



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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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Christina McKelvie (S3M-2149): Protecting Asylum-Seeker Children — That the Parliament welcomes the comments of Children's Commissioner Kathleen Marshall when she said "In Scotland we're getting some things right ... The Scottish Government has spoken out against unacceptable methods of forced removal of children and set a lead in allowing asylum seekers access to further or higher education"; acknowledges her warning that much remains to be done; commits itself to continuing to work to protect the rights of asylum-seeker children, and calls on the Scottish Government to do likewise.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-06-13f.htm>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) Westminster Debate

Immigration (Registration Card) Order 2008

Lord Bassam of Brighton rose to move, That the draft order laid before the House on 5 March be approved.

The noble Lord said: My Lords, Section 26A(3) of the Immigration Act 1971 introduced criminal offences relating to falsifying or amending registration cards issued in connection with asylum claims. Today, in an effort to ensure consistency, we are seeking to introduce the Immigration (Registration Card) Order.

The order is intended to ensure that the criminal offences contained in Section 26A(3) apply to the misuse of cards issued to failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, as well as to asylum seekers supported under Section 95 of the Act. The offences currently apply to cards issued by the Secretary of State to a person in connection with a claim for asylum, but not to cards issued by the Secretary of State to a person in connection with a claim for support under Section 4. This support is intended to be limited and temporary, for people who are expected to leave the United Kingdom but are unable to do so through no fault of their own because of a temporary barrier.

The UK Border Agency issues all asylum applicants and their dependants with an application registration card—an ARC—in connection with their asylum claim. The application registration card contains an applicant's personal details, including the name that they have given to the UK Border Agency and a photograph. The ARC serves a number of purposes. In particular, it is produced on reporting and when collecting asylum support at a post office. It is a valuable weapon against the fraudulent collection of support, ensuring that only those eligible receive it. In limited circumstances, failed asylum seekers and their dependants may be eligible for support, under Section 4(2) and 4(3) respectively, provided that they are destitute and meet the eligibility criteria.

Under Section 4(1), the Secretary of State can also support persons who have been temporarily admitted, released from detention or released on immigration bail. Currently, those applying for support under Section 4 may not have an ARC. The card may have been mislaid, or it may have been retained by an immigration official because the details on the card are no longer accurate or because misuse has been suspected. Furthermore, individuals applying for support under Section 4 may not have an ARC because the original asylum claim predated the issue of application registration cards. It is clear that, by not having a uniform photo ID check for identity confirmation on collection of support, the potential for abuse of the Section 4 support regime is increased. The use of an ARC will also support identity checks at reporting events for individuals at the end of the process.

We intend to revoke the existing Immigration and Asylum (Provision of Accommodation to Failed Asylum Seekers) Regulations 2005 covering Section 4 support and to lay new regulations by the end of 2008. It will be a condition of the continued provision of accommodation for the failed asylum seeker that they attend an appointment in connection with the issuing of an application registration card and comply with a requirement to produce the application registration card.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80610-0013.htm#080610123000002>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Ministerial Statements

Liam Byrne (Minister for Borders and Immigration): Over the next year, the Government are bringing in the biggest shake-up of the immigration system for over 40 years. Today I am laying new immigration rules which complete the roll-out of Tier 1 of the points-based system, introducing provisions for highly skilled migrants, entrepreneurs, investors and recent graduates from UK universities. Worldwide we will also be introducing the entrepreneur, investor and post study work categories. This meets the target I announced last year on time. Tier 1 replaces eight former immigration categories, in line with our commitment to simplifying the immigration system.

Tier 1 will let Britain recruit the skills, assets and ideas the UK needs to remain a global leader in the fields of finance, business, and technological innovation. In particular:

Tier 1 (General) is for highly skilled migrants who wish to seek work or become self-employed in the UK. The entry criteria are rigorous: applicants without qualifications at first degree level or above and a track record of highly skilled employment will not gain entry. But migrants who successfully apply will be able to seek work without being tied to a particular employer for three years. At the end of that time they will be able to extend their stay if they can show they have been successful in a highly skilled capacity.

Tier 1 (Post Study Work) provides a bridge for international graduates from their studies to work in the UK. Eligible migrants may stay on after graduation to seek work for up to two years, after which they have to switch into either a skilled or highly skilled immigration category. We believe this to be one of the most attractive staying on schemes in the world; it will boost our economy both by enabling these graduates to remain in the UK and by making studying in the UK a more attractive prospect.

Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) will encourage migrants to bring their business skills and ideas to the UK. While applicants will not need to have a minimum level of qualifications, they will be required to invest £200,000 in new or existing businesses and create at least 2 new jobs for workers settled in the UK.

Tier 1 (Investor) is for high net worth individuals making a substantial financial investment (£750,000) in the UK.

Our statements of intent for Tiers 2 and 5 of the points-based system were published on 6 May. The statement of intent for Tier 4 will be published by the end of the summer.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080609/wmstext/80609m0001.htm#08060920000012>

Liam Byrne (Minister for Borders and Immigration): I have made an authorisation under section 19D of the Race Relations Act 1976, as amended, to enable the Secretary of State to request that asylum applicants claiming to be a Somali or an Eritrean national submit to language analysis. This authorisation replaces the Race Relations (Immigration and Asylum) (Language Analysis) Authorisation 2008—4 February — 4 June—which will expire on the latter date.

Language analysis carried out between February and June for some Somali and Eritrean asylum applicants demonstrated that significant proportions of those tested had claimed to be of a nationality, or from a region or grouping, that was not their own in order to try to gain residence in this country. This authorisation will assist the Secretary of State to make decisions in individual cases, and to ascertain the extent of this abuse.

The Secretary of State may take a refusal to submit to testing into account when determining whether an applicant has assisted in establishing the facts of his or her case. The authorisation will remain in place for 10 months—until April 2009—at which point we will review whether it is still necessary and appropriate.

I am placing copies of the authorisation in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080610/wmstext/80610m0001.htm#08061089000015>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

Hazel Blears (Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government): I am today publishing a plan that sets out the Government's approach to managing the impacts of migration.

We believe that migration to the United Kingdom brings substantial benefits to our economy and to society as a whole. Our response to the House of Lords' Economic Affairs Select Committee's inquiry into migration, published alongside this document, restates our case for these benefits. Together these documents set out our objective: to maximise the benefits of migration while minimising any transitional pressures experienced by communities and local service providers.

We are carrying out the biggest shake-up of the UK's border security and immigration system for 45 years and introducing a new points-based system to attract those most able to make a positive contribution to the UK.

We will continue to provide refuge for those fleeing persecution, as we have done for centuries. Once people are here, we will ensure that they are able to integrate and make a positive contribution to their community. We are also taking steps to ensure that they learn English and do not access benefits or services unfairly.

Migration brings significant benefits nationally, but the precise difference that migration makes to local places and people will vary from town to town, neighbourhood to neighbourhood, and sometimes even street to street. Some local areas are more affected by change than others and some communities feel the effects of change more than others. Public concern about immigration remains, particularly about pressures on public services and impacts on the labour market.

In some places it is the rate and scale of change which have an impact on local communities and services. Other places experiencing significant migration for the first time may not have the institutions and programmes in place to help them manage that change. And for some areas, there may be further challenges to face if net migration reduces.

We want to enable all places to share in the positive benefits of migration. But this will take practical action. Local authorities, working closely with their communities and public, private and third sector partners, are best placed to manage change. Where it is necessary, the Government are committed to providing support in three ways.

First, it is our responsibility to understand the change that is taking place in our communities. We are committed to getting better at planning for the future, anticipating shifts in migration patterns and helping local authorities prepare for them. This work includes a £12 million programme led by the Office for National Statistics to improve population and migration data.

Secondly, we shall help public services respond in those places most affected by demographic changes, including the arrival of new migrants. We have already made specific funding available—such as additional resources for schools experiencing rapid growth in pupil numbers. We are committed to developing a new transitional impacts of migration fund to help manage the local impacts of migration. Money for the fund will be raised through increases to certain fees for immigration applications.

Thirdly, we will support people and communities to be confident in the face of change. We have already provided significant funding for community cohesion by helping new migrants understand local customs and make a positive contribution to local life, and by breaking down the misconceptions that can sometimes cause anxiety or tension with the settled community. We are committed to providing further support to local authorities and their partners and to sharing the successful approaches that are already making a difference in many places—from local citizen days to migrant information packs.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

There are many commitments made in this document to support what we are offering now, and work is already underway for the rest of this year.

Early in 2009, we intend to provide an update on the changes made and the action taken as a result of this programme of work.

Copies of the document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can be accessed via the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/migrationimpact.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080611/wmstext/80611m0001.htm#080611104000010>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Peter Bone [208959]: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent estimates he has made of levels of UK net migration in the latest year for which figures are available.

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 9 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what recent estimate has been made of levels of UK net migration in the latest year for which figures are available. (208959)

In 2006 the difference between immigration and emigration, net migration, was estimated at 191,000 for the UK. This is the latest available official estimate.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080609/text/80609w0020.htm#08060925000064>

Lembit Öpik [206469]: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance his Department provides to migrant workers from A8 countries who subsequently become unemployed in this country.

Reply from Stephen Timms: Once an A8 migrant has completed 12 months continuous employment as a registered worker those who remain in the labour market have the same rights to access Jobcentre Plus services including benefit support and advice, as other EEA and UK nationals.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080610/text/80610w0013.htm#080610105000141>

Jenny Willott [196098]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to ensure that applicants and their legal representatives are informed (a) that consideration has begun and (b) of the final decision in asylum cases considered under the Case Resolution Directorate without the need for a questionnaire; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The UK Border Agency is currently in discussion with stakeholders via the case resolution sub-group of the National Asylum Stakeholder Forum regarding the precise circumstances in which an applicant and their legal representatives will be contacted.

I will write to the hon. Member with further details in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080611/text/80611w0021.htm#0806122000006>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Damian Green [205456]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has issued on officials or representatives of foreign governments attending an interview with a national of their country applying for asylum in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Guidance has been issued to asylum staff that they must not disclose any information about an individual's asylum claim to their country of origin while the claim is under consideration, unless the applicant has given his explicit consent for the transfer of the data. Accordingly, officials or representatives of foreign governments are not permitted by the United Kingdom Border Agency to attend asylum interviews.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080611/text/80611w0021.htm#0806122000006>

Jim Cousins [206695]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of the asylum seekers dispersal programme was including the administrative costs of joint contracts and housing providers (a) in total and (b) in each region for each of the last four financial years.

Reply from Liam Byrne: We do not hold separate information for the administrative costs of joint contracts and housing providers. The cost of dispersed accommodation in the four years in question was as follows:

<i>£ million</i>	2004-05
315	2005-06
183	2006-07
155	2007-08
179	

These figures include accommodation costs and the costs of transporting asylum seekers to and from accommodation. Figures for 2007-08 are provisional and subject to audit and possible amendment.

We do not hold expenditure information by region for any year apart from 2007-08 as follows:

<i>£ million</i>	London and South East
12.8	Wales and South West
17.6	Scotland
26.6	North West
28.5	Midlands
37.7	North East
56.5	

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080611/text/80611w0021.htm#0806122000006>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Jim Cunningham [207100]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government has taken to improve the quality of the initial decision-making stage of asylum applications.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The UK Border Agency has taken a number of steps to improve the quality of initial decision making. All asylum case owners undergo a comprehensive 55 day foundation training programme, and a period of mentoring within that programme. An independent quality audit team has been established that assesses asylum decisions on a monthly basis against a framework agreed with UNHCR. We are currently working with UNHCR in developing and piloting initiatives such as a decision making template.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080611/text/80611w0021.htm#0806122000006>

Jim Cunningham [207103]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government have taken to provide access to healthcare and education for families during the asylum application process.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The Government policy on access to healthcare and education for families during the asylum process remains unchanged. All persons with an outstanding application for asylum in the UK, including where applicable an outstanding appeal, are entitled to access to NHS services. Education is made available to all children of asylum seekers who are of compulsory school age.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080611/text/80611w0021.htm#0806122000006>

Jim Cunningham [207101]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government have taken to consider the welfare of children during the asylum application process.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The UK Borders Act 2007 placed a specific obligation on the UK Border Agency to have regard to a code of practice for keeping children safe from harm while in the United Kingdom. The agency is currently consulting about the code of practice, with opportunities for stakeholders to attend conferences and discuss specific concerns.

The agency has already started to roll out a 'Keeping Children Safe' training programme to UK Border Agency staff to raise awareness about children's issues so that they are more responsive to children and their needs, including protection issues.

The Agency has also published 'Better Outcomes: The Way Forward' which sets out a number of proposals on the way unaccompanied asylum seeking children are cared for and treated during the processing of their asylum application. A copy of this has been placed with the Library (DEP 2008-0274).

Additionally, each unaccompanied asylum seeking child now has a dedicated case owner who will see the application through from beginning to end. These case owners have received specialist training to ensure that they approach their task with due sensitivity to the needs of the child.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080611/text/80611w0021.htm#0806122000007>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

John Baron [170368]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many failed asylum seekers were deported from the UK in each of the last 10 years; and how long on average it took to deport a failed asylum seeker after final refusal of an asylum claim in each year;

(2) [170370] how many illegal immigrants were deported from the UK in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed, including voluntary departures, from the UK on an annual basis in the "Control of Immigration: Statistics Command Paper". The information is broken down by asylum applicants, including dependants, and those who have not claimed asylum. This latest publication covers 1996 to 2006 statistics and is published in table 6.1 Persons removed from the United Kingdom and those subject to enforcement action. Final 2007 statistics will be published in the command paper this summer but provisional 2007 figures are available in table 8b: Persons removed from the United Kingdom in the most recent quarterly web-based asylum statistics bulletin.

Persons departing voluntarily can leave the UK at any time without informing the authorities. The Border and Immigration Agency often learns of such people departing after they have left the UK, and hence, it is not always possible to say when they left. Since voluntary departures are included in figures on removals it is therefore not possible to say how long on average it takes to remove asylum applicants. While it should theoretically be possible to exclude the cases having left the UK at an unknown time, and then calculate an average, in practice this would be very time-consuming and would therefore incur disproportionate cost.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate web site at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html>.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080611/text/80611w0021.htm#0806122000008>

Jim Cunningham [207102]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government has taken to maintain the wellbeing of refused asylum seekers when taking action to remove them from the UK.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The Government policy to maintain the wellbeing of refused asylum seekers when taking action to remove them from the UK remains unchanged. All removal cases are treated with due consideration to any compelling or compassionate factors which may be raised prior to removal. Failed asylum seekers subject to enforcement action are always treated with courtesy and dignity and removals are done in the most sensitive way possible.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080611/text/80611w0021.htm#0806122000008>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Paul Goodman [201879]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals she made against decisions by judges not to deport foreign citizens in each year since 2003; and what proportion were successful.

Reply from Liam Byrne: In 2005 legislation governing appeals changed to create the Unified Appeals Process. All UK Border Agency IT systems were updated at this time, and accuracy on data from before this change cannot be guaranteed. Hence we are unable to give reliable figures for the financial years 2003-04 and 2004-2005.

When an appeal against a deportation order is allowed by an Immigration Judge, the Secretary of State for the Home Department may apply either to the Court of Appeal or to the High Court for permission to appeal against the Immigration Judge's decision. If successful, the Secretary of State will be granted permission to appeal.

The figures for the number of requests lodged by the Secretary of State for the Home Department for permission to appeal against an Immigration Judge's decision in a deportation appeal, and the number of these requests that succeeded are given in the following table for the financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08.

	<i>Number of requests made</i>	<i>Percentage of requests successful</i>
2005	65	60
2006	161	70
2007	134	66

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080611/text/80611w0023.htm#0806122000022>

Lembit Öpik [206461]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many migrant workers from A8 countries have registered under the Workers' Registration scheme since 2004.

Reply from Liam Byrne: A cumulative total of 796,000 applicants have applied to register on the Worker Registration scheme between 1 May 2004 and 31 December 2007 of which, 766,000 initial applications were approved.

The figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080611/text/80611w0024.htm#0806122000030>

Greg Hands [206525]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what employment restrictions the spouses and partners of self-employed A2 nationals are subject to in the UK.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Spouses and partners (by which is meant civil partners) of self-employed A2 nationals are not subject to any employment restrictions in the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080611/text/80611w0025.htm#0806122000037>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Andrew Smith [207582]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many children who are British citizens have accompanied parents who are currently subject to removal or deportation directions;

(2) [207585] to which countries children who are British citizens accompanying their parents have been removed in the last two years;

(3) [207586] what information is given to Foreign and Commonwealth Office representatives in receiving countries by the UK Border Agency about children who are British citizens who have been removed or deported with their parents; and what assistance is offered to these children.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) does not remove or deport children who are British citizens.

We invite parents who hail from a third country to take their UK born children with them when they return to their country of origin. This is only done if that is in the best interests of the child and all parties (parents, UKBA, UKBA Children's Champion and children's services) agree.

Further advice on family removals is available in chapter 45 of the Enforcement Guidance and Instructions Manual. Copies of the document are placed in the Library of the House. It is also available to view at:

www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/enforcement/oem/sectione

The information requested in PQ 207582 and PQ 207585 could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

The UKBA does not give any advice or assistance to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) representatives in receiving countries when parents take their UK born children with them when they return to their country of origin.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080611/text/80611w0023.htm#0806122000023>

Damian Green [196664]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedure those holding working holiday visas are expected to follow if they wish to retain their employment under the points-based system; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Switching into the points-based system (PBS) in the UK will be possible only from employment or student categories. The Working Holidaymaker (WHM) Scheme is neither. This general approach was first outlined in the March 2006 Command Paper "A Points Based System: Making Migration Work for Britain", and the December 2007 publication "Highly Skilled Migrants under the Points Based System - Statement of Intent" specifically explained that those with WHM leave will not be able to switch into any highly skilled sub-category. Copies of both documents are available in the House Library. If a WHM wishes to apply for PBS tier 1 (general) they are expected to go home to make their application. Once PBS tier 2 is launched, the same process will apply. Currently WHMs can switch to work permit leave if the job they are doing falls into a shortage occupation and they have been in the UK for 12 months; or to the innovator category.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080611/text/80611w0025.htm#0806122000039>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Damian Green [208989]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many businesses had applied for licences to sponsor foreign migrants under the points-based system by 31st May 2008.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The number of sponsors who had applied for registration to sponsor migrants under the points-based system by 31 May 2008 was 125.

Note:

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080612/text/80612w0019.htm#08061288000023>

Damian Green [208991]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of businesses likely to apply for a licence to sponsor migrants in 2008 who had not done so by 31 May 2008.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Our planning assessment indicates that potentially 14,000 sponsors may apply for registration to sponsor migrants by the end of this year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080612/text/80612w0019.htm#08061288000023>

Mark Pritchard [208792]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will put in place measures to ensure that imams in the United Kingdom who have been issued with religious visas do not espouse a doctrine of violence against those who wish to leave the Islamic faith.

Reply from Liam Byrne: With the introduction of the points-based system (PBS) for managing migration, only genuine and reputable employers will be granted a licence to bring migrants to the UK, and this will include religious organisations wishing to bring in religious workers. This is in addition to other measures already in place, such as the screening of passengers at ports, the use of alerts and watch-lists, and checking biometrics taken from visa applicants. The Home Secretary also has the power to exclude or deport from the UK those non-UK nationals whose presence here is not conducive to the public good. This would include those who come within the scope of the list of unacceptable behaviours announced by the former Home Secretary on 24 August 2005.

We are building on the work that local communities, institutions and organisations are already taking forward to stop people becoming or supporting violent extremists. We see faith leaders as central to a co-ordinated effort to stop promoters of violent extremism from operating unchallenged.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080612/text/80612w0019.htm#08061288000024>

Press Releases

Managing the impacts of migration

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/8382951>

Points-based system: English language tests

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/pbsenglishlanguagegetest>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

New research shows migration has not stopped British workers finding jobs
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2008/jun/emp087-110608.asp>

Government's response to the House of Lords Committee's report on the economic impacts of migration
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/economicimpactmigration>

New publications

Managing the Impacts of Migration: A Cross-Government Approach
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/838935.pdf>

Review of Migrant Integration Policy in the UK
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/838994.pdf>

The impact of migration from the new European Union Member States on native workers
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/wp52.pdf>

Comparative Overview of the Implementation of the Directive 2003/9 of 27 January 2003 Laying Down Minimum Standards for the Reception of Asylum Seekers
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/asylum/studies/docs/odysseus_synthesis_report_2007_en.pdf

Mapping Migration Mapping Churches' Responses Europe Study
<http://www.ccme.be/secretary/NEWS/Mapping%20migration%20report%202008-05-28.pdf>

News

Immigrant rules to be relaxed for nuclear workers
http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2332671.0.Immigrant_rules_to_be_relaxed_for_nuclear_workers.php

Shelved asylum centre cost £29m
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7449820.stm>

Sleepout focus on asylum plight
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7449136.stm

Figuring it out on asylum seekers
<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Figuring-it-out-on-asylum.4176961.jp>

Refugee family thanks Scots for helping them find hope after Congo hell
<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/editors-choice/2008/06/12/refugee-family-thanks-scots-for-helping-them-find-hope-after-congo-hell-86908-20603885/>

The hell of being an asylum seeker
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/jun/15/immigration.familyandrelationships>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Refugees deserve chance to become part of the community

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Refugees-deserve-chance-to-become.4182788.jp>

Family face being torn apart after visa mix-up

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/06/14/newsstory11504475t0.asp>

We've been dumped in a slum, say Iraqis

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2341629.0.Weve been dumped in a slum say Iraqis.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2341629.0.Weve%20been%20dumped%20in%20a%20slum%20say%20Iraqis.php)

Human rights outcry over airport detainees

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2342373.0.human_rights_outcry_over_airport_detainees.php

Land of no return

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/jun/13/immigration.immigrationpolicy?gusrc=rss&feed=networkfront>

Immigration 'boosts the British economy by £1,650 per head'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/immigration-boosts-the-british-economy-by-pound1650-per-head-845299.html>

Time to budge up: England has to squeeze in another 10 million people in the next 25 years

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1026097/England-squeeze-10million-quarter-century.html?ITO=1490>

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Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Lord Patten asked Her Majesty's Government [HL3895]: What action they are taking to raise bilaterally and in appropriate multilateral international fora the safety and religious freedom of apostates from Islam to Christianity.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) takes every opportunity to urge states to implement laws and practices which foster tolerance and mutual respect. FCO officials often make representations on behalf of people whose rights to profess their religion of choice are violated. We have recently made representations, bilaterally and with EU partners, to Governments in Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan and Egypt.

The UK, in conjunction with the EU, successfully argued for the inclusion of the right to change or renounce one's religion or belief in the UN Resolution on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief at the 6th session of the UN Human Rights Council in December 2007.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80611w0002.htm#080611122000022>

Race Relations (continued)

New publication

Mapping minority groups in Britain: Interactive map

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/projects/Modernmulticulturalism/Pages/Mapping.aspx>

News

The building of Mosques in Europe: The visibility of religion in the European public space requires dialogue and consultation

http://www.interculturaldialogue2008.eu/405.0.html?&tx_ttnews%5btt_news%5d=192&tx_ttnews%5bbackPid%5d=333&cHash=cd75b29b0d

Church attacks government for favouring minority faiths

<http://news.scotsman.com/latestnews/Church-attacks-government-for-favouring.4164876.jp>

Hazel Blears, Communities Secretary, says sidelining of Christianity is 'common sense'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/politics/labour/2096385/Labour-Hazel-Blears-says-sidelining-of-Christianity-is-%27common-sense%27.html>

Symbolized Out

<http://www.ireland.com/focus/2008/Hijab-debate/index.htm>

Neglect Christians' commitment at your peril

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2008/06/15/do1504.xml>

Do Stamford Hill's Jews need integration?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/jun/15/religion.communities>

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Equality

News

Chief of equality watchdog was paid to give advice to Channel 4 on race row

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2327063.0.chief_of_equality_watchdog_was_paid_to_give_advice_to_channel_4_on_race_row.php

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Press Release

Combating anti-semitism

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=PressR&id=3764633>

News

Council will not appeal race case

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside_and_central/7446090.stm

ITV commentator Martin Brundle blasted over 'pikey' comment

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/2008/06/10/itv-commentator-martin-brundle-blasted-over-pikey-comment-86908-20601959/>

Man cleared of racist English slur

<http://news.scotsman.com/scotland/Man-cleared-of-racist-English.4167282.jp>

Racist bullying on the rise in Capital schools

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Racist-bullying-on-the-rise.4183525.jp>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Questions

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-14171): To ask the Scottish Executive how it intends to ensure that engagement with providers of business advice and support, such as Business Gateway and local enterprise agencies, is maximised among ethnic minorities.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-06-13e.htm>

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-14173): To ask the Scottish Executive how many children from black and ethnic minority backgrounds currently receive Gaelic Medium Education.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-06-13e.htm>

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-14174) : To ask the Scottish Executive how it is promoting Gaelic Medium Education among people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-06-13e.htm>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Mark Pritchard [208793]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he is taking steps to ensure that freedom to choose or not to choose religious faith is taught in all state schools.

Reply from Jim Knight: The Department, with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), has published a non-statutory framework for religious education which has been agreed by all the main faith groups and the British Humanist Association. The framework is based on tolerance and respect and provides that pupils should learn about: Christianity; at least two other principal religions; a religious community with a significant local presence, and a secular world view.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080611/text/80611w0030.htm#0806122000091>

Mohammad Sarwar [208311]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking regarding source and transit countries to prevent child trafficking.

Reply from Vernon Coaker: The Government's UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking encompasses a range of measures for tackling the trafficking of humans from source and transit countries. As part of our overseas programmes in developing countries we are working with our partners to raise awareness of the factors that make children vulnerable to trafficking and reducing the risk of children being trafficked.

The United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) and the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) are working with their counterparts in source and transit countries in their joint efforts to disrupt and prevent human trafficking. The Home Office is leading a multi-agency group which includes the Metropolitan Police Service, UK Border Agency, London Councils, UKHTC, CEOP and Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to co-ordinate a response to the issue of children from some European states being trafficked for criminal exploitation.

The Government have strengthened the entry clearance rules for issuing visas to children which has helped to prevent adults using the system to traffic children from source countries. Similarly as a result of the Action Plan, Airline Liaison Officers (ALO) are now better trained to identify cases of child trafficking and advise airline staff in over 30 countries to be aware of the signs of child trafficking.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080609/text/80609w0016.htm#08060925000023>

Mohammad Sarwar [208337]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's most recent estimate is of the number of women in the UK who were trafficked into the country for sexual exploitation purposes.

Reply from Vernon Coaker: The nature of the crime makes it difficult to make an accurate assessment of the extent of the problem although intelligence suggests there has been an increase in the trafficking problem over the last few years. In order to better understand the situation the Serious Organised Crime Agency along with the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre continue to work on improving intelligence collection as a priority. The intelligence collected as part of the current Operation Pentameter 2 will assist with improving our understanding of the nature and scale of trafficking throughout the UK.

However, Home Office analysis suggests that at any one time in 2003 there were in the region of 4,000 female victims of trafficking for prostitution in the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080609/text/80609w0016.htm#08060925000024>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Nigel Evans [210623]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department plans to spend on (a) the provision of new Gypsy and Traveller sites and (b) the refurbishment of existing Gypsy and Traveller sites in (i) Lancashire and (ii) England in each year between 2008 and 2012.

Reply from Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government provides Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant for the provision of new Gypsy and Traveller sites and the refurbishment of existing sites in England. £33 million is available for the Grant in 2008-09, £32 million in 2009-10, and £32 million in 2010-11, of which £2 million in each year has been allocated to the north west. The bidding round for 2008-09 closes on 31 July.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080612/text/80612w0024.htm#08061288000066>

Early Day Motion

Frank Field (1721) **Christian Churches and Public Services** - That this House welcomes the publication of Moral, But No Compass: Church, Government and the Future of Welfare, by Francis Davis, Elizabeth Paulhus et al of the Von Hugel Institute, Cambridge University, the results of research undertaken with the blessing of the Archbishop's Council of the Church of England and with the support of the House of Bishops; notes that it records an absence of an adequate evidence base on the part of the Government and departments of state when it comes to understanding the civic contribution of the Christian churches in the UK; notes an under-estimation of the total number of faith-based charities on the part of the Charity Commission; acknowledges the pioneering contribution made by Christian churches to social innovations in services and initiatives on housing, alcohol dependency, poverty alleviation, education, criminal justice, community participation and health and well-being as well as rural and urban social cohesion and economic development; notes that the research draws on interviews with Ministers and shadow ministers, senior civil servants and voluntary sector leaders as well as several Members of both Houses; congratulates the Right Reverend Stephen Lowe, National Bishop for Urban Life, for initiating this work; calls for fresh and high level discussions within the Civil Service and with, and between Ministers on measures to help the UK harness this under-recognised faith-based contribution to the life of the UK; and calls on British embassies and consulates-general to share the report with other EU and Commonwealth countries as an example of good British practice.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80612e01.htm>

New publications

The Community Power Pack

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/743378.pdf>

Statement on extending detention

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/detention-extension>

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New Publication

Nation Speaking Unto Nation: Does the media create cultural distance between England and Scotland?

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

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Other News

Help at hand for Asian victims

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/features/display.var.2329619.0.Help_at_hand_for_Asian_victims.php

Plan to limit travellers sites is thrown out by councillors

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/683926>

'Crisis' of forced marriages

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/39Crisis39-of-forced-marriages.4177119.jp>

Welcome to the EcoMosque

<http://www.newstatesman.com/religion/2008/06/ecomosque-mosques-british>

Nominations open for Solidar Silver Rose Awards

Solidar's Silver Rose Awards were launched in 2000 to help raise the profile of individuals and organisations whose outstanding work is fuelled by vision and tireless commitment and whose achievements have contributed greatly to the struggle for a just and civil society.

Winners are sometimes well-known; others are simply ordinary people leading extraordinary lives, reaching out to the most vulnerable groups in their societies, advocating their rights, campaigning for their needs, and providing essential services such as soup kitchens, housing, children's holidays and literacy classes. The winners are always powerful advocates of change, united by their passion, commitment and vision for bringing about a fairer and more just society. The Awards are presented each year at a prestigious awards ceremony held at the European Parliament in Brussels.

For more information about the awards and details of how to make nominations see http://www.solidar.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13972&langue=EN

Opponents fight on as Brown wins terror detention vote

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Opponents-fight-on-as-Brown.4178407.jp>

Opponents of 42 days to fight on

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7449678.stm

Other News (continued)

Nine votes save Brown from terror humiliation

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2335888.0.Nine_votes_save_Brown_from_terror_humiliation.php

A hollow victory

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/editorial/display.var.2335723.0.A_hollow_victory.php

Brown survives Labour revolt on 42-day detention

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Brown-survives-Labour-revolt-on.4176997.jp>

Brown wins crunch vote on 42 days

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7449268.stm

Angiolini opposes Brown on terror arrests

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2329769.0.Angiolini_opposes_Brown_on_terror_arrests.php

Unwanted power

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/editorial/display.var.2329698.0.Unwanted_power.php

Blow to 42-day detention as Lord Advocate attacks plans

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/scotland/Blow-to-42day-detention-as.4167568.jp>

Lord advocate opposes 42-day case

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7445422.stm>

No 42-day request from MI5, admits Home Secretary

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2327160.0.no_42day_request_from_mi5_admits_home_secretary.php

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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>

Bill as amended at Stage 2

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/06-JudiciaryCourts/b6s3-stage2-amend.pdf>

Stage 2 consideration of amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/or-08/ju08-1502.htm#Col881>

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>

proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/03-PublicHealth/b3s3-stage3-ml.pdf>

Revised Explanatory Notes

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/03-PublicHealth/b3s3-stage2-en.pdf>

Bill as passed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/03-PublicHealth/b3s3-aspassed.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/pb1001006m.2573-2579.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/100/amend/pbc1001106m.2633-2639.html>

House of Commons consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080610/debtext/80610-0004.htm#08061081000002>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080610/debtext/80610-0006.htm#08061092000001>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080611/debtext/80611-0004.htm#08061189000001>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080611/debtext/80611-0019.htm#080611121000036>

Bill as amended in the House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/065/2008065.pdf>

Draft Bill

The Governance of Britain - Constitutional Renewal

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

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

**** 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/pb0701006m.145-151.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/070/amend/pb0701206m.165-171.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/070/amend/pb0701206a.2669-2670.html>

Bill as amended in Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/120/2008120.pdf>

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Consultations (closing date)

**** New or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

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

(21 June 2008)

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

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_m4-482454.pdf

Online questionnaire

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/onlinesurveys/religiousandmoraleducation.asp>

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

http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/religious_education_roman_catholic_outcomes_codes_tcm4-486155.pdf

Online questionnaire

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/onlinesurveys/religiouseducationinroman Catholicschools.asp>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

**** Yorkshire Building Society Charitable Foundation: Together We Make a Difference Week**

13 – 21 June 2008

Members of the public are invited to nominate good causes to share in its tenth anniversary charity give-away by calling into any of the Yorkshire's branches or agencies to recommend a charity to receive a £50 donation.

The Charitable Foundation has donated more than £2.7m to over 5,600 charities in the ten years of its existence. It receives most of its funds through the building society's customers who as part of its Small Change, Big Difference scheme donate the pennies from the interest they receive on their accounts to the foundation.

To find your local branch see

http://www.ybs.co.uk/your_society/contact_us/branch_finder.jsp?source=related_links

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Events/Conferences/Training

**** New or updated this week**

**** this week!**

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

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/RefWeekProg08> or contact the Scottish Refugee Council info@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799

**** this week!**

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 www.civicusassembly.org or contact Even Rehse eva.rehse@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 6194.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

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 www.gatherscotland.org.uk or contact Andrew Stewart andrew.stewart@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 6172.

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

**** this week!**

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.

**** this week!**

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 <http://www.gcal.ac.uk/odonline/InnovatetoIntegrate.html> or contact i2i@gcal.ac.uk / 0141 273 1352.

**** Our Space**

21-25 July 2008 in the Lake District – **Applications must be received by 27 June 2008**

Equalities and Human Rights Commission activity week for 14 and 15 year olds to bring together young people of different backgrounds from England, Scotland and Wales to develop their social interaction and leadership skills through activities such as rafting, first aid, canoeing, trekking, and camping. For information see <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/projects/ourspace/Pages/default.aspx> or contact Sharon King sharon.king@skillforce.org / 01202 417 202.

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 david@paih.org / 0141 353 2220. **Note that this event is only for home owners.**

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Scottish Inter Faith Council <http://www.scottishinterfaithcouncil.org/>

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

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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. <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>