigration_policy_as_beneficial_and_attacks_cap_plan.php)

### **Just what happens if the migrants all go home?**

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/featuresopinion/display.var.2163820.0.Just\\_what\\_happens\\_if\\_the\\_migrants\\_all\\_go\\_home.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/featuresopinion/display.var.2163820.0.Just_what_happens_if_the_migrants_all_go_home.php)

### **Tories claim Brown is in denial about record on immigration**

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/567990>

### **An immigration crackdown is last thing on Earth we need**

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/politics/An-immigration-crackdown-is-.3937551.jp>

## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

#### **Brown urges curry house training**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk\\_politics/7324682.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7324682.stm)

#### **Is Britain guilty of letting in too many immigrants?**

<http://news.scotsman.com/opinion/Burning-Issue.3942253.jp>

#### **Smith to launch new border agency**

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Smith-to-launch-new-border.3942397.jp>

#### **Smith launches Border Agency to criticism from opposition**

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2170617.0.Smith\\_launches\\_Border\\_Agency\\_to\\_criticism\\_from\\_opposition.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2170617.0.Smith_launches_Border_Agency_to_criticism_from_opposition.php)

#### **A poisoned debate**

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/articles/?id=3069>

#### **Poland's closed centres open to MEPs**

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story\\_page/018-25228-168-06-25-902-20080331STO25215-2008-16-06-2008/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/018-25228-168-06-25-902-20080331STO25215-2008-16-06-2008/default_en.htm)

#### **Four in five say Britain is facing a crisis over immigration**

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in\\_article\\_id=557380&in\\_page\\_id=1770](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in_article_id=557380&in_page_id=1770)

#### **David Miliband's family 'lied' to enter UK**

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article3690021.ece>

#### **Migrants find jobs in benefits hotspots**

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article3689786.ece>

#### **At least Britain is honest about immigration now**

[http://entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/tol/arts\\_and\\_entertainment/tv\\_and\\_radio/article3688455.ece](http://entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/tol/arts_and_entertainment/tv_and_radio/article3688455.ece)

#### **Immigration has reduced jobs for Britons**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2008/04/06/nimm106.xml>

#### **Lesson from Lords in how democracy works**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2008/04/06/dl0601.xml>

#### **How migrants fuel Britain's boom town**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/apr/06/immigration.britishidentity>

[TOP](#)

## Race Relations

### News

#### **School race doll branded 'return of the golliwog'**

<http://news.scotsman.com/scotland/School-race-doll-branded-39return.3942224.jp>

#### **Blears warns against creation of ethnic social divide in UK**

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/uk/Blears-warns-against-creation-of.3943357.jp>

#### **Church leader calls for building of mosques to be banned because of risk 'Britain will become an 'Islamic state'**

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in\\_article\\_id=553014&in\\_page\\_id=1770](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in_article_id=553014&in_page_id=1770)

#### **Blair urges the use of religion to help solve the world's problems**

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/572429>

[TOP](#)

## Equality

### Holyrood Debate

#### **Black and Ethnic Minority Pupils**

**Diane Abbott:** I am grateful to have the opportunity to raise a key educational matter. I shall speak about the education system and black and minority ethnic children, and will specifically address the disproportionate levels of exclusion among black and minority ethnic children.

When my Government came to power in 1997, one of their themes was “education, education, education”. That was right, because education is not just the key to our society now, but to our competitiveness as society goes forward in a modern, globalised world. There is no doubt that the Government have many educational achievements to their credit. In my constituency, Hackney North, millions of pounds have been poured into the new academy programme and I have seen standards rise.

Since I have been a Member of Parliament, I have argued consistently that educational standards cannot be raised in the inner city overall without raising the standards of black children. Apart from anything else, that is a statistical point, because in the inner London boroughs, the majority of children are black and minority ethnic. In some of those boroughs—notably Brent and Lambeth—the largest single group of children are black children. Progress has been made on the issue, but, sadly, for many years the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the educational establishment generally have clung to a colour-blind approach to these matters. I shall demonstrate that that has been exemplified in the way in which the Department has approached exclusions. The colour-blind approach of which officials are so proud has failed at least three generations of black children.

***To continue reading the debate see***

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080401/halltext/80401h0009.htm#0804015400004>



## Equality (continued)

### Press Releases

#### Commission launches first equality scheme

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/newsandcomment/Pages/firstequalityscheme.aspx>

#### Equalities body launches YouTube channel

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/newsandcomment/Pages/EqualitiesbodylaunchesYouTubechannel.aspx>

### New publications

#### Equality and Human Rights Commission 2008/9 Equality scheme

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/Documents/Corporate%20info/equalityscheme/EHRC ES English.pdf>

#### Ministry of Justice Race Equality Scheme 2008 – 2011

Equality Scheme <http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/race-equality.pdf>

Action Plan <http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/race-equality-action.pdf>

Yearly Review <http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/race-equality-yearly.pdf>

[TOP](#)

## Racism and Religious Hatred

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions

**John Mann** [197323]: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions for racial hatred offences there were in each of the last 10 years.

**Reply from the Solicitor-General:** The Attorney-General's consent is required for prosecutions under Part III of the Public Order Act 1986 (relating to offences concerning conduct intended to, or likely to, stir up racial hatred). The Attorney-General's Office (AGO) keeps statistics in relation to prosecutions where such consent has been granted. The following table captures the relevant data for 1998 to 2008 inclusive. The statistics are recorded by reference to the year in which each case was referred to the Crown Prosecution Service by the police, rather than the year in which an offender was charged or convicted.

	<i>Prosecutions</i>
1998	0
1999	5
2000	8
2001	2
2002	1

## Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

2003	8
2004	8
2005	2
2006	3
2007	0
2008	0
Total	44

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080331/text/80331w0002.htm#08033121000031>

**David Ruffley** (198464): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many racially-motivated crimes were committed in each police force area in each of the last five years

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80402w01.htm>

## News

**Moslem stylist was interviewed out of pity, tribunal told**

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/567751>

**FA seeks power to dock points from clubs for religious abuse**

<http://football.guardian.co.uk/News/Story/0,,2270821,00.html>

[TOP](#)

## Other Holyrood

### New publication

**Burial and Cremation Review Group Report and Reccomendations**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/217184/0058192.pdf>

[TOP](#)

## Other Westminster

### Ministerial Statements

**Kevin Brennan (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families):** I would like to update the House on the work we have undertaken and the further action we plan to take to safeguard children and young people from forced marriage.

Keeping children and young people safe is a top priority for this Government and my Department. The Government are committed to improving the safety and welfare of all children and young people, whatever their background or circumstances. We are determined to do all we can to make the existing systems and guidance as effective as possible and to strengthen them where needed. We have introduced new legislation, new guidance and new structures to make children safer. And we are committed to doing even more as set out most recently in the cross-Government “Staying Safe: Action Plan” published last month.

I gave oral evidence to the Home Affairs Committee on 4 March in relation to the Committee’s Inquiry into Domestic Violence. My letter to the Committee of 11 March set out the range of measures that this Department has already put in place and the further action we are planning to take in order to make children safer and to tackle all forms of abuse, including domestic violence and forced marriage. It also addressed the specific questions asked by the Select Committee on action to safeguard children and young people from forced marriage and how this relates to the local authority duty to make arrangements to establish the identities of children not receiving a suitable education. This was informed by data gathered from 14 local authority areas, via Government Offices. The Committee has placed my letter in full in the public domain.

This Department recognises the importance of doing more to raise awareness about these issues among children and young people and signpost them clearly to sources of advice and support. Working with the Forced Marriage Unit, we will develop materials on the issue of forced marriage specifically for use by schools and tailored to young people and we will actively encourage schools to use them. We will draw on our recent data gathering exercise which indicates that a range of different approaches can be effective.

Within the next few weeks, Ministers in my Department intend to write to all schools and local authorities reminding them of their responsibilities and of the existing guidance—both general safeguarding children guidance, which includes the issue of forced marriage, and the specific forced marriage guidance for education professionals, issued jointly with the Forced Marriage Unit. We will also set out our plans to consult on revised forced marriage guidance which will then be placed on a statutory footing this autumn.

In addition, I have written to Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector to ask Ofsted to provide their view of how well the duty on children not receiving a suitable education is being implemented. Following advice from Ofsted, the Department will work with local authorities to share best practice and lessons that can be learnt about putting in place more effective mechanisms.

My Department will continue to assist the Home Affairs Committee with its important inquiry. I look forward to seeing the Committee’s report and recommendations in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080331/wmstext/80331m0001.htm#0803313000016>

## Other Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

**Iain Wright (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government)** I am today publishing the Government's response to *The Road Ahead: Final Report of the Independent Task Group on Site Provision and Enforcement for Gypsies and Travellers*.

In 2006, the Government appointed Sir Brian Briscoe to chair a task group to examine the barriers local authorities face in taking effective enforcement action against unauthorised encampments and developments by Gypsies and Travellers. We were pleased to accept the task group's request that its terms of reference be amended to include an examination of the barriers to effective site provision. The task group published its final report in December 2007 and made 36 recommendations which covered the roles of central and local government as well as a range of other stakeholders.

The Government's approach balances firm but fair enforcement against those who camp on land without permission or who breach development control, with proactive measures to increase site provision. We are pleased that the task group agreed that this is the right approach.

In our response, the Government are today announcing our intention to provide an annual policy update to Parliament on Gypsy and Traveller issues, as well as to co-ordinate an annual meeting between the Department for Communities and Local Government and the organisations represented on the task group, or its successors.

Copies of the publication are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80401-wms0001.htm#08040159000007>

[TOP](#)

## Other News

**Now Islam overtakes Catholicism as the world's biggest faith**

<http://news.scotsman.com/uk/Now-Islam--overtakes-.3929010.jp>

**Commission awards £10 million funding to organisations across Britain**

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/newsandcomment/Pages/10mfunding.aspx>

**Equalities and Human Rights Commission list of successful grant and funding applicants**

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/aboutus/grants/Pages/successfulgrantapplicants20082009.aspx>

**Blair to urge key role for faith**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk\\_politics/7327623.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7327623.stm)

**Call for return of faith schools**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/highlands\\_and\\_islands/7327922.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/highlands_and_islands/7327922.stm)

**New Regulations take effect**

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=91e27044-b537-49fd-88f9-e4cbe909f0c4>

[TOP](#)

## **Bills in Progress**

\*\* New or updated this week

### **Holyrood**

#### **Creative Scotland Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/07-CreativeScotland/index.htm>

#### **Judiciary and Courts Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/06-JudiciaryCourts/index.htm>

#### **Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/04-GlasgowCommGames/index.htm>

#### **Public Health Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/03-PublicHealth/index.htm>

## **Bills in Progress**

### **Westminster**

#### **\*\* Counter-Terrorism Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/counterterrorism.html>

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/063/amend/pbc0630104a.1-7.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/063/amend/pb0630304a.13-14.html>

second reading, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080401/debtext/80401-0006.htm#08040156000001>

#### **\*\* Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/criminaljusticeandimmigration.html>

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/041/amend/ml041-ii.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/041/amend/ml041-iir.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/041/amend/su041-iira.htm>

House of Lords consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80402-0002.htm#08040251000009>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80402-0013.htm#08040274000001>

## Bills in Progress

### Westminster (continued)

#### *Draft Bill*

#### **The Governance of Britain - Constitutional Renewal**

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/draft-constitutional-renewal-bill.pdf>

#### **Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/humanfertilisationandembryology.html>

[TOP](#)

## Consultations (closing date)

**\*\* New or updated this week**

**\*\* closes this week!**

#### **Meeting the Charity Test (7 April 2007)**

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=5455d7cc-a60c-456e-9d06-e623144e8359>

**\*\*closes this week!**

#### **OSCR invites feedback**

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=d6834a1a-2d38-4589-b095-b766dc3c3e72>

#### **Border and Immigration Agency: Code of practice - Keeping children safe from harm (25 April 2008)**

[http://bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/keepingchildrensafe/uasc\\_codeofpractice.pdf?view=Binary](http://bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/keepingchildrensafe/uasc_codeofpractice.pdf?view=Binary)

#### **Community Policing Inquiry (5 May 2008)**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/Communitypolicinginquiryforallvidence.htm>

#### **The Role of Further Education Providers in Promoting Community Cohesion, Fostering Shared Values and Preventing Violent Extremism (6 May 2008)**

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/Community%20Cohesion%20PDF.pdf>

#### **Glasgow 2014 - Delivering a lasting legacy for Scotland (9 May 2008)**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/212495/0056525.pdf>

#### **The Path to Citizenship: Next Steps in Reforming the Immigration System**

(14 May 2008)

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/pathtocitizenship/pathtocitizenship?view=Binary>

## Consultations (continued)

**Cohesion Guidance for Funders** (26 May 2008)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/681891>

**Decoupling the Scottish Parliamentary and Local Government Elections**

(12 June 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/216422/0058059.pdf>

[TOP](#)

## Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

## Funding Opportunities

**\*\* closes next week!**

**Race, Religion and Refugee Integration Grant Programme**

Closing date for applications: 14 April 2008

Scottish Government programme to improve the lives of minority ethnic and faith communities in Scotland, including asylum seekers and refugees, by tackling the inequalities that currently exist, increasing race and faith equality and promoting good relations between different racial groups as well as by reducing the incidence of racism, discrimination, and religious intolerance in all their forms. The application form is available online at <http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/grant-schemes/RRRI>. For information see [http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/assets/RRRI\\_Press\\_Release.doc](http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/assets/RRRI_Press_Release.doc) or contact Alison Stevenson 01383 620780 / [Alison.Stevenson@voluntaryactionfund.org.uk](mailto:Alison.Stevenson@voluntaryactionfund.org.uk)

**\*\* closes next week!**

**'Youth in the world'**

Closing date for applications: 15 April 2008

European funding to support youth projects to promote the exchange of experience and good practice in the field of youth and non-formal education, contribute to the development of youth policies, youth work and the voluntary sector, as well as to capacity-building and leadership development for youth organisations/structures, and to develop sustainable partnerships and networks between youth organisations. Projects must deal with one of the following themes:

- Strengthening of civil society, citizenship and democracy
- Fight against racism and xenophobia
- Inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue
- Post-conflict resolution and reconstruction
- The active role of women in society
- Minority rights

For information see [http://www.enar-eu.org/Page\\_Generale.asp?DocID=16494&langue=EN](http://www.enar-eu.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=16494&langue=EN)

## Funding Opportunities (continued)

### Volunteering Scotland Grant Scheme

Closing date for applications: 16 May 2008

Scottish Government programme to improve the lives of individuals and their communities through volunteering. The grant aims to increased volunteers' access to employment, education, training and other volunteering opportunities, improve social and support networks, provide new and improved services to support vulnerable people and communities, and increase participation in community processes such as planning.

For information see <http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/grant-schemes/vsgs>

[TOP](#)

## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* New or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### European Anti-Discrimination & Diversity Training

8-9 April 2008 in Glasgow

Two-day Runnymede Trust seminar, in association with the STUC, on the role of Non-Governmental Organisations and trade unions in the UK in combating discrimination on the grounds of racial and ethnic origin, age, disability, religions or belief and sexual orientation. For information see <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/10/30.html> or contact Sarah Isal 020 7377 9222 / [sarah@runnymedetrust.org](mailto:sarah@runnymedetrust.org)

### Understanding Constitutions and charitable Status

6 May 2008 in Inverness (10.00 – 12.00)

SCVO seminar to enable people to make an informed choice regarding the type of legal structure best suited to their organisation and the advantages of charitable status. For information contact [enquiries@fairwayshouse.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@fairwayshouse.org.uk) / 01463 258 800.

### The impact of immigration and asylum on children and young people living with HIV

13 May 2008 in Glasgow

Children in Scotland seminar to explore issues surrounding working with children and families who have unsure immigration status and are living with HIV. For information contact Megan Rodgers 0131 222 2426 / [training@childreninScotland.org.uk](mailto:training@childreninScotland.org.uk)

### An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

22 May 2008 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; particularly relevant to people working in social work, housing, welfare, education, employment, health, community development or the justice system. For information contact the Scottish Refugee Council 0141 248 9799 / [train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=67>

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

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

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

**Equality and Human Rights Commission**

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/Pages/default.aspx>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**BBC Parliament online**

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

[TOP](#)



The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** 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. <http://www.scojec.org/>



**BEMIS** is the umbrella body for ethnic minority organisations in Scotland. It aims to strengthen the capacity of the ethnic minority voluntary sector; raise the profile and coordinate the voice of this sector; and take a lead on policy issues to ensure that issues of concern are raised with government and other relevant bodies.

<http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>