



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.

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Shirley-Anne Somerville (S3W-14192): To ask the Scottish Executive what action it has taken to improve opportunities for asylum seekers and their families in Scotland.

Reply from Stewart Maxwell: I refer the member to the answer to question S3W-11560 on 17 April 2008. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/webapp/wa.search>.

The Scottish Government has taken steps to improve opportunities for asylum seekers and their families in areas which are currently within our remit. For example, we announced in August 2007 that the children of asylum seekers would have the same access to higher and further education as Scottish children. The regulations came into force on 1 December 2007.

The successful applications to the Race, Religion and Refugee Funding Stream 2008-11 will be announced shortly. This will include a number of projects aimed at improving opportunities for asylum seekers and their families such as increasing employability and facilitating access to services.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0624.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Brian Adam (S3W-14461): To ask the Scottish Executive what representations it has made to the UK Government concerning the changes in immigration rules affecting the recruitment of Indian chefs in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-06-23e.htm>

Brian Adam (S3W-14462): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will make representations to the UK Government to introduce a pilot scheme similar to the Fresh Talent initiative to address significant shortages of Indian chefs in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-06-23e.htm>

Holyrood Parliamentary Motions

Brian Adam (S3M-2232): Shortage of Indian Chefs in Aberdeen—That the Parliament notes that there is a shortage of Indian chefs in Aberdeen and elsewhere in Scotland and that the popularity of Indian food remains high, reflecting well on the appreciation of cultural diversity in our country; further notes the success of the Fresh Talent initiative in retaining overseas graduates, and commends consideration of a similar pilot scheme for Indian chefs in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-06-23f.htm>

Marlyn Glen (S3M-2229): Listening to Migrant Workers—That the Parliament congratulates UNISON Scotland on its successful Listening to Migrant Workers event, held at Holyrood on Wednesday 18 June 2008, at which it launched its Voluntary Code of Practice on Employing Migrant and European Workers; notes that, while many migrant workers in Scotland and the United Kingdom have a positive experience in this country, others do not; further notes that migrant workers are often the victims of exploitation, including poor accommodation and bad employment practices; welcomes the economic and cultural contributions that migrant workers bring to Scotland; recognises the need for employers to be better informed about migrant workers arriving in Scotland; applauds employers who take responsibility to support the safety and integration of migrant workers into the community, and encourages local authorities and public bodies to sign up to the code of practice to help to make Scotland a welcome place for migrant workers.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-06-23f.htm>

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Liam Byrne (Minister for Borders and Immigration): This year sees the biggest changes to Britain's immigration and border security system for 45 years. Our policy will deliver strong borders, a selective migration system and an expectation that newcomers earn the right to stay. Our ambition is that migration policy maximises benefits for Britain and manages local impacts.

This strategy underpins our Australian-style points system and reforms to spouse visas, and requires us to modernise visit visas. I am therefore setting out today a strategy for comprehensively overhauling our visit visa system. Copies are being placed in the Library of the House and include our formal response to our consultation on visitor visas published in December 2007. The full analysis of responses to the consultation can be found on the UK Border Agency website.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

In modernising our visit visa system, our ambition is two fold; to let legitimate visitors connect with the UK quickly, and to strengthen still further our border security.

Significant changes lie at the heart of today's strategy:

We will create a separate category for business and special visitors to make clear the activities that are permitted while in the UK. We will bring the current concessions for entertainers and sportspeople within the immigration rules as special visitors.

We will introduce visas for sponsored family visits. Proposals for simplifying the system for family visitors received wide support. I propose therefore to bring forward important changes. Individuals who wish to sponsor family members will need to be licensed by the UKBA. Only British citizens or permanent residents will be able to apply. Sponsors, after being thoroughly vetted, must agree to comply with their duties. We will introduce a range of sanctions for sponsors who do not ensure their family return home, ranging from a ban on future sponsorship, a civil penalty of up to £5000, and a possible jail term of up to 14 years.

We will preserve streamlined appeals for family visit visas.

There are two policy areas to which I propose no change following the consultation responses:

Overseas domestic workers (ODWs). We are proud of the protection we afford overseas domestic workers. The current ODW visa will be preserved and then reviewed as appropriate after the first two years' operation of the reformed immigration system, when we have properly road tested our anti-trafficking strategy.

Allowing up to six months for tourist visas. In our consultation document we asked whether we should reduce the maximum length of leave for tourists travelling to the UK from six months to three months. The majority of respondents did not agree with this proposal and we have agreed to retain the maximum length of leave at six months, although the UK Border Agency will have discretion to grant less than the maximum if it judges appropriate.

We know that many have a stake in us getting today's policy right. For this reason we coupled a formal consultation with meetings with parliamentarians, with community meetings with the UK's ethnic minority community and, for the first time, consultation in India, our largest visa market, supported by a cross-party delegation of community leaders and business people. Six hundred and four additional responses were received regarding the consultation.

I am grateful to everyone who contributed. I will now bring forward changes to both legislation and the immigration rules to give effect to today's announcement. Because of the significance of the changes proposed, I will publish detailed statements of intent in advance of introducing change, together with detailed impact assessments.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080625/wmstext/80625m0002.htm#08062565000013>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

John Battle [211185]: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of migrants from (a) Poland, (b) Ukraine, (c) Pakistan and (d) Sri Lanka in Leeds Metropolitan District found full-time employment in each year since 2000.

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 20 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what percentage of migrants from (a) Poland (b) Ukraine (c) Pakistan and (d) Sri Lanka found full-time employment in Leeds Metropolitan District in each year since 2000. [211185]

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics on migrant workers for local areas from the Annual Population survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS). The National Statistics method for estimating the employment rate of migrant workers employed in the UK is based on the employment rate of people at a given time who were born outside the UK and of working age. This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that some people who are UK nationals will be included in the figures. Those in full time employment are defined following International Labour Organisation definitions of employment with the respondent answering that they worked full time.

Table 1, attached, shows estimates of the employment rate of persons who live in the Leeds Local Authority District in full time employment who were born in Poland, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Figures for Ukraine are not available. Estimates are obtained for the 12 month periods ending in February, for 2001 to 2004, from the annual LFS. The APS estimates from 2004 to 2006 are provided covering the 12 month periods ending in December. The most recently released estimate is also included, which covers the 12 month period ending in September 2007.

The unweighted count (sample size) underpinning the estimates are also provided because at this geographic level they are inevitably small, especially for the earlier years. In addition some numbers in the table are not provided because the sample sizes are very small and risk being disclosive. The estimates are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty and special care should be taken on drawing conclusions on the basis of year-on-year comparisons.

Table 1: Employment rate and unweighted count of working age⁽¹⁾ people who were born in Poland, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, who were in full time⁽²⁾ employment⁽³⁾, living in the Leeds local authority district, 2001-07

<i>Percentage and count</i>						
	<i>Poland</i>		<i>Pakistan</i>		<i>Sri Lanka</i>	
	<i>Rates (%)</i>	<i>Unweighted count⁽⁴⁾</i>	<i>Rates (%)</i>	<i>Unweighted count⁽⁴⁾</i>	<i>Rates (%)</i>	<i>Unweighted count⁽⁴⁾</i>
October 2006-September 2007	73	19	40	7	—	—

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

January 2006-December 2006	71	23	37	4	—	—
January 2005-December 2005	52	7	44	9	—	—
January 2004-December 2004	(5) —	(5) —	45	8	—	—
March 2003-February 2004	—	—	56	7	—	—
March 2002-February 2003	(5) —	—	28	3	—	—
March 2001-February 2002	—	—	36	6	—	—
March 2000-February 2001	—	—	36	6	—	—

'—' = Nil or negligible

(1) Men aged 16-64, women aged 16-59.

(2) Based on respondents' answers.

(3) Based on International Labour Organisation definitions.

(4) Number of respondents for numerator (number of people in full time employment).

(5) Sample too small to provide estimates.

Note:

The country of birth question in the APS/Annual LFS may undercount foreign born because:

it excludes students in halls of residence who do not have a UK resident parent,

it excludes people in most types of communal establishments (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites),

it is grossed to population estimates that only include long term migrants (staying 12 months or more).

Source:

Annual Population Survey and local Labour Force Survey

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080620/text/80620w0006.htm#08062057000072>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Goodhart asked Her Majesty's Government [HL3970]: Whether the Citizenship, Immigration and Borders Bill, included in their draft legislative programme for 2008—09, will give effect to their undertaking, given in the debate on the UK Borders Bill on 11 October 2007, to enable children born outside the United Kingdom between 1 January 1949 and 7 February 1961 inclusive to obtain British citizenship if their mother (but not their father) was a British citizen at the date of their birth.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Amendments to Section 4C of the British Nationality Act 1981, to remove the requirement for a person applying for registration under that section to have been born after 7 February 1961, will be amended at the earliest appropriate legislative opportunity.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80625w0001.htm#08062581000004>

Lynne Featherstone (213683): To ask the Secretary of State for Health, for which medical conditions and in what circumstances individuals are entitled to NHS treatment regardless of their immigration status; and if he will make a statement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80623w01.htm>

Press Releases

Migrants often ignored in community decision-making

<http://www.irf.org.uk/pressroom/releases/250608.asp>

Closure of Highly Skilled Migrant Programme and other work-based categories

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

New rules for short-term visitors

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/new-rules-short-term>

Home Office and DCSF signal duty on UK Border Agency to protect children

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0129

New publication

UKBA singles out BME businesses for fines in crackdown on irregular migrant workers

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/enews/2008/specialbulletin_june.pdf

News

'Refugee' award for our reporter

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/39Refugee39-award--for-our.4211200.jp>

Councillors unite to back Josie campaign

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/06/24/newsstory11548854t0.asp>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Support grows in deportation case

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside_and_central/7471267.stm

Overwhelming backing for woman facing deportation

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/708563>

London summit on Jewish refugees

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/7469745.stm

Curry houses crisis prompts plea to home secretary

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/705387>

Church takes up case of deportation family

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Church-takes-up-case-of.4233900.jp>

Asylum refugees' treatment 'inhuman'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/2213855/Asylum-refugees%27-treatment-%27inhuman%27.html>

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Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Virendra Sharma [213865]: What progress has been made in his Department's further education consultation on promotion of shared values and counteracting violent extremism.

Reply from Bill Rammell: Our consultation on further education providers' role in promoting community cohesion, fostering shared values and preventing violent extremism closed on 6 May. We have established a network of "champion principals" to work with us on the way forward. We will revise our guidance and work with the new Learning and Skills Improvement Service and other Government Departments to create resources and support that respond to the needs expressed in the consultation and reinforce partnership working.

Virenda Sharma: I thank the Minister for that answer. One of the best ways to counter violent extremism is to encourage vigorous open debate. What is the Department doing to ensure that education providers enable such open debate to take place?

Reply from Bill Rammell: My hon. Friend makes an exceedingly important point, and the arguments the Secretary of State just outlined apply to both further and higher education. In academic freedom and free and open debate, we have one of the most powerful tools at our disposal to isolate and challenge the very small minority who advocate violent extremism. We must look for every opportunity within further education colleges to promote that. One initiative that I am very pleased we are taking forward is the allocation of £2 million in each of the next three years to develop materials to promote the citizenship education within our FE colleges that will help such debate take place.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080626/debtext/80626-0002.htm#08062679000026>

Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4202]: What steps they are taking to promote tolerant understanding of Islam on the internet.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Supporting mainstream voices is a key part of the Government's strategy for preventing terrorism and violent extremism. There are a number of projects supported by government funding aimed at promoting tolerant understanding of Islam on the internet.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80624w0006.htm#080624116000035>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Julie Morgan (1858) Gypsy Traveller Roma History Month That this House notes that June is Gypsy Roma Traveller history month and that it is the first such celebration to be fully supported and endorsed by the Government and provides a tremendous opportunity for children in our schools to hear of the traditions of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers; and congratulates the large number of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers, libraries, schools, teachers and others who have worked hard to organise events around the country.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80623e01.htm>

Press Releases

Funding for multicultural arts festival

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/06/23111149>

A place to learn about Islam and much more besides

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/features/display.var.2359387.0.A_place_to_learn_about_islam_and_much_more_besides.php

UN's Asma Jahangir speaks of need for understanding between religions

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/030-32404-189-07-28-903-20080623STO32401-2008-07-07-2008/default_en.htm

New publications

Community engagement and community cohesion

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2227-governance-community-engagement.pdf>

Citizenship Survey: April 2007 - March 2008, England and Wales

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/863680.pdf>

News

Learning to be British and Muslim

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/education/article4231194.ece>

Race Relations

News (continued)

When two sides of Islam go head to head

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/johann-hari/johann-hari-when-two-sides-of-islam-go-head-to-head-852358.html>

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Equality

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Harriet Harman (Minister for Women and Equality): With permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to set out to the House how the Government propose to make further progress towards the fair and equal society that we want to see.

I am pleased to announce that we are today publishing our key proposals for the equality Bill in a document entitled “Framework for a Fairer Future”. Copies are available in the Vote Office. For us, equality is a matter of principle—it always has been. As the Prime Minister set out on Wednesday in his announcement on social mobility, we want to address the serious inequalities that still exist. Addressing those inequalities and creating a fairer society is important for three reasons. First, fairness is important for the individual. No one should have to put up with discrimination. Secondly, fairness is important for our society—a society that is equal and fair is one that is more at ease with itself. Thirdly, fairness is important for our economy—an economy that sees no one pushed to the margins or excluded offers the widest pool of workers to employers. Diversity makes us outward facing and helps us to compete in the global economy.

The first equality laws were brought in by a Labour Government more than 40 years ago. Progress has been made to outlaw discrimination against people if they are black, a woman, lesbian or gay, disabled, or if they are older, but although such progress has been made, inequality and discrimination still persist. Men who work full time still earn 40 per cent. more per hour than women who work part time. Although more disabled people are working than ever before, a disabled person is still two and a half times more likely to be out of work. If someone is black or Asian, they are less likely to be in work and if they are in work, they are more likely to be earning below the level of their qualifications. Homophobic bullying still blights the lives of most lesbian or gay young people, and it is still perfectly lawful to tell someone, “Sorry, you’re too old”, and refuse anything from health care to insurance.

The Bill and package of measures that I will outline to the House today represent a radical shift in our approach to fighting unfairness, and will breathe fresh life into our equality agenda. Our package of measures includes the equality Bill we promised in our last manifesto, secondary legislation and action by the new Equality And Human Rights Commission. We expect everyone—the public sector, firms which do business with the public sector and companies in the private sector—to play their part. On pay, at the current rate of progress, it will take another 80 years before women are paid the same as men.

Equality

Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

It is impossible to tackle discrimination when it is hidden. That is why we want a new era of openness when it comes to pay, so that women can see—in their own workplace—just how much more men get paid than them. Just as every school has to publish its exam results, so parents can see those results, and every hospital has to publish its waiting lists, so patients can see that information, I want employers to report on key equality issues, such as gender pay, so that their employees can view such information. That will put the spotlight on pay unfairness, which we all know goes on but which stays swept under the carpet.

Under its legal duties to promote equality, the public sector will lead by example. But 80 per cent. of people are employed in the private sector and the pay gap there is double that of the public sector. We must also have progress on fairness in the private sector, and we will ensure that in five ways. Given that 30 per cent. of companies do £160 billion-worth of business with the public sector, we will consider how public procurement can be used to deliver transparency and change. The equality Bill will outlaw clauses in employment contracts that prohibit employees disclosing their pay to each other. Where an employer has been found to have unlawfully discriminated, we will provide for the employment tribunal to be able to make a recommendation that applies not just to the successful complainant but to everyone in that workplace. The Equality and Human Rights Commission will conduct inquiries under its legal powers into sectors where the most progress needs to be made, starting with the financial services sector. We are going to tackle sexism in the City. Through a new kite-mark system, we will challenge companies to report on equality.

We expect business will increasingly regard reporting on progress on equality as an important part of explaining to investors, employees and others the prospects for those companies. We will review progress on transparency and its contribution to the achievement of equality outcomes in the light of that, and consider within the next five years the use of existing legislation for greater transparency in company reporting on equality.

Many people still seem to think that it is acceptable to discriminate against someone because they are older. It is not. With the number of people over 85 set to double in the next 20 years, it makes no sense. People are not over the hill at 60, to be either refused insurance or discriminated against in health care. We will include in the equality Bill duties on the public sector to eliminate age discrimination and promote equality for older people. We will take powers to outlaw age discrimination in the provision of goods and services. We will need to allow for a transitional period for changes to be made to comply with the law before it comes into effect, but work is already under way, and we will consult on making provisions to bring the new law into force more quickly in those sectors that are ready to comply with the law.

On disability, we need to be able to see who is including disabled people in their work force and who is shutting them out. That way, we can see who is making progress year on year, compare comparable organisations, learn from the best and challenge the worst.

We need to make further progress on fairness. That is why we will legislate to give more scope for employers who want to increase the number of women or black or Asian employees to take positive action. That will help, for example, the police, who want to make more progress on diversity because they know that they can be most effective when they reflect the ethnicity of the communities that they serve. To allow progress on women's representation in the House of Commons to continue, we will extend the permission for all-women shortlists for parliamentary selection until 2030.

Equality

Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

We will consider with the Commissioner for Public Appointments whether a specific power to encourage diversity for appointments in her remit would assist her in that task. Next month I will publish a further paper setting out our proposals in greater detail, and, over the coming months, there will be a continuous and determined programme of further action, which will include: considering whether there is a case for representative actions to employment tribunals; working out whether we can toughen the law to give redress to people who suffer discrimination on multiple grounds; and working with the trade unions to strengthen the excellent and pioneering work of trade union equality representatives in the workplace.

The package will see us make further progress towards a fair and equal society. A single statute to replace the complex web of legislation that has grown up over the years will make it easier for people to know their rights and understand their obligations. The equality Bill will be written in plain English alongside the necessary legal language. In the past, when Labour has brought in laws to promote equality, they have been controversial. However, I hope that now, in the 21st century, there will be agreement that we must all play our part in making this country fairer.

To read the question and answer session in the House of Commons which followed the statement see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080626/debtext/80626-0004.htm#08062679000001>

To read the question and answer session in the House of Lords which followed the statement see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80626-0009.htm>

Press Release

Large differences in infant mortality by ethnic group

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/imeth0608.pdf>

and

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/ethgplMRfirstrelease.xls

New publication

Framework for a Fairer Future – The Equality Bill

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/publications/Framework%20FAIRER%20FUTURE.pdf>

News

Equality supremo Harman admits new law will lead to discrimination against men

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Equality-supremo-Harman--admits.4229199.jp>

Too many black and Asian faces on TV, says BBC director Samir Shah

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2008/jun/26/bbc.television>

Ethnic infant mortality 'higher'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7471874.stm>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Press Release

Use the full potential of the EU's anti-discrimination legislation, says Fundamental Rights Agency in its first Annual Report

http://eumc.europa.eu/eumc/index.php?fuseaction=content.dsp_cat_content&catid=9&contentid=4458a87a48a0e

New publication

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Summary http://fra.europa.eu/fra/material/pub/ar08/ar08-memo_en.pdf

Report http://fra.europa.eu/fra/material/pub/ar08/ar08_en.pdf

News

Two men injured in race attack

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Two-men-injured--.4211311.jp>

Tories suspend election candidate

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7469518.stm>

Immigrant tells of horrific racist attack in a Glasgow park

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/06/23/exclusive-immigrant-tells-of-horrific-racist-attack-in-a-glasgow-park-86908-20617813/>

Racist Thugs Shame Us All

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/comment/newspaper-opinion/2008/06/23/racist-thugs-shame-us-all-86908-20617986/>

Fresh start for race hate attack victim as he is moved to new home

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/06/24/exclusive-fresh-start-for-race-hate-attack-victim-as-he-is-moved-to-new-home-86908-20618791/>

Top Asian officer in race claim

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7473821.stm>

Met boss grilled over racism claims <http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Met-boss-grilled-over-racism.4224319.jp>

Racism claims 'backed by evidence'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Racism-claims-39backed-by-evidence39.4229231.jp>

Met chief Ian Blair 'plotted to oust' race-row officer Tarique Ghaffur

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article4232346.ece>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Tarique Ghaffur's three years of evidence against Sir Ian Blair in racism claim

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/2213313/Tarique-Ghaffur%27s-three-years-of-evidence-against-Sir-Ian-Blair-in-racism-claim.html>

Minister is dragged into police race row

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/jun/29/police.race>

Man jailed over nail bombs plot

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7473060.stm>

Neo-Nazi jailed over bomb plot

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/06/26/newsstory11560671t0.asp>

Paedophile racist jailed on terror charges

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Paedophile-racist-jailed-on-terror.4223832.jp>

Govan Law Centre's, Education Law Unit has recently extended to include an equality and human rights case service. The service aims to assist, advise and represent school children or parents of school children who have been treated unfairly because of their disability, race or ethnic origins, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs (or because they do not have religious beliefs) or, age. For information contact Angela Ward 0141 445 1955 / equality@edlaw.org.uk or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/08vi_govan_law_centre.pdf and http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/08vi_govan_law_centre.doc

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Other Holyrood

Committee

Justice Committee

Community Policing Inquiry

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/or-08/ju08-1702.htm#Col939>

Parliamentary Motion

Bashir Ahmad (S3M-2280) : Congratulating the Scottish-Islamic Foundation—That the Parliament congratulates the Scottish-Islamic Foundation on its launch on 26 June 2008; believes in its message that being a practising Muslim equates to being an active citizen; further believes that social cohesion is best fostered by positive dialogue between communities; supports its call for further investment to help empower Muslim youth in Scotland; wishes it every success in future projects, and endeavours to work with it to achieve its aim of bridging the gap between the Muslim and non-Muslim community on a local, national and international level.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-06-27f.htm>

Other Holyrood (continued) Press Release

Reduction in scrutiny bodies

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/06/23153230>

New publication

Vetting and barring scheme: analysis of consultation on policy proposals for secondary legislation

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/229909/0062266.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Debate

Counter-terror strategy

Paul Goodman: It is a pleasure, Mrs. Dean, to see you in the Chair. I am delighted to be able to open this debate on the Government's counter-terror strategy. It will give the House as a whole the chance to range widely over that strategy and to explore the four strands of Contest, the title that the Government have given the strategy.

I shall be relatively narrow in my focus. I want to examine the Prevent strand of Contest. Parliament is rightly spending a great deal of time on aspects of what could be called the supply side of violent extremism—in other words, the problems caused by people who come off the conveyor belt to terrorism and commit acts of violence. I intend to focus on the demand side—on preventing people from getting on that conveyor belt in the first place. Surely we can agree that although it is sometimes necessary to pre-empt or punish terrorists, it is far better to prevent those vulnerable people exploited by al-Qaeda and the like from being drawn into terrorism and extremism.

Some Members will know that I have a special interest in these matters, as I am the Conservative Member with the largest number and proportion of Muslim constituents. However, it is important to emphasise that violent extremism is not the monopoly of a single ethnic or religious group. By way of illustration, I recall an act of violent extremism carried out in Britain in 1999—the atrocious bombing of the “Admiral Duncan” pub by David Copeland, a neo-Nazi, that killed three people and wounded about 70. Only yesterday, a man described as a neo-Nazi sympathiser was convicted in Leeds for offences under the Terrorism Act 2000.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080625/halltext/80625h0001.htm#08062578000001>

Other Westminster (continued)

Ministerial Statements

Des Browne (Secretary of State for Scotland): In seeking to ensure that the events that led to spoiling of a significant number of ballot papers in the election to the Scottish Parliament in 2007 do not happen again, my overriding priority has been to put the interests of the voter first.

On 23 October last year, Ron Gould reported on his review of the 2007 Scottish elections. I said to Parliament then that the Gould report was a valuable contribution to the analysis of what went wrong last May, and I gave a commitment to provide a full response to the report once I had heard the views of a wide range of interests through consultation and debate. The Scotland Office initiated that consultation through our paper, "Sorting the Ballot". Meetings were held with electoral administrators, political parties and the Electoral Commission to hear their views on Gould's recommendations. In addition, a number of focus groups were held with voters across Scotland. I also welcomed the move from the Scottish Affairs Committee to conduct their own review of the Gould report and its recommendations. The Committee reported on 18 May and its recommendations have been taken into account when considering the Government's response. I shall be responding separately to the Committee's report later today.

Last October, I commended the Gould report to the House. It offered proposals to *all* stakeholders involved in the administration of elections in Scotland. Proposals that aim to improve the way in which Scottish elections are administered and suggest good practices which could inform the running of other elections in the UK. It is my view that all political parties should work together to build on the proposals in the Gould report in order to improve the election process in Scotland. Elections belong to the people not individual political parties, and that is why we must work for consensus across the board and to ensure that the Scottish voter is put first.

To continue reading the lengthy statement see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080624/wmstext/80624m0002.htm#08062488000016>

Michael Wills (Minister of State, Ministry of Justice): The right to vote is the basis of our political system. Strengthening our democracy requires the removal of barriers to the exercise of that right. So the system for delivering elections must be accessible and responsive to the needs of voters. And accessibility must always go hand in hand with the security of the system: citizens need to be confident that their vote will count, and that elections are fair and free from fraud. It is the twin principles of accessibility and integrity that underpin the legitimacy of our electoral process.

In "The Governance of Britain" Green Paper, the Government set out a programme of work to reinvigorate our democracy and give citizens the means to participate in decision making at every level. As part of this programme, the Government committed to consult on moving elections to the weekend as a means of making voting more accessible, and so potentially raising levels of turnout.

To meet that commitment, I am today publishing a consultation paper on Election Day. The paper invites views on the merits of moving the voting day for parliamentary and European parliamentary elections, and local elections in England and Wales, from the traditional Thursday to the weekend; and on the best way to do this. The paper sets out a range of issues that need to be taken into account, including practical considerations and the potential cost of holding elections at the weekend, and invites views and evidence. It makes clear that, in the event that elections were moved to the weekend, this would need to be implemented in a way which did not interfere with religious observance.

To continue reading the lengthy statement see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080624/wmstext/80624m0001.htm#08062488000014>

Other Westminster (continued)

Parliamentary Questions

Eric Pickles [212628]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support or funding Planning Aid has given to Traveller groups on (a) planning applications, (b) planning appeals and (c) High Court challenges.

Reply from Iain Wright: Planning Aid offers support to Traveller groups on planning applications and appeals both through its casework and community planning activities. Planning Aid would normally refer cases involving a High Court challenge to organisations that specialise in supporting this process.

Planning Aid does not provide direct funding for Traveller groups, nor would it support their legal costs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080623/text/80623w0006.htm#08062330000031>

Stephen Hesford [213839]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what procedures are in place to ensure that private schools offer religious education teaching.

Reply from Jim Knight: Independent schools are required to meet standards set out in regulations which cover the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. The relevant parts of this standard require schools to:

Enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;

Enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and respect the law;

Encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute to community life;

Assist pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures in a way that promotes tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080625/text/80625w0030.htm#0806262000019>

Mark Pritchard [209517]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to record the number of cases brought before the courts in England and Wales for crimes committed against persons arising from their having left the Islamic faith.

Reply from Maria Eagle: We do not have any plans to introduce a data collection to provide the information requested since the cost would be disproportionate. The courts always take mitigating and aggravating circumstances into account when sentencing an offender. This can include circumstances relating to faith or change of faith, if they are relevant to the offence. However, aggravating or mitigating factors are not collated as part of our data collection. As these factors cover an enormous range and variety of circumstances, to do so would be complex and extremely resource intensive.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080625/text/80625w0004.htm#08062594000014>

Ministerial Speech

Kitty Ussher (Economic Secretary to the Treasury) speaking on Middle East Financial Centres and the Global Markets

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/speeches/econsecspeeches/speech_est_260608.cfm

Other Westminster (continued) Press Release

Michael Wills announces election day consultation

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease240608a.htm>

New publications

Lord Carlile Of Berriew Q.C: Report on the Operation in 2007 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and of Part I of the Terrorism Act 2006

<http://security.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-publications/publication-search/terrorism-act-2000/lord-carlile-report-07/lord-carliles-report-2008?view=Binary>

The Government Reply to the Report by Lord Carlile of Berriew Q.C.

<http://security.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-publications/publication-search/terrorism-act-2000/lord-carlile-report-07/government-response-carlile-08?view=Binary>

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New Publication

(Re)thinking 'Gangs'

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/RethinkingGangs-2008.pdf>

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Other News

Salmond backs first state-funded Islamic school for Scotland

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Salmond-backs-first-.4229180.jp>

Funding bid to teach Islamic law and religion

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2367011.0.Funding bid to teach Islamic law and religion.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2367011.0.Funding_bid_to_teach_Islamic_law_and_religion.php)

Czar: young can become addicted to extremism

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2369007.0.Czar_young_can_become_addicted_to_extremism.php

'Community engagement' key to preventing future terrorists

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2368994.0.Community_engagement_key_to_preventing_future_terrorists.php

Tackling terror

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/editorial/display.var.2368980.0.Tackling_terror.php

Other News (continued)

Anti-terror tsar warns Islamic extremism is addiction like drugs

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Antiterror-tsar-warns-Islamic-extremism.4233908.jp>

Forced marriage victims being betrayed by doctors

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/2213863/Forced-marriage-victims-being-betrayed-by-doctors.html>

Edinburgh Mela programme unveiled

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/7469223.stm

Resignation of Scottish Labour Party Leader, Wendy Alexander

Wendy Alexander quits as Scottish Labour leader

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2369250.0.Wendy_Alexander_quits_a_s_Scottish_Labour_leader.php

Alexander quits as Labour leader

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7478913.stm>

Wendy Alexander's speech in full

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Wendy-Alexander39s-speech-in-full.4233363.jp>

Q&A: Wendy Alexander donations row

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7479025.stm>

Wendy Alexander quits as leader

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Wendy-Alexander-quits-as-leader.4233382.jp>

Summer 'bloodbath' looms for leaderless Labour party in Scotland

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/-Summer-39bloodbath39-looms-for.4233927.jp>

'With no end in sight it was time for her to move on'

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/39With-no-end-in-sight.4233904.jp>

Suitably shambolic end to Wendy's waiting game

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Suitably-shambolic-end-to-Wendy39s.4233901.jp>

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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>

Although there was cross-party support for the principles of the Bill, the financial resolution was not approved, and the Bill therefore falls.

**** Health Boards (Membership and Elections) Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/13-HealthBoards/index.htm>

Bill (as introduced)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/13-HealthBoards/b13s3-introd.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/13-HealthBoards/b13s3-introd-en.pdf>

Policy Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/13-HealthBoards/b13s3-introd-en.pdf>

Delegated Powers Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/13-HealthBoards/b13s3-introd-dpm.pdf>

Judiciary and Courts Bill

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

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>

Bill as passed

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

Sexual Offences Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/11-sexualOffences/index.htm>

Bills in Progress

Westminster

Counter-Terrorism Bill

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

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/120/amend/psc1202506a.2843.html>

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Consultations (closing date)

** New or updated this week

****closes this week!**

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>

**** Inquiry into the Scottish Parliament public petitions process** (26 September 2008)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/petitions/inquiries/petitionsProcess/Inquiryintothepublicpetitionsprocess.htm>

**** Election Day: Weekend Voting** (26 September 2008)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/cp1308.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/online-surveys/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/online-surveys/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

CashBack for Communities

Deadline for applications: 26 September 2008

CashBack for Communities provides funding for projects that are targeted at projects for young people in areas of multiple deprivation. For information and application form see <http://www.youthlink.co.uk/cashbackforcommuniti> (bottom half of page).

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** this week!**

Migration Information Sharing Day

1 July 2008 in Glasgow (10.00-4.00)

International Organisation for Migration event for anyone with an interest in asylum and immigration issues, to share information about the new points-based system for migration, current casework issues, and stories from people who have returned through the Voluntary Return Programmes. For information contact jhampsey@iom.int or fgoddard@iom.int, or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/08vi_iom.pdf

**** this week!**

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Scottish Parliament Festival of Politics**

20-24 August 2008 in Edinburgh and Dunfermline

The theme of this year's Scottish Parliament Festival of Politics is "Global Issues - National Perspectives", and will examine the impact that issues such as climate change, economic stability and national security have on Scotland and the wider UK. For information see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/index.htm>. The programme includes:

Human Trafficking – Scotland's 21st Century Slaves 20 August (12.30-1.30)

Pathways to Peace 20 August (3.00-4.00)

Keeping the Faith in Sexual Health 22 August (12.30-1.30)

Cultural Identity 22 August (2.30-3.45, and 4.15-5.15)

Youth Politics Festival 23 August (11.00-4.00)

**** Scottish Churches and Contemporary Migration**

8 October 2008 in Edinburgh (9.30-4.15)

Conference organised by ACTS and the Scottish Churches to explore issues around migration, and to identify key themes and challenges to which the Churches in Scotland can make a positive contribution. For information contact Nelu Balaj 01259 216980 / ecumenical@acts-scotland.org or see

<http://www.acts-scotland.org/events/2008events/migrationconferenece.shtml>

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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>

Useful Links (continued)

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>