



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 and requests to be added to circulation to mail@bemis.org.uk

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Patrick Harvie (S3M-1794): UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Should Protect All Children—That the Parliament welcomes the UK Government's review of its general reservation to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC); recognises that the reservation prevents children seeking asylum and trafficked children in Scotland from realising their rights as children; acknowledges the support that members across the Parliament have given to ensuring that asylum-seeking children are treated with dignity and respect as children; notes that the United Kingdom will be assessed on its implementation of the UNCRC later this year, and calls on the Scottish Government to support the removal of the reservation.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-04-29f.htm>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Chris Mullin [201000]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which countries there is currently no safe route of return for failed asylum seekers.

Reply from Liam Byrne: There are no countries to which the United Kingdom does not remove failed asylum seekers on the basis of the safety of the route. Officials consider not only the merits of the individual case but also the most effective means of achieving a safe and successful return. While there is no policy not to return to any country or territory, our ability to return may of course from time to time temporarily be affected by legal challenge. This is currently the case with Zimbabwe, where we have undertaken to the High Court that we will not enforce the return of failed asylum seekers to Zimbabwe until the current country guidance litigation is resolved, and that remains the case.

Jenny Willott[199959]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints were made to the Border and Immigration Agency in each year since establishment, broken down by the nature of complaint; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Data can be provided from 2000 for service delivery complaints and 2001 for misconduct complaints.

The number of complaints received from members of the public through the Border and Immigration Agency's central complaints unit (the customer focus team), broken down by category and year are as follows:

<i>Misconduct complaints (relating to staff behaviour)</i>	
	<i>Number</i>
1 January 2001 to 31 March 2002	530
1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003	436
1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004	546
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	422
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	433
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	354
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	360

<i>Service delivery complaints (relating to level of service)</i>	
	<i>Number</i>
1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001	2,747
1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002	3,943
1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003	3,402
1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004	11,788
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	13,008
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	13,618
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	12,594
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	13,585

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080428/text/80428w0015.htm#080429100007>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Mark. Hoban [199010]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) illegal immigrants and (b) failed asylum seekers detained by the police have been sent unaccompanied to immigration detention or removal centres in each of the last five years.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Illegal immigrants and failed asylum seekers detained by the police are not sent unaccompanied to immigration detention or removal centres.
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080428/text/80428w0019.htm#0804291000035>

Peter Lilley [199161]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the proportion of immigrants who will be affected by the introduction of the proposed points-based system.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The Office for National Statistics produces total international migration (TIM) estimates of the number of people legally entering and leaving the country each year. The TIM calculations are based largely from data from the International Passenger Survey (IPS) which gives both the reasons for entry to the UK and the citizenship of those arriving.

Once fully established, the points based system will cover non-EU work-related migrants, students and their dependants. We estimate this will cover close to six in 10 of the non-British inflow.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080428/text/80428w0019.htm#0804291000036>

David Davis [199145]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the offences are for which an immigration officer can (a) detain and (b) arrest an individual at a UK port.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: There are 50 offences for which an immigration officer may arrest and detain an individual at a United Kingdom port. A full list of offences is contained in Annex A.

Under section 2 of the UK Borders Act 2007 a designated immigration officer at a port in England, Wales or Northern Ireland may also detain (for a maximum of three hours) any individual who the officer thinks is subject to a warrant for arrest or may be liable to arrest by a constable for any offence, pending arrival of a constable.

For a list of relevant offences see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080428/text/80428w0019.htm#0804291000039>

David Davis [200546]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of failed asylum seekers in the UK.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Since the phasing out of embarkation controls in 1994, no Government has been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally and that includes failed asylum seekers. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by Christmas 2008 the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country. This is part of a very wide ranging programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080429/text/80429w0016.htm#08042910500017>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

David Davis [197487]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the report of the Children's Commissioner, published on 3 March 2008, insofar as it relates to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children; whether she plans to take steps to address such issues; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The UK Border Agency is carefully considering the report and, before responding formally to each of the recommendations, have met representatives of the Children's Commissioner on 3 April. Work to improve the arrangements for unaccompanied asylum seeking children has already addressed a number of the report's recommendations.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080429/text/80429w0016.htm#080429105000018>

Peter Lilley [199708]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the evidential basis is of her estimate that the annual inflow of immigrants contributes £6 billion to the economy; and what estimate she has made of the annual expenditure of immigrants on goods and services, including repatriated earnings.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The evidential basis for the impact of migration on trend economic growth is set out in the joint Home Office—DWP submission to the House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs The economic and fiscal impact of immigration.

According to official data from the Office for National Statistics, migration added around 0.5 percentage points per annum to growth in the working age population between mid 2001 and mid 2006, and, therefore to overall trend output growth. On this basis, the contribution of migration to economic growth in 2006 would have been some £6 billion.

The trend growth framework employed by the Treasury, and the impact of migration on the trend growth projection, is set out in Trend growth: new evidence and prospects, available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/3/1/pbr06_trendgrowth_345.pdf.

The information requested on expenditure and remittances falls within the responsibility of the Office for National Statistics. No statistics are collected on expenditure by immigrants on goods and services. The available information on remittance payments was laid out in a letter from the National Statistician to Lord Lament of Lerwick on 19 November 2007, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns WA47-48, in answer to his parliamentary question of that date, to which I refer the hon. Member.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080429/text/80429w0019.htm#080429105000044>

Keith Vaz (202716): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations she has received from the catering industry on the points-based immigration system; which groups she met as part of the development process of the points-based system before it was introduced; how many catering or restaurant groups and organisations she met as part of the development process; and what processes will exist to monitor the sex, age and country of origin of immigrants entering the UK through the points-based system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80429w01.htm>

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

Half of migrants from new EU countries have now left UK

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/pressreleases/?id=3123>

New publication

Floodgates or turnstiles? Post-EU enlargement migration flows to (and from) the UK

http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=/ecomm/files/floodgates_or_turnstiles.pdf&a=skip

News

Polish consulate mooted for city

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/highlands_and_islands/7366965.stm

Polish migrant workers given block of flats to call their own

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Polish--migrant-workers-given.4025597.jp>

EU migrants 'settling across UK'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7373552.stm>

Contrasting views on EU migration

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7374481.stm>

EU immigrants 'leaving UK

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/EU-immigrants-39leaving-UK39.4032878.jp>

More than 60,000 Eastern Europeans register to work in Scotland in four years

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/More-than-60000-Eastern-Europeans.4035832.jp>

Crimestoppers to target migrants

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside_and_central/7375711.stm

Crimestoppers go multi-lingual

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/05/01/newsstory11292577t0.asp>

60,000 immigrant workers in four years for Scotland

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2238295.0.60_000_immigrant_workers_in_four_years_for_Scotland.php

Ireland's immigrants return home as slump sharpens fear of racism

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/may/04/ireland.immigration>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

TUC and Refugee Council launch joint campaign on the right to work

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/news/2008/April/20080418.htm>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

Westminster Debate

Lord Hameed My Lords, one of the most divisive elements in our present-day lives is religion. This was never meant to be so, but extremists in many faiths are bent upon exploiting religion for their own nefarious political agendas. Although there is much warmth and friendship in this House, there is a great deal of fear and hatred in the world outside. As the threats in our daily lives have increased, many eyes have turned in the direction of Islam, from whose corner the recent spate of tragic events has emerged. In looking at Islam through its main reference source, the Holy Quran, we see a religion completely at odds with the actions of the perpetrators of the vile act of terrorism committed in its name. This resulted in voices being raised and questions asked. Do Muslims hate other faiths? Is Islam mainly the religion of fanatics? Are we to witness the start of a clash between Islam and other faiths?

As these questions reverberated, for many Muslims this was a time for challenge and despair. On the other hand, the response of many in the horrified international community was an expectation that the Muslims would put their own house in order. Many now viewed with scepticism Islam's message of peace and compassion; for if it was true, why, they asked, is it associated with violence and intolerance towards non-Muslims and the poor treatment of women? The answer is that both Muslims and non-Muslims use the holy book of Islam, the Koran, selectively. The events of 9/11 in New York and 7/7 in London, in Spain, Bali and other places, were despicable acts committed by misled youths, wrongly in the name of Islam. Islam not only prohibits the killing of the innocent but is also most severe on the act of suicide. There is a clear Koranic instruction against taking one's own life. I therefore have no problem stating from the august Floor of your Lordships' House, for all to hear, especially my co-religionists from the Muslim world, that exploding bombs as an act of suicide to kill innocent people in buses, bazaars, aeroplanes, trains, schools, places of worship or anywhere else, is totally un-Islamic and against the teachings of the Koran. All Muslims, therefore, must do everything to stop this evil depravity.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80501-0008.htm#08050183000006>

News

Facade of racially harmonious America has slipped

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/featuresopinion/display.var.2234943.0.Facade_of_racially_harmonious_America_has_slipped.php

Race Relations

News (continued)

Schools made up of only ethnic minorities

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1925207/Schools-made-up-of-only-ethnic-minorities.html>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Bill Kidd (S3M-1801): Towards an Inclusive Community—That the Parliament welcomes the publication by Lintel Trust, Glasgow, of *A Resource Guide For Housing Associations In Promoting Black And Minority Ethnic Participation In Governance Structures* building upon the findings of the previous report *From Rhetoric to Reality* which identified that, despite the existence of guidance regarding their involvement in governance arrangements, BME people were still excluded from or under-represented in such bodies, and believes that this excellent resource effectively brings together the many strands of guidance and good practice available and will serve to aid inclusive living leading to stronger local communities.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-04-30f.htm>

New publications

National Survey of Local Government Candidates, 2007

Report <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/221835/0059630.pdf>

Summary <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/221830/0059629.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Press Releases

Governments postpone decisions on venue and duration of 2009 anti-racism review conference

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/media.aspx>

Civil Society Groups Seek Durban Review that Rejects Hatred

<http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/media/disc/2008/alert/460/index.htm>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) **News**

Police act to stop clergy attacks

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7364616.stm

Housing chief wins £26,000 damages over racism claims

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2234827.0.Housing_chief_wins_26_000_damages_over_racism_claims.php

Council loses discrimination case

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside_and_central/7374168.stm

Angus Council guilty of discrimination against Bangladeshi man

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

Soldier sues over 'race abuse'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Soldier-sues-over-39race-abuse39.4038443.jp>

BA whistleblower receives threats from fellow pilots

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ba-whistleblower-.htmlives-threats-from-fellow-pilots-818758.html>

Muslim claim sparks prison review

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/cambridgeshire/7377003.stm>

Folk club rocked by race row over George Formby songs

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/editors-choice/2008/05/02/folk-club-rocked-by-race-row-over-george-formby-songs-86908-20402242/>

Formby misinterpretation hits the wrong note

http://www.sundayherald.com/oped/opinion/display.var.2246173.0.formby_misinterpretation_hits_the_wrong_note.php

Bigotry is in with the bricks in Britain

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/features/display.var.2245216.0.Bigotry_is_in_with_the_bricks_in_Britain.php

[TOP](#)

Other Holyrood

Press Release

Scottish Parliament Introduces Gaelic – English Bilingual Logo

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-08/pa08-014.htm>

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Gordon Prentice [202016]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to proposals that religious court should be allowed to arbitrate on some family and matrimonial disputes; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Bridget Prentice: The United Kingdom does not accommodate religious legal systems as such in this country's laws and there is no intention to change this. Under section 10A of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, as amended by the Divorce (Religious Marriages) Act 2002, a court may refuse a decree absolute of divorce to parties who have not given their spouses a religious divorce although it does not allow recognition of the religious divorce. Currently, this provision only applies to members of the Jewish faith. However, it is open to any prescribed religious group to apply to the Lord Chancellor for recognition under this law should it wish to do so.

In Muslim family disputes, the parties may choose to have their financial affairs and decisions about their children decided by a Sharia Council. If the parties wish to have that decision recognised by English authorities, they are at liberty to draft a consent order embodying the terms of the agreement and submit it to an English or Welsh court. This allows it to be scrutinised by an English or Welsh judge to ensure that it complies with English legal tenets. If the decision is made into a court order the English and Welsh courts can enforce it.

Any member of any community has the right to refer to an English court at any point, particularly in the event that they feel pressured or coerced to resolve an issue in a way with which they feel uncomfortable.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080430/text/80430w0021.htm#080430134000030>

Jim Cunningham [201659]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps the Government has taken to reduce the number of forced marriages; [201657]

(2) what steps the Government has taken to assist those who have been subject to forced marriage.

Reply from Vernon Coaker: In January 2005, the joint Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) was set up by the Home Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The FMU leads on Government policy on forced marriage and has developed guidelines for professionals (the police, education professionals, health and social workers) on how to deal with cases of forced marriage. In addition, as part of the National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan, the FMU coordinates an outreach programme to raise awareness of the problem, and runs a dedicated support and advice helpline for victims of forced marriage. The FMU also works with embassies and high commissions overseas to rescue and repatriate those British citizens forced into marriage overseas.

Last year the FMU:

assisted approximately 400 victims of forced marriage (168 of these were overseas cases);

spoke at over 80 awareness raising events around the country;

contributed to the passage through Parliament of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007. One of the provisions of the Act is to make the guidelines for professionals statutory; and also

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

assisted in the development of the 'Honour Network'—a helpline to support survivors of forced marriage.

We have also established an Honour Based Violence Steering Group, led by the Home Office, to identify actions and develop a work programme to address honour based violence and also develop a more dedicated approach to respond to the needs of Black, Asian and minority ethnic victims of domestic violence over the next few years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080429/text/80429w0019.htm#080429105000039>

[TOP](#)

Other News

BBC 'censored Christian party broadcast'

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article3835551.ece>

Decision deferred over travellers

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/7375884.stm

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

**** Creative Scotland Bill**

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

Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research/briefings-08/SB08-23.pdf>

Delegated Powers Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/subleg/reports-08/sur08-CreativeScotlandBill.htm>

Stage 1 evidence from the Scottish government, the Scottish Arts Council, the Joint Board for the Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen, Scottish Screen, and the Creative Scotland Transition Project

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/ellc/or-08/ed08-1002.htm#Col885>

Bills in Progress

Holyrood (continued)

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>

Subordinate Legislation Committee Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/subleg/reports-08/sur08-17.htm>

Scottish Parliament information Centre briefing: Parliamentary consideration prior to Stage 3

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research/briefings-08/SB08-24.pdf>

Stage 3 consideration of amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0430-02.htm#Col8051>

Stage 3 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0430-02.htm#Col8066>

The Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill was passed without a vote

**** Public Health Bill**

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-04-29g.htm>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-04-30g.htm>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-05-01g.htm>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-05-02g.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/pb0632904m.109-115.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/063/amend/pb0633004a.139-145.html>

Bills in Progress Westminster

**** Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill**

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

Bill as amended on Report

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/051/08051.i-vii.html>

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/051/amend/am051-b.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/104/amend/pb1040105a.1931-1935.html>

House of Lords consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80430-0002.htm#08043096000002>

House of Lords amendments to the Bill

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/104/2008104.pdf>

Explanatory note to House of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/104/en/2008104.pdf>

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!**

Community Policing Inquiry (5 May 2008)

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

**** closes this week!**

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>

**** closes this week!**

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

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

Consultations (continued)

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>

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>

Equality and Human Rights Commission Call for help with Human Rights Inquiry

(21 June 2008)

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

Safeguarding Children in Scotland who may have been Trafficked (3 July 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/219212/0058832.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Funding Opportunities

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!**

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 / 01463 258 800.

**** this week!**

It's good to go for a test: evaluation report on the Glasgow 2007 HIV awareness campaign for African communities living with & affected by HIV/aids

9 May 2008 in Glasgow (10.00 – 1.00)

For information contact Tarsisio Nyatsanza 0141 211 0192 /

africanhealthproject@waverleycare.org

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

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 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=67>

Diversity in the UK / Diversity in Scotland

1 – 7 July 2008 in Aberdovey (Wales)

13 – 20 October 2008 at Loch Eil (Scotland)

Encompass programmes for young people aged 17-23 from religiously, ethnically, economically, socially and geographically diverse backgrounds. These include challenging outdoor team-building activities, and controversial, hard-hitting discussions focusing on issues such as identity, and stereotypes. For information see http://www.scojec.org/MEMO/Files/08iv_Encompass.doc or contact Erika 020 7493 9739 / erika@encompasstrust.org

[TOP](#)

Useful Links

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

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

Useful Links (continued)

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Equality and Human Rights Commission

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

BBC Parliament online

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm

[TOP](#)



The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** 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>