8 June 2008 ISSUE 133







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.

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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.

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

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Christina McKelvie (S3M-2043): Dungavel Detention Centre—That the Parliament expresses its concern over newspaper reports that children are still being detained in Dungavel, despite long-running concerns over the suitability of Dungavel for the detention of children, and calls on the Scottish Government along with the Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland, children's, human rights and religious organisations and all interested parties to continue to campaign for an end to the detention of children in Dungavel and for families under detention or investigation by the Border and Immigration Agency to be kept out of Dungavel and placed in alternative accommodation, including in their own homes, while their cases are resolved. http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-06-04f.htm

Immigration and Asylum (continued) Westminster Debates

Bank Holiday (Contribution of Polish Citizens)

Daniel Kawczynski : I beg to move, That leave be given to bring in a Bill to establish a bank holiday to celebrate the contribution of Polish citizens to Great Britain since 1940. When invasion came to Poland in 1939, there was terrible suffering by the Poles. On that first day, 1 September 1939, many Polish aircraft were destroyed on the ground, in the German forces' dastardly attack. But those Polish pilots did not just give up; they came to this country to continue the struggle against fascism. Some 145 Polish pilots defended the skies during the battle of Britain. Polish 303 Fighter Squadron claimed the highest number of kills of any squadron during the second world war. In total, eight Polish fighter squadrons formed within the RAF claimed 629 axis aircraft destroyed by May 1945. Older citizens of this country remember those brave airmen and their gallantry, but it is difficult for people of my generation to remember their contribution. I hope that my Bill will remind them.

We must also remember that the breaking of the Enigma codes was critical to our victory in the second world war. Polish cryptographers played a leading role in the project at Bletchley Park, a fact not generally known. Later today, I shall donate a book to the Library on the role that Polish cryptographers played at Bletchley. According to the Foreign Office, 45 per cent. of all intelligence reports from continental Europe came from Polish informants. Many of those brave Poles were sent back to Poland by the British security forces to spy on the Germans and to bring valuable information back to Britain about armaments production and all the other things that the Germans were doing. Poles fought with the British in Monte Cassino, north Africa and Arnhem. Britain let them stay after the second world war and they have contributed ever since.

Now we face a new wave of immigration into this country from Poles. They are young, energetic, hard-working people. They are builders, plumbers and decorators; they pick our fruit and vegetables in the fields; they are doctors and engineers. We will not see many Poles on the dole or breaking the law. Most Poles are extremely hard working and law-abiding, and make a tremendous contribution to this country. However, we are now reaching the point at which more Poles are returning home than are coming to this country. When they go, we will miss them dearly.

To continue reading the debate see

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080604/debtext/80604-0004.htm#08060476000002

Low Pay (Migrant Workers)

Colin Burgon: I want to start a debate and challenge what I think is a too-cosy consensus among all the political parties about the unchallenged supremacy of market forces. I also want to challenge the dominant idea—again, held across the political stage—that there should be automatic support for the free movement of capital, goods and, in the context of today's debate, labour. We must also therefore discuss the role of the Government in some people would say interfering, we would say intervening in—the market. Today, we are talking about the impact of the free movement of labour on people working in this country, but I also want to consider the impact of economic conditions on determining and dictating the situation for migrant workers.

All political parties and leaders applaud the theory of flexible labour markets. I, for one, do not share their enthusiasm, because in the current climate of weak employment regulation, it means low pay and diminished employment rights for both migrant workers and resident workers. I draw the House's attention to the recently published House of Lords Select Committee report that dealt with the economic impact of immigration. It made it clear that what I would argue to be under-regulated migration has sustained, and is

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Debates (continued)

helping to sustain, an economy that, again, I would argue—the facts seem to substantiate this—is increasingly dominated by employment that is low paid, insecure and leaves workers, resident and migrant alike, vulnerable and ill equipped to face the rising costs of living and all the increasing challenges of today's period of economic turbulence.

The recent TUC report, "Hard Work, Hidden Lives" makes it clear that the proposed agency worker developments—the Government's discussions with the TUC and the CBI—may not make any meaningful difference to the status quo. The Minister will be pleased to know that I shall look at that issue, I hope, in some depth.

To continue reading the debate see

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080603/halltext/80603h 0004.htm#08060369000002

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Jacqui Smith (Secretary of State for the Home Department): I am today laying before Parliament a copy of the report by Mrs. Linda Costelloe Baker, the independent monitor for entry clearance refusals with limited rights of appeal, covering the period 1 April to 30 September 2007. A copy is also being made available on the UKBA website at <u>www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk</u>, together with the UK Border Agency's response to the independent monitor's recommendations.

I am most grateful to Mrs. Costelloe Baker for this thorough and positive report based on the 824 sample cases which she has reviewed for the period 1 April to 30 September 2007.

In the report, Mrs Costelloe Baker comments that "UKvisas has managed a huge programme of business change, holding on to principles of fairness and good service in the face of a strong 'controls' agenda. It sets itself high standards and deserves the praise and awards it receives for its successes".

Mrs. Costelloe Baker also makes a number of constructive recommendations as to how the UK Border Agency can continue to improve the quality of decision making, customer service and complaint handling. The UK Border Agency welcomes these comments and is keen to use these recommendations to drive up the quality of its service to customers whilst maintaining a high level of immigration control.

I wish to record our thanks to Mrs. Costelloe Baker for the work and effort she has put into producing this her third report as independent monitor for entry clearance refusals with limited rights of appeal. The independent monitor's next report will cover the period 1 October 2007 to 31 March 2008 and will be published in the second half of 2008.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080603/wmstext/80603 m0002.htm#08060381000017

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Stephen Crabb [208026]: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many foreign nationals were employed in the UK in the last quarter for which figures are available.

Reply from Stephen Timms: There were 2.3 million foreign nationals in employment in the first quarter of this calendar year, around 8 per cent. of the record number of people in work.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080602/text/80602w001 0.htm#08060220000050

David Cameron [203514]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to reimburse the outstanding costs incurred by local authorities in caring for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; and what plans she has to provide local authorities with 100 per cent. of their future funding to care for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The Home Office provides a grant to local authorities for the provision of support to unaccompanied asylum seeking children aged under 18. All authorities have been fully funded up to national rates in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 for cases supported under the grant instructions. Those authorities on enhanced rates have also been fully funded up to their enhanced rate claim value for 2005-06 and 2006-07. In addition the authorities identified as gateways received 100 per cent. of special circumstances claimed for 2005-06 and 70 per cent. for 2006-07. The other authorities that claimed were awarded 82.5 per cent. and 38.5 per cent. of their claim respectively.

All outstanding claims for 2007-08 are due from local authorities by 31 July 2008. There are no plans to increase funding levels for previous years, and the budget remains fixed for 2007-08. Discussions on this matter are on- going with representatives from the Local Government Association and London councils.

In January 2008, we set out in the paper "Better Outcomes: The Way Forwardimproving the Care of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children" (a copy of which is in the Library, DEP2008-0274) our plans to enter into new arrangements with selected local authorities who would become specialists in the care of unaccompanied asylum seeking children. These new arrangements would simplify funding and mean that the specialist authorities receive payment in full for the services they provide.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080602/text/80602w00 42.htm#08060326000005

Damian Green [202575]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures her Department has in place for processing suspected illegal immigrants when the immigration detention estate is unable to provide accommodation.

Reply from Liam Byrne: If the immigration detention estate is unable to provide accommodation, alternatives to detention are considered for those who are liable to detention. This includes reporting conditions which restricts an individual's place of residence, employment or occupation, physically reporting to a police or an immigration reporting centre and electronic monitoring.

Electronic monitoring currently takes two forms: telephone reporting, using voice recognition techniques, and tagging. These are used, in combination with face to face contact at immigration reporting centres, to improve compliance with the requirements the UK Border Agency places on people to remain in contact.

Further information on detention and alternatives to detention can be found in chapter 55 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance available to view at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/enforcemen t/detentionandremovals/

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080602/text/80602w00 45.htm#08060326000025

Keith Vaz [202717]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice is given to police forces in England and Wales on managing illegal immigrants; how many illegal immigrants were released by police in England and Wales and directed towards the nearest immigration centre in (*a*) the last year for which figures are available and (*b*) each of the previous 10 years; what estimate she has made of the number of illegal immigrants released by police in England and Wales and sent to an immigration centre who then failed to attend in each year; and how many illegal immigrants were detained by police forces in England and Wales in each year.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) works in partnership with the police with whom they have agreements in place on handling illegal immigrants. Following arrest, the UKBA are committed to responding to all confirmed drops of illegal immigrants as a matter of priority.

Information on the number of illegal immigrants released and detained by the police in England and Wales is not collated centrally and could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080602/text/80602w00 45.htm#08060326000025

Damian Green [206846]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to improve her Department's information and data on *(a)* gross and net flows of immigration and *(b)* the geographical distribution of the immigrant population.

Reply from Tom Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 2 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what steps will be taken to improve information on the flows and the geographical distribution of international migration. (206846)

Much work has already been carried out to improve these statistics. The sample size of the International Passenger Survey was increased to collect more information on the flows of emigrants. Improvements to the methodology used for distributing migrants to the local authority level in the mid year population estimates were implemented (based principally on use of household and port survey sources in combination at regional level and IPS questions on length of stay). These changes were implemented in the mid-2006 population estimates issued in August 2007 and were used to revise previously published estimates for 2002 to 2005. They also fed into subsequent ONS population and labour market statistics (e.g. 2006-based National Population Projections, 2006-based Subnational Population Projections to be published in June 2008 and Labour Force survey reweightings issued in May 2008).

On 4 February 2008, the Minister for Local Government announced to the House that a cross-Government programme would be put in place to improve population and migration statistics, driven by senior officials from central Government and the Local Government Association, and led by the National Statistician. It will take forward the recommendations of the 2006 interdepartmental Task Force on Migration Statistics.

A specific objective of the work programme relates to gaining better information on migrants as they enter or leave the country, and therefore making improvements to gross and net migration flows. This work includes:

improvements to port surveys to ensure they are more focussed on collecting migration information, cover more emigrant flows, and involve more of the ports that migrants typically arrive at or depart from,

a longer term aim of using data from the new e-borders programme (and other controlled migration systems) that will collect detailed administrative data on migrants.

The programme also includes research relating to improving the geographic distribution of migration within the UK, for example:

improving the statistical methodology of population estimation to take into account administrative sources that provide a more timely picture of the distribution of migrant populations than the 2001 Census,

developing methods for sharing key administrative data sources such as the Department for Work and Pensions data on benefits and the Department for Children, Schools and Families Schools Census data,

developing new and timely indicators of the impact of migration at the local level.

This is high priority work for the ONS and other government departments and is being progressed with due pace.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080602/text/80602w00 45.htm#08060326000028

Baroness Hanham asked Her Majesty's Government: What action they are taking as a result of the first monitoring report of the independent monitoring board on the short-term holding facilities at Heathrow Airport.

Reply from Lord Bassam of Brighton: My Lords, we welcome the first report of the independent monitoring board on the short-term holding facilities at Heathrow Airport. We have provided the chair of the board with an action plan addressing the main areas of concern raised in that report.

Baroness Hanham: My Lords, I thank the Minister for his reply. Does he agree that the report raises serious concerns about the physical conditions in the short-term holding facilities and about the care and welfare of detained immigrants? Does he agree that it is unacceptable that—this is a snapshot of the many serious issues raised by board members—women and children should not have access to separate accommodation from unrelated men in each of the terminals, that where people are held for long periods there are no proper sleeping facilities and the Border and Immigration Agency says that it does not intend to provide them and that there are no proper washing facilities for the detainees to use in any of the terminals? How and when will all those issues be raised and by whom and when will they be dealt with?

Reply from Lord Bassam of Brighton: My Lords, we obviously share some of the concerns raised in the monitoring report. We have set out an action plan and agreed its main points with the chair of the independent monitoring board. Many of the issues to which the noble Baroness has referred are, of course, shared concerns and we shall be making progress over the next few months to raise the standards of care and facilities at Heathrow.

To continue reading the question and answer session see http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80604-0001.htm#08060470000002

James Clappison [207631]: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* UK born and *(b)* non-UK born people of working age there were in employment in each year from 1997 to 2007, reflecting before and after reweighting as set out in table one of the ONS document, Employment of Foreign Workers in the United Kingdom (1997-2008).

Reply from Tom Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many a) UK born and b) non UK born people in employment of working age there were in each year from 1997 to 2007, reflecting before and after reweighting as set out in table one of the ONS document, Employment of Foreign Workers in the United Kingdom (1997 to 2008). [207631]

The Office for National Statistics provided the information in table one of the article using the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is based on the number of people at a given time who were born outside the UK, age 16 or over, and in employment. However, because you have requested that the estimates are provided on the basis of working age, as in table one of the article, your question has been answered on this basis.

It should be noted that because country of birth is used to define foreign workers some people who are UK nationals will be included in the estimates. The employment levels are defined following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows estimates of the total number of persons employed for UK and non UK born, using both 2003 and 2007 population estimates for those years that are available. Estimates using the 2003 weights are not available for the years 1998 and 2000.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

To read the lengthy table see

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080605/text/80605w00 21.htm#080605116000006

Press Release

Changes to the national shortage occupational list for work permits

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/changestothenationalshortage

News

Why this woman's story shames Scotland http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/-Why-this-woman39s-story.4143684.jp

Pupils to get more language support

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2313998.0.pupils to get more languag e support.php

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Salmond in talks to force closure of Dungavel centre

http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Salmond-in-talks-to-force.4147884.jp

Deportation of rape mum and son slammed

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2316890.0.deportation of rape mum a nd son slammed.php

BBC denies MP's anti-Polish claim

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk politics/7435935.stm

Attacks on Poles 'fuelled by the BBC's coverage of immigration'

http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Attacks-on-Poles--39fuelled.4153460.jp

Burning Issue: Is the BBC fostering prejudice against the UK's Polish community?

http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/opinion/Burning-Issue.4153239.jp

Tremain's immigrant novel is Orange prizewinner

http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Tremain39s-immigrant-novel-is-Orange.4153237.jp

Scotland no longer a cut above as Poles head home

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2325865.0.Scotland no longer a cut above as Poles head home.php

Polish exodus

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/editorial/display.var.2325970.0.Polish exodus.php

Revolving Immigration

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121244114524939197.html?mod=opinion main comment aries

Sun's Polish edition kicks off

http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Sun39s-Polish-edition-kicksoff.4163499.jp

Race Relations

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Jacqui Smith (Secretary of State for the Home Department): Local communities working in partnership with their local authorities, police, education institutions and others, are at the heart of stopping people becoming or supporting violent extremists. Today my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, the Secretary of

Race Relations Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

State for Culture, Media and Sport, the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, the Secretary of State for Justice and I have published detailed guidance to organisations actively to assist them with their work.

This guidance is supported by activity and funding from across government, including £12.5 million to be spent to counter violent extremism and identify and support those individuals at risk across a range of key sectors, including in prisons, among youth offenders, and through community and police-led projects.

Our aim is to improve the long-term security of the United Kingdom. This work complements the action that the security agencies are taking to disrupt those who represent an imminent threat. Along with "The Prevent Strategy: Stopping People Becoming or Supporting Terrorists and Violent Extremism, a Guide for Local Partners", we are also publishing "Preventing Violent Extremism: A Strategy for Delivery", which summarises the strategic framework and key priorities.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080603/wmstext/80603 m0002.htm#08060381000017

<u>TOP</u>

Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

George Foulkes (S3W-13852) : To ask the Scottish Executive what action it is taking to ensure that more women and ethnic minority appointments are made to the High Court. <u>http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-06-04e.htm</u>

George Foulkes (S3W-13853) : To ask the Scottish Executive what percentage of appointments to the bench at all levels since May 2007 have been (a) women and (b) from ethnic minorities and how this compares with each of the previous three years. <u>http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-06-04e.htm</u>

New publications

Report on the High Level Advisory Group of Experts on the Social Integration of Ethnic Minorities and their Full Participation on the Labour Market http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/FS36%20-%20HLAG%20-%20April%202008.pdf

Positive Action http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/FS35%20-%20Positive%20action.pdf

News

Problems with football not all black and white http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/sport/football/article4045193.ece

<u> TOP</u>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

David Simpson [204377]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were the victim of crimes recorded as racially motivated in England in each of the last three years, broken down by region.

Reply from Vernon Coaker: The available statistics relate to racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police and are given in the following table. It is not possible to separately identify those of a racial nature from those of a religious nature.

Racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police			
Number of offences			
Region	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Eastern	2,907	3,025	3,204
East Midlands	2,563	2,722	2,827
London	9,492	8,844	8,309
North East	1,328	1,620	1,692
North West	6,071	6,982	7,114
South East	3,418	4,601	5,323
South West	2,814	2,901	3,008
West Midlands	3,890	4,696	5,101
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,232	4,552	4,617
Total—England	35,715	39,943	41,195

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080603/text/80603w00 19.htm#08060393000019

Lord Avebury asked Her Majesty's Government [HL3560]: Further to the Written Answer by Baroness Scotland of Asthal on 7 May (*WA 67*), whether the new hate-crime report will include all available information about the religion or belief of the defendants and victims; and what further steps they will take to ensure that police forces provide the Crown Prosecution Service with details of the religion or belief of defendants and victims.

Reply from Baroness Scotland of Asthal: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) will produce publishable information about the religion or belief of defendants and victims, following the necessary validation and auditing process. The CPS will not be in a position to indicate the nature and extent of this information until autumn 2008, when the report is published. In the mean time, the CPS is in contact with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and is discussing the next steps regarding the provision of these data to the CPS.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80603w0002.htm#08060 3100000010

Racism And Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Don Foster [207027]: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on tackling *(a)* racism and *(b)* homophobia in football since 1997.

Reply from Gerry Sutcliffe: DCMS channels its funding for sport through its nondepartmental public bodies Sport England and UK Sport

Sport England and UK Sport have not directly funded any campaigns designed to combat racism and homophobia.

However, in the financial year 2007-08 Sport England provided a grant of £317,066 to Sporting Equals, which champions race equality in sport, as well as funding the Football Foundation, the UK's largest sports charity, which supports anti-racism campaigns in football like 'Kick it Out' and 'Show Racism the Red Card'.

Both Sport England and UK Sport are working in partnership with SportScotland and the Sports Council for Northern Ireland to commission a research project into barriers to participation and the number of gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual participants in sport. A total of £25,000 has been invested by partners in the research and producing a guidance resource for governing bodies.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080602/text/80602w001 8.htm#08060227000054

New publication

European Network Against Racism: Annual Report 2007

http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdffr/Annual%20Report%20Enar07_finalLow Res.pdf

News

Muslim in call centre abuse wins £20,000

http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Muslim-in--call-centre.4143689.jp

Thug jailed for racist attack on Polish waiter

http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/edinburgh/Thug-jailed-for-racist-attack.4144430.jp

Pig's head nailed to Asian centre

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/cornwall/7435752.stm

Postman's racist terror campaign

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/hampshire/7437980.stm

Postman admits terror campaign

http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Postman-admits-terrorcampaign.4158892.jp

FRA signs pledge to support UEFA anti-racism campaign during EURO 2008 http://fra.europa.eu/fra/index.php?fuseaction=content.dsp cat content&catid=9



Other Holyrood

Committee

Justice Committee: Community Policing Inquiry

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/or-08/ju08-1402.htm#Col823



Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Nick Herbert [206823]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which proposals in Lord Goldsmith's citizenship review report have been accepted by the Government; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Jack Straw: Lord Goldsmith's review of citizenship made a significant contribution to the current debate about modernising our constitution and is an important step towards clarifying the legal and social rights and responsibilities that come with British citizenship.

The Government are currently considering proposals in the context of their wider reforms, including proposals set out in the Green Paper 'The Path to Citizenship', published on 20 February and forthcoming work on a possible Bill of Rights and Responsibilities and a Statement of Values.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080602/text/80602w00 26.htm#08060232000029

Robert Neill [208095]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what restrictions exist on building Traveller camps on *(a)* Green Belt, *(b)* Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and *(c)* Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Reply from lain Wright: The same requirements apply to Gypsies and Travellers as to the settled community when seeking to build on the green belt. Planning permission is likely to be needed. Every planning application is decided on its merits in the light of local plan policies, but, under Planning Policy Guidance Note 2 on green belts, there is a general presumption against inappropriate development in the green belt. Inappropriate development should not be approved, except in very special circumstances, and it will be for the applicant to show why permission should be granted.

In Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, planning policies and development control decisions should give great weight to the conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape and countryside. Planning Policy Statement 7, "Sustainable development in rural areas", states that major developments should not take place in these designated areas, except in exceptional circumstances. Whether a Traveller camp is considered a major development would be a matter for the planning authority.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest are protected by law, and Planning Policy Statement 9, "Biodiversity and Geological Conservation", requires a high degree of protection to be given to SSSIs under the planning system. Where a proposed development is likely to have an adverse effect on an SSSI, planning permission

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

should normally not be granted. If a particular activity on a site is listed on the SSSI notification as likely to damage features of special interest, the person wishing to carry out that activity must apply to Natural England for consent under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If Natural England has not given consent for such works it is an offence under that Act to carry them out. This protection is enforced.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080603/text/80603w00 05.htm#08060377000069

Peter Ainsworth [207435]: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2008, Official Report, columns 1121-2W, on animal welfare, what progress has been made on drafting a protocol to take into account the views of religious communities when enforcing the requirements of animal health and welfare legislation.

Reply from Jonathan Shaw: A draft protocol to underpin the handling of animal welfare cases in co-operation with the Hindu community has been prepared. This is currently being considered by members of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness at Bhaktivedanta Manor. The draft protocol sets out the way in which the beliefs of the Hindu community will be taken into account when enforcing animal welfare legislation and will apply to cattle in the care of the Hindu community at temples and similarly designated sacred sites. The protocol is intended to ensure that everyone involved understands how animal welfare legislation will be enforced in the future.

The draft will be reviewed in the light of the comments received and will then be sent to the organisations involved in the enforcement of the welfare provisions in the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the wider Hindu community, for comment.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080603/text/80603w00 10.htm#08060377000132

Press Releases

Kitty Ussher announces response to Sukuk consultation

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom and speeches/press/2008/press 52 08.cfm

Promoting British Islam

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/newsfiles1/projecting-british-islam-280508

£12.5m allocated to prevent extremism

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/millions-fight-extremism

£12.5 million to tackle radicalisation and help prevent extremism in communities http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/827570

New Publications

The Prevent Strategy: Stopping people becoming or supporting terrorists and violent extremists: A Guide for Local Partners in England http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/violentextremism/downloads/Prevent%20Strategy%2 0A%20Guide%20for%20Local%20Partners%203%20June%202008.pdf

Other Westminster **New Publications** (continued)

Preventing Violent Extremism: A Strategy for Delivery

http://security.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-publications/publication-search/preventstrategy/preventing-violent-extremism?view=Binary

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Other News

We need more donors to come forward to save our Omar http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/lifestyle/real-life-stories/2008/06/02/we-need-more-donorsto-come-forward-to-save-our-omar-86908-20591885/

Drums greet first Hindu state primary http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/2091449/Drums-greet-first-Hindu-stateprimary.html

Muslims plan Gaelic translation of Koran http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Muslims-plan--Gaelictranslation.4163502.jp

'Young left to die' as councils shun action http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/jun/08/childprotection.socialexclusion

UK Muslims discuss 42-day detention

http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/UK-Muslims-discuss-42daydetention.4162535.jp

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Bills in Progress Holyrood

** New or updated this week

** Creative Scotland Bill

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/07-CreativeScotland/index.htm Stage 1 Report http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/ellc/reports-08/edr08-03-01.htm

** Judiciary and Courts Bill

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/06-JudiciaryCourts/index.htm proposed amendments http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-06-04g.htm and http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-06-06g.htm

Bills in Progress Holyrood (continued)

Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/09-AggPrej/index.htm

** Public Health Bill

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/03-PublicHealth/index.htm SPICe briefing: Parliamentary consideration prior to Stage 3 http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research/briefings-08/SB08-29.pdf

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/100/amend/pbc1000206a.24 75-2479.html

and

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/100/amend/pb1000306a.248 1-2487.html

and

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/100/amend/pb1000604p.250 5-2506.html

and

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/100/amend/pbc1000506a.25 07-2513.html

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 proposed amendments

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/070/amend/pb0700506m.10 9-115.html

and

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/070/amend/pbc0700506a.1 41-143.html

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Consultations (closing date)

** New or updated this week

** closes this week" 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.a spx

Safeguarding Children in Scotland who may have been Trafficked (3 July 2008) http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/219212/0058832.pdf

UK Parliament draft legislative programme (6 August 2008) http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm73/7372/7372.pdf

** **Religious and Moral Education (**November 2008 *date not specified*) http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/religious and moral education outcomes codes to <u>m4-482454.pdf</u> Online guestianneire

Online questionnaire

http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/onlinesurveys/religiousandmoraleduc ation.asp

** Religious Education in Roman Catholic Schools (November 2008 date not specified)

http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/religious education roman catholic outcomes code s tcm4-486155.pdf

Online questionnaire

http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/onlinesurveys/religiouseducationinro mancatholicschools.asp

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**this week!

OSCR Meet the Regulator Roadshow

10 June 2008 in <u>Glasgow</u> (9.15 – 1.30)

11 June 2008 in <u>Benbecula</u> (9.15 – 2.00)

12 June 2008 in Tarbert, Harris (10.45 – 3.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator in Scotland meetings aimed at charity trustees and administrators of charities with a gross annual income of less than £100,000, to discuss compliance issues such as charity accounting, consents and notifications, and charity trustee duties. For information see above weblinks, or contact <u>derek.galbraith@oscr.org.uk</u>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

** this week!

Blood, Sweat & Tears: Sickle cell awareness conference

12 June 2008 in Glasgow (9.00 - 3.30)

African and Caribbean Women's Association conference to raise awareness of some of the key health issues facing the African and Caribbean community, and to demonstrate how these communities can be engaged to develop a key service. For information contact Harriette Campbell <u>harriette2003@yahoo.co.uk</u> / 0141 942 4849.

** Home Owner Focus Group

June 2008 (date still to be confirmed) in Glasgow

PAiH focus group to enable Minority Ethnic communities to give their views on changes to Scottish Government policy on helping home owners to look after their properties and make repairs. Participants will receive £30 to reimburse them for their time and travel. For information contact David Reilly <u>david@paih.org</u> / 0141 353 2220. Note that this event is only for home owners.

Refugee Week

16-22 June 2008

From football tournaments to films, comedy nights to carnivals, exhibitions, plays, parties and much, much more, Refugee Week Scotland is a fantastic festival of events across the country to celebrate diversity and raise awareness of refugee issues. For information see <u>http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/RefWeekProg08</u> or contact the Scottish Refugee Council <u>info@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk</u> / 0141 248 9799

Civicus World Assembly

18-21 June 2008 in Glasgow

The Civicus World Assembly is a forum for international civil society representatives to get together, exchange ideas, experiences and build strategies for a just world. For information see <u>www.civicusassembly.org</u> or contact Even Rehse <u>eva.rehse@scvo.org.uk</u> / 0131 474 6194.

The Gathering

19-20 June 2008 in Glasgow

Voluntary Sector fair that brings together voluntary sector staff, volunteers, community activists and is the largest event of its kind in the entire UK. For information see <u>www.gatherscotland.org.uk</u> or contact Andrew Stewart <u>andrew.stewart@scvo.org.uk</u> / 0131 474 6172.

** **BEMIS** is supporting under-represented groups by providing them with a <u>free</u> stall to promote their project at The Gathering. For information contact Sue Barnes <u>sue.barnes@bemis.org.uk</u> / 0141 548 8047.

** FEM EU Conference

19 June 2008 in Glasgow (9.30 - 1.00)

FATIMA Women's Network conference to discuss the big issues facing Europe today – migration, climate change and citizenship. For information contact Jazz Dudial jazz@fatima-network.com / 07944 176 106.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

** Who funds the equalities voluntary sector in Scotland?

19 June 2008 in Glasgow (11.00 - 12.30)

EHRC and SCVO seminar to find out about new research about funding practice and funding gaps for the equalities voluntary sector in Scotland, and good practice in community engagement. For information contact Siobhan Flannigan siobhan.flannigan@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 8045.

Innovate to Integrate

26 June 2008 in Glasgow

Glasgow Caledonian University event to showcase creative ways that organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors have used to promote and embed equality and diversity. For information see <u>http://www.gcal.ac.uk/odonline/InnovatetoIntegrate.html</u> or contact <u>i2i@gcal.ac.uk</u> / 0141 273 1352.

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

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Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments) <u>http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT_ID</u> <u>=10013528&chk=8b2gQw</u>

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 <u>www.acas.org.uk</u>

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

Useful Links (continued)

Volunteer Development Scotland <u>www.vds.org.uk</u>

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

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

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

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

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** 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. <u>http://www.scojec.org/</u>

BEXXIS Black & Ethnic Minorities Infrastructure in Scotland **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. <u>http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html</u>