



MEMO

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Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

MEMO is produced by the [Scottish Council of Jewish Communities](#) in partnership with [BEMIS](#).

It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.

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Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month.

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

The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 31 August 2008

Scottish Interfaith Pilgrimage

An interfaith pilgrimage to Israel has been organised as part of an initiative to increase understanding and friendship between communities in Scotland. The idea grew out of a conversation between the Director of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, Ephraim Borowski, and the CEO of BEMIS, Rami Ousta, who were concerned that tensions in the Middle East may sometimes be an obstacle to the development of good relations locally. The Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald, principal clerk, and former Moderator of the Church of Scotland, and Na'eem Raza, Director of Meem, a diversity training organisation, both joined the steering group, and around thirty people from seven different faith communities were invited to participate in the pilgrimage, which began last week. The pilgrimage has received funding from the Scottish Government, and is supported by the First Minister, Alex Salmond, who has written: "I was delighted to hear of this initiative ... the example the group will set will clearly demonstrate there is no place for religious intolerance in Scotland." For more information, including a diary which is being updated each day, see

http://www.scojec.org/events/2008/08vii_pilgrimage/pilgrimage.html

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Debate

Human Trafficking

Anthony Steen: Every few months, we debate human trafficking in the House and, with wringing of hands and tearing of garments, every speaker highlights how awful it is. Ministers are abject with apology and say how dreadful it is, and the Government say that they are doing everything they can to stop it. Let us give the Minister his due. He is thoroughly decent and is doing a difficult job with conviction and humour. We all know that he is a good egg. He travels the world searching for answers, studying the problem and meeting officials and, rather like “The Pilgrim’s Progress”, is bedevilled, I hope, by obstacles rather than temptations. I pay tribute to his commitment.

I had not considered human trafficking before 2005, although I was trained in the caring professions. I first became aware of its horrors when, as a member of the Select Committee on European Scrutiny, I visited Romania and Bulgaria before their accession to the EU. I had never travelled to eastern Europe before 2005, and I had no idea of the extent of the abject poverty there, nor that fraud was a recognised way of life and that the judiciary and the police were riddled with corruption. I was also oblivious to the fact that there is, and has been for generations, a Roma community with 6 million to 8 million disadvantaged people living in a similar way to that in the middle ages in Britain. Some 70 per cent. of people in most towns and villages live on the breadline, and their only means of transport is a horse and cart, with the horse sharing the accommodation with the family.

In that environment, there are inevitable risks of young people in such communities being trafficked to more prosperous western European countries. Children are often sold through debt bondage to successful gangs who prey on the poorest members of their own communities. Some are duped by the lover-boy syndrome, and are persuaded by lucrative jobs that do not exist but are under the illusion that the Elysian fields are not far away.

Three years ago, trafficking in Britain was hardly acknowledged. There is relatively little mention of it in *Hansard* before 2004. Trafficking tended to be confused with prostitution, and I believe that it still is. Child trafficking was considered to be something to do with adoption from families who had too many children and wanted to find homes for them. It was something that charities dealt with.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080708/halltext/80708h0004.htm#08070837000003>

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Jacqui Smith (Secretary of State for the Home Department): Today my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I are announcing the final stage of the UK’s first global review of visa regimes.

Britain thrives as a society and economy which is open for business and tourism to people from around the world, but only on the basis that there are clear and effective ways to distinguish legitimate from illegitimate travellers. This year we will introduce some of the biggest ever changes to strengthen Britain’s border security as we complete implementation of a system of triple checks: stronger overseas checks and wider pre-arrival screening; tougher checks at the UK border itself; and strong new measures within the UK—against illegal immigration, organised crime and other threats.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

We believe our tough checks abroad, working with foreign Governments, are amongst the most important. Overseas controls start with fingerprint visas, pre-arrival watch list checks and officers stationed overseas at key crossing points. As part of these overseas defences our visa waiver test helps us determine whether our visa regimes are in the right places. The test was announced in March 2007. Travel from every country beyond the European economic area and Switzerland was measured against a range of criteria including illegal immigration, crime and security concerns. The test has been taken forward in close collaboration with other Departments across Whitehall. We have now reached the final stage of the test.

Our assessment found that there was a strong case for introducing a visa regime for a number of currently visa-free countries, based on the current level of risk posed to the UK by sufficient numbers of their nationals, or travellers claiming to be such. A visa regime is a simple but very effective immigration, crime and security control measure.

We recognise that we have historic, economic and political ties with the countries being examined; the introduction of a visa regime is a significant step and a decision we do not take lightly. For this reason, we will now enter a period of detailed dialogue with the Governments concerned to examine how risks can be reduced in a way that obviates the need for a visa regime to be introduced. This activity will last for six months. During this period, countries identified will need to demonstrate a genuine commitment to put into effect credible and realistic plans, with clear timetables, to reduce the risks to the UK, and begin real implementation of these plans by the end of the dialogue period.

The countries we are working with through the mitigation process are: Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. Promising and constructive dialogue has already begun with a number of countries but more is required.

The test also indicated that a number of changes were possible for countries currently with visa status. Over the next six months, we will study the options further to see how the visa process can be more closely calibrated to the risks nationals from these countries pose, with consequent benefits for legitimate travellers.

We expect the first consequent changes from the test to be introduced in 2009. The British Government are determined to operate a firm but fair immigration policy. It gives a high priority to treating all foreign nationals coming to or present in the UK with dignity and respect, and the highest legal standards. However, it expects all visitors to the UK to play by the rules. The UK will always welcome genuine visitors, whether business, tourist, student or family, but will continue to take all steps necessary to protect the security of the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080710/wmstext/80710m0002.htm#08071086000018>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Harry Cohen [214769]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unresolved asylum applications are not being considered under the New Asylum Model; and by what date she plans to resolve unresolved asylum applications not being considered under the New Asylum Model.

Reply from Liam Byrne: We have previously estimated that there are around 400,000 to 450,000 electronic and paper records of unresolved asylum applications that are not being considered under the New Asylum Model, although this is difficult to assess accurately as many case records are dependants,

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

duplicates or errors. This figure does not therefore equate to numbers of asylum applicants. At the end of November 2007, our total conclusions stand at around 52,000 cases. We have made good progress and remain committed and on track to conclude these cases by summer 2011. Lin Homer will shortly update the Home Affairs Select Committee on performance over the last six months.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080707/text/80707w0022.htm#08070741000045>

Harry Cohen [214770]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dependants are included on asylum applications that are to date unresolved and not being considered under the New Asylum Model; and of these how many are under 18 years of age.

Reply from Liam Byrne: To analyse the whole pool for this information would incur disproportionate costs. Further, it would be difficult to provide an accurate estimate given the errors present in the database. Of the 52,000 cases that were concluded by November 2007, around 10,000 were dependants, although this gives no indication of the number of dependants in the remaining caseload.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080707/text/80707w0022.htm#08070741000045>

Harry Cohen [214771]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) £5 cash support payments for children under 12 months, (b) £3 cash support payments for children aged one to three years and (c) £3 cash support payments for women who are pregnant are paid under support arrangements for those with unresolved asylum applications.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The latest available information indicates that in the week commencing 23 June 2008 the numbers of extra cash support payments ordered for persons in receipt of support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 were: 1,230 payments for children aged under 12 months, 2,498 payments for children aged one to three years and 74 cash support payments for pregnant women. It is estimated that about 5 per cent. of payments ordered in any one week are not collected.

This is based on management information which is not a national statistic and is subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080707/text/80707w0022.htm#08070741000045>

Harry Cohen [214772]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cash support payments are paid to (a) single people aged between 16 and 18 years and (b) single people under 16 years of age under support arrangements for those with unresolved asylum applications.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The latest available information indicates that in the week commencing 23 June-2008 there were 709 persons aged 16 or 17 years and 10,784 persons aged under 16 in receipt of support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 for whom cash payments were ordered. It is estimated that about 5 per cent. of payments ordered in any one week are not collected.

This is based on management information which is not a national statistic and is subject to change. It does not cover unaccompanied asylum seeking children who are supported by local authorities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080707/text/80707w0022.htm#08070741000045>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Ashok Kumar [215087]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms her Department has in place to monitor the treatment of failed asylum seekers after they return to their home country.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The UK Border Agency does not proactively monitor the treatment of individual failed asylum seekers who return to their home country unless there are exceptional circumstances that warrant doing so. Rather, we do not return those who are at risk.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080707/text/80707w0022.htm#08070741000045>

James Clappison [215245]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-7W, on asylum, how many dependants of asylum seekers received indefinite leave to remain as a result of the October 2003 exercise.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Information on the dependants of asylum claimants who were granted leave to remain under the 2003 family indefinite leave to remain exercise is not available and could be obtained only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Information on principal asylum claimants who were granted leave to remain under the 2003 family indefinite leave to remain exercise is available from Table 12.1 in the annual Statistical Bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080707/text/80707w0022.htm#08070741000045>

Peter Lilley [214761]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which categories of immigration will not be covered by the points-based system.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The points-based system will rationalise and simplify our existing system for controlling immigration by migrants who wish to work or study in the UK, so that only the migrants we need are allowed to come to Britain.

The new system will not cover immigration routes that are unrelated to work or study. Thus it will not apply to visitors or to those applying as the family members of people settled in the UK, such as spouses. It will not apply to people seeking asylum or humanitarian protection here, or to those applying to stay into the UK after service with HM forces.

Finally, there are several routes on which consultation is ongoing outside the PBS. These are Commonwealth citizens seeking to come here under the UK Ancestry provisions, people applying to stay here under the Long Residence Rules, those exercising rights of access to a child and retired persons of independent means.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080707/text/80707w0024.htm#08070741000064>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Quentin Davies [215091]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to create a dedicated EU passports channel at the UK border and immigration control points in the (a) Gare du Midi, Brussels and (b) Gare du Nord, Paris; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The UK Border Agency currently operate four control points at the Eurostar terminal at Brussels Gare du Midi and six control points at the terminal at Paris Gare du Nord. In view of increasing passenger numbers the Gare du Nord is currently being redeveloped to provide eight control points.

The efficiency of passenger clearance at the UK border is kept under review, and changes are made where they are considered to benefit passenger throughput, without having an adverse impact upon border security. The majority of passengers travelling to the UK on Eurostar services from Brussels and Paris are nationals of EU countries and all passengers, including those who are non-EU nationals, can be dealt with quickly without any segregation. There is consequently no dedicated EU channel at either station and currently no plan to introduce such a channel.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080707/text/80707w0024.htm#08070741000064>

Damian Green [214534]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which countries inbound passengers to the United Kingdom are tested for tuberculosis; and what percentage of passengers from each country were tested in the latest period for which figures are available.

Reply from Liam Byrne: All passengers who do not possess a valid pre-screening certificate for tuberculosis and are seeking leave to enter the UK for more than six months, and who have travelled from a country where the tuberculosis incidence rate is higher than 40 cases per 100,000 of the population, are referred to the Port Medical Inspector for tuberculosis screening. Around 135 countries currently have this incidence rate of tuberculosis and can be found at the World Health Organisation website: <http://www.who.int/en/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080708/text/80708w0005.htm#08070840000111>

Quentin Davies [216396]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has given consideration to collaborating with the French Government in establishing and training a combined border and immigration force to be deployed at Brussels Midi, Paris Gare du Nord and London St Pancras International stations capable of checking passengers according to the criteria of both governments, on a one-stop basis; and if she will estimate the financial effect of such an arrangement.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The UK Border Agency works closely with French and Belgian authorities to promote mutual border security through the very effective border control arrangements at the juxtaposed controls. We have no plans to establish a body along the lines suggested. It is therefore not possible for us to provide an estimate of the financial effect of such an arrangement. This could be discovered only through the detailed examination of both the UK and France's existing arrangements, which would involve a disproportionate cost to the business.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080708/text/80708w0005.htm#08070840000112>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

David Simpson [215004]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many criminal record checks were carried out on (a) EU foreign nationals and (b) non-EU foreign nationals seeking to enter the UK in each of the last five years; (2) [215005] how many criminal record checks were carried out on (a) EU foreign nationals and (b) non-EU foreign nationals seeking to enter Northern Ireland in each of the last five years.

Reply from Liam Byrne: From 1 July 2007, the UK Border Agency introduced the Home Office Warnings Index (HOWI) checking policy. This policy requires 100 per cent. checking of all documents against the HOWI. The HOWI comprises a watchlist of adverse information and intelligence drawn from various sources, including the police. The system is used by UK Border Agency staff for the purposes of national security and the detection and prevention of crime. It is long-standing policy not to discuss either the specific data held on the watchlist or the source of the data as to do so would be counter-productive.

When UK Border Agency staff require a passenger to submit to further examination, part of the officers' inquiries may include checking the passenger's details against the Police National Computer (PNC). For example, where there is evidence to suggest that the individual has previously committed a criminal offence or where there is evidence to suggest that the individual is currently engaged—or is likely to be engaged—in criminal activity.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080708/text/80708w0005.htm#08070840000113>

John Hayes [216650]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what her policy is on the establishment of a common EU format for residence permits for third country nationals;

(2) [216651] what biometric data will be included in UK documentation under the terms of Council Regulation (EC) No 380/2008 on residence permits;

(3) [216652] what EU (a) legislation and (b) proposed legislation falling within her Department's responsibilities requires personal documentation to include biometric data.

Reply from Meg Hillier: Under the UK Border Act 2007, we will be rolling out identity cards for foreign nationals from 25 November 2008, initially to some categories of those subject to immigration control who are granted limited leave to remain, including; certain types of students, spouses, civil partners and unmarried couples under the immigration rules. Over time, this card will replace existing forms of immigration documents and stamps which we currently issue to foreign nationals staying in the UK for over six months.

Identity cards for foreign nationals will enable the UK to comply with EC regulation 380/2008 which requires residence permits to be issued in a uniform format in the form of a card that contains an embedded chip that stores biometric features of the holder. The biometric information held on the card will be the holder's photograph and two fingerprints.

EU Regulation 2252/2004 requires the future inclusion of fingerprint biometrics in passports, and is binding on those member states who are part of the Schengen area. However the UK Government intend to match the EU standards for the introduction of fingerprint biometrics into passports to maintain the reputation and integrity of the British passport. Doing so ensures that UK passports will not be seen as "second-class" among other countries which could lead to increased attempts at fraud and lead to more onerous checks of UK passports abroad, causing delays and inconvenience to travellers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080710/text/80710w0011.htm#08071088000107>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Chris Huhne [208834]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what average amount was paid to people leaving the UK under the Facilitated Returns Scheme in each month since its inception, broken down by country of destination; (2) [208835] how many people have left the UK under the Facilitated Returns Scheme in each month since its inception, broken down by country of destination.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Most recent figures show that between 1 November 2006 and 31 October 2007 around £350,000 has been spent on FRS, which includes administrative costs. For the same period 880 foreign national prisoners left the UK under the scheme. This represents considerable savings for the taxpayer in detention costs alone.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 18 February and advised them that, as of 28 January 2008, there were around 1,200 foreign national prisoners removed under the scheme. She will continue to update the Home Affairs Committee with the most robust and accurate information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners as requested.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080709/text/80709w0003.htm#08070963000048>

Lord Roberts of Llandudno asked Her Majesty's Government: Whether they will end forced removal of Darfuri asylum seekers to Sudan.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, the Government have deferred enforcing the return of non-Arab Darfuri asylum seekers to Sudan pending the outcome of a country guidance case that is due to be heard by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal in the near future. The case, originally listed to be heard in May, is currently waiting to be relisted and will address the safety of return to Khartoum.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: My Lords, I appreciate that step by the Government very much but, following the 10 May attacks in Khartoum, why was the policy considered at all, especially for the Darfuri people? There were mass murders and arrests in Khartoum. Have the Government managed to find a mechanism to monitor and report on the fate of those asylum seekers returned forcibly to their native country?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, the noble Lord is referring to the attack by the Justice and Equality Movement on 10 May, which has been condemned by our Foreign Secretary. Rather more importantly in this context, the Foreign Office has stressed to the Government of Sudan that they should exercise restraint in their response and that anyone arrested should be given due legal process. We have some concerns about reports that we have received. The issue will be part of the work of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal, which stemmed from the Aegis Trust report; I can go into that if anyone is interested. On monitoring once returned, I refer the noble Lord to the answer I gave in my letter on 18 June subsequent to the last debate on the subject. We do not normally proactively monitor treatment of individual failed asylum seekers unless there is a precise reason for us to do so. Indeed, it can sometimes be prejudicial to their safety.

To continue reading the extended question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80709-0002.htm#08070955000006>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Alton of Liverpool asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4524]: In what circumstances they deport Darfuri asylum seekers to Sudan; what assessment they have made of the likely treatment of such asylum seekers by the Sudanese authorities on their return; how many have been returned in the past six months; and how many are scheduled for deportation in the near future.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: We only remove those asylum seekers who have been found not to be in need of international protection.

Allegations of mistreatment of non-Arab Darfuri returnees to Sudan contained within a recent Aegis Trust report have been carefully investigated. No evidence has been found to establish that unsuccessful non-Arab Darfuri asylum seekers are at real risk of mistreatment by the Sudanese authorities in Khartoum upon their return there from the United Kingdom.

Between October 2007 and March 2008, the latest six-month period for which published figures are available, 15 Sudanese principal asylum applicants were removed to Sudan. Of these, 10 left under assisted voluntary return programmes and five were persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls), persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them and those who, it is established, have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

Figures are rounded to the nearest five and are provisional. It is not possible to say, within these statistics, how many were from the Darfur region of Sudan.

Details of how many are scheduled for removal in the near future could only be obtained by the detailed examination of individual records, at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80709w0002.htm#08070960000019>

Lord Laird asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4597]: Further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 30 June (WA 2) concerning the cost of naturalisation as a British citizen, whether there were any instances in which the fee for naturalisation was not levied in the past 10 years.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: No. Prior to its amendment by the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, the British Nationality Act 1981 provided that a certificate of naturalisation could not be granted to any person who had not paid the prescribed fee. The current law renders invalid any application for a certificate of naturalisation that is not at the outset accompanied by the appropriate fee.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80709w0001.htm#08070960000006>

Baroness Neville-Jones asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4543]: How many foreign nationals have been excluded from entering the United Kingdom on grounds of (a) national security, and (b) unacceptable behaviour in each year since July 2006.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2007, 105 foreign nationals were excluded from the United Kingdom on national security grounds and a further 23 were excluded on unacceptable behaviour grounds.

Between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008, 18 foreign nationals were excluded on national security grounds and a further 18 were excluded on unacceptable behaviour grounds.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80709w0001.htm#08070960000012>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Petition

The Petition of the Havant Ex-Servicemen's Club, the Havant Royal British Legion and others of like disposition.

Declares that the treatment of Gurkhas is an ongoing disgrace: Gurkhas who retired from the British Army after 1997 can automatically stay in the UK, but those who retired earlier must apply for citizenship, and many have been refused and face deportation. Pension rights for years served by Gurkhas before 1997 count at only around a quarter of the level of years served after that time.

Further declares their support for the fifty Nepalese soldiers who handed back their Long Service and Good Conduct medals in March 2008, in protest at the difference in treatment of Gurkhas with other British soldiers, such as those from the Commonwealth.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Defence to ensure that all ex-Gurkha soldiers and their families British citizenship on leaving the service.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080708/petntext/80708p0001.htm#08070847000015>

Press Releases

First global visa test

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/first-global-visa>

Results of Britain's first global visa review

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

Highly Skilled Migrant Programme Forum judicial review: arrangements resulting from the judgment of 8 April 2008

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

Can the French Presidency's Immigration Pact contribute to a Europe without racism?

http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2008-07-09%20French%20Presidency%20presents%20immigration%20pact-LAST%20_2_.pdf

New publication

Helping You Meet the Cost of Learning: Asylum Seekers, Refugees, Migrant Workers and Non-UK EU Nationals: A Guide to Funding 2008-09

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/231292/0063086.pdf>

News

The eight-months pregnant asylum seeker left penniless on the streets

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/lifestyle/real-life-stories/2008/07/07/exclusive-the-eight-months-pregnant-asylum-seeker-left-penniless-on-the-streets-86908-20634413/>

The factors pulling migrants home

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/highlands_and_islands/7494920.stm

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **News**

Workforce fears as migrants leave

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/highlands_and_islands/7494864.stm

Diverse cultures' impact on north

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/highlands_and_islands/7495255.stm

Highlands at risk of labour crisis after fall in migrants

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Highlands-at-risk-of-labour.4268510.jp>

Raids target illegal immigrants

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7500964.stm

Visa plea to keep family together

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside_and_central/7498584.stm

Bid to stay in UK may be settled today

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/07/10/newsstory11630330t0.asp>

Visa woman wins deportation fight

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside_and_central/7498584.stm

Joy and relief as Josie can stay

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/07/11/newsstory11635907t0.asp>

Graduate wins right to stay in UK after visa error

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2390027.0.Graduate_wins_right_to_stay_in_UK_after_visa_error.php

Josie's joy as she wins her battle to stay in Scotland

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/733819>

Ordeal is over for Josie

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/733373>

Joy as South African graduate told she can stay in UK with her family

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Joy-as-South-African-graduate.4278638.jp>

Westminster blasted over rights of asylum seekers

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2392779.0.westminster_blasted_over_rights_of_asylum_seekers.php

Polish consul calls for better wages to stem exodus

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2392783.0.polish_consul_calls_for_better_wages_to_stem_exodus.php

Foreign volunteers to be fast-tracked for British passport

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1034503/Foreign-volunteers-fast-tracked-British-passport.html>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Question

John Mann (218165): To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, what provisions of legislation on race relations govern the activities of student unions; and if he will make a statement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80710w01.htm>

Press Releases

Caste report exposes campaigning MPs with undeclared interests

<http://www.hinduforum.org/Default.aspx?sID=45&cID=276&ctID=43&IID=0>

Statement by British Churches on Christian-Hindu Relationships

http://www.scotland.anglican.org/index.php/news/entry/statement_by_british_churches_on_christian_hindu_relationships/

Annual High-level Tripartite meeting between the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the United Nations and partner organisations

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1320793&Site=DC&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE>

New publication

Caste in the UK

<http://www.hfb.org.uk/FileServer.aspx?oID=408&IID=0>

News

Most Muslim coverage 'negative'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/7495384.stm>

France rejects veiled Muslim wife

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7503757.stm>

Veiled Muslim woman denied French citizenship amid concerns over her 'radical' religious views

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/worldnews/article-1034412/Veiled-Muslim-woman-denied-French-citizenship-amid-concerns-radical-religious-views.html>

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Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Jo Swinson [171379]: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what proportion of staff at the Women's National Commission are (a) male, (b) female, (c) black and minority ethnic male and (d) black and minority ethnic female.

Reply from Barbara Follett: The Women's National Commission has a small staff and provision of this information in the categories required would make it possible to identify individuals, if such information was used alongside other material in the public domain. This would be in breach of guidance on ethnicity disclosure. The Government Equalities Office sponsors the WNC. Combining the staff numbers of the GEO and the WNC lessens the risk of breaching the guidance on ethnicity disclosure and gives the following figures, based on the declaration staff have made.

	<i>Percentage</i>
(a) Male	39.4
(b) Female	60.6
(c) BME male	Less than 1
(d) BME female	10.6

The figure for BME males is inflated to a certain extent to avoid the possibility of a breach of guidance. This calculation excludes temporary staff.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080707/text/80707w0015.htm#08070739000011>

News

Why are black coaches struggling in England?

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/football/africa/7499960.stm>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

News

'School lessons to curb sectarianism'

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2381664.0.School_lessons_to_curb_sectarianism.php

Nursery alert for racist toddlers

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7493654.stm>

Peer's apology over racist phrase

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7497097.stm

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

'No blacks, no dogs, no Gypsies'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/no-blacks-no-dogsno-gypsies-860873.html>

The shameful Islamophobia at the heart of Britain's press

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/media/the-shameful-islamophobia-at-the-heart-of-britains-press-861096.html>

Is that a Tory peer in the woodpile?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/is-that-a-tory-peer-in-the-woodpile-866373.html>

Black and Asian police line up race bias claims

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/2298845/Black-and-Asian-police-line-up-race-bias-claims.html>

Hundreds of police set to lodge race bias claims

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/hundreds-of-police-set-to-lodge-race-bias-claims-866574.html>

This persecution of Gypsies is now the shame of Europe

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/jul/10/race.humanrights>

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Other Holyrood

Committee Report

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee Report: complaint against Wendy Alexander

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/stanproc/reports-08/stpr08-06.htm>

Parliamentary Questions

Ken Macintosh (S3W-14768): To ask the Scottish Executive what funding or support specifically for the Sikh community has been announced by ministers in the last year.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-07-07e.htm>

Ken Macintosh (S3W-14769): To ask the Scottish Executive why it has not renewed funding to enable the provision of Panjabi qualifications in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-07-07e.htm>

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Ken Macintosh (S3W-14768): To ask the Scottish Executive what funding or support

Ken Macintosh (S3W-14770): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it made any assessment of the success of the Centres of Excellence programme in funding the provision of qualifications in the Panjabi language before deciding not to renew that funding.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-07-07e.htm>

Ken Macintosh (S3W-14771): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it has any plans to review the impact of its decision not to fund Panjabi qualifications in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-07-07e.htm>

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Other Westminster

Ministerial Statement

Michael Wills (Minister of State, Ministry of Justice): The “Governance of Britain” Green Paper, which was published in July 2007, set out the Government’s proposals for the next stages of constitutional renewal. A major theme running through the Green Paper is the importance of reinvigorating democracy. Active participation by as many people as possible is essential for a healthy democracy as it encourages a shared understanding, builds cohesion and instils confidence in the institutions and the people who are elected to represent us.

The Government recognise that the demands on our democracy are evolving. People are less engaged with the formal democratic process. Some, particularly disadvantaged groups and younger people, are increasingly unlikely to vote at elections. Others are channelling their political activity beyond voting and party politics to protest groups and single-issue campaigns. The Government want to address these challenges by increasing opportunities for people to participate in the decision-making process between elections and in ways that also encourage participation by those whose voices are not often heard.

Today I am publishing a discussion paper which sets out a proposed framework for the use of innovative engagement mechanisms by national government. The paper includes a range of proposals for the application of deliberative engagement methods—citizens’ summits and juries—to inform the process of national policy making. Finally, there are proposals for a strengthened petitioning process for the House of Commons.

Involving the public in debates and decision-making on national issues can serve to reinforce and strengthen our democracy. But the Government are not suggesting that people should be asked to take the decisions they elect their MPs to make—Parliament should always have the final say on major national issues. We believe that, over time, these proposals will encourage greater involvement, provide people with opportunities to participate in collective debate on issues and lead to a greater understanding of the value of parliamentary democracy.

Other Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

Both the “Empowerment” White Paper, which is also published today, and this proposed National Framework for Greater Citizen Engagement will increase opportunities for people to take part in decision-making—in their local communities and by influencing national Government. The Government are keen to gather views from Parliament and the public on the content of this discussion paper. Copies of the discussion paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. The paper is also available on the Ministry of Justice website at: www.justice.gov.uk/publications/citizen-engagement.htm
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080709/wmstext/80709m0001.htm#08070956000008>

Parliamentary Question

Desmond Swayne (217574): To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what guidance he has issued to local education authorities on the extent to which pupils are required to participate in religious observance when such observance forms part of a religious education lesson; and if he will make a statement.
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80710w01.htm>

New publications

A national framework for greater citizen engagement
http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/citizen_engagement.pdf

News

Nine candidates fight by-election
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7496133.stm

Shudder for Labour as poll puts SNP in Westminster lead
http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2392233.0.Shudder_for_Labour_as_poll_puts_SNP_in_Westminster_lead.php

Poll predicts Labour will cling on to Glasgow East
http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2392804.0.poll_predicts_labour_will_cling_on_to_glasgow_east.php

Struggle for survival in Labour heartland
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/struggle-for-survival-in-labour-heartland-865816.html>

Barnett formula is inequitable and could undermine the Union unless reformed says the UK’s leading think tank
<http://www.ippr.org.uk/ipprnorth/pressreleases/?id=3204>

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New Publications

Fair Shares? Barnett and the politics of public expenditure

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

BIHR Launches New Teaching Resource - Right Here: Right Now: Teaching Citizenship through human rights

<http://www.bihar.co.uk/news/bihar-launches-new-teaching-resource-right-here-right-now-teaching-citizenship-through-human-ri-0>

Parenting in ordinary families: Diversity, complexity and change

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2223-parenting-diversity-families.pdf>

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Other News

New board of imams to tackle extremists

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article4322721.ece>

Police fury as bosses tell them to 'celebrate' gypsies

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1034445/Police-fury-bosses-tell-celebrate-gypsies.html>

Registrar wins right to refuse gay weddings

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/registrar-wins-right-to-refuse-gay-weddings-865042.html>

Registrar wins gay ceremony case

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/32b5b01a-4ea2-11dd-ba7c-000077b07658.html>

Changing the face of human rights

<http://www.bihar.co.uk/news/changing-the-face-of-human-rights>

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Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Health Boards (Membership and Elections) Bill

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

Judiciary and Courts Bill

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

Bills in Progress Holyrood (continued)

Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill

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

Public Health Bill

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

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>

Second Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80708-0002.htm#08070843000002>

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/065/amend/am065-a.htm>

Draft Bill

The Governance of Britain - Constitutional Renewal

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

**** Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill**

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/120/amend/pb1200704a.269-2971.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/120/amend/pbc1200707a.2999-3003.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/120/amend/pbc1200807a.3009-3010.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/120/amend/pbc120070908a.3023-3029.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/120/amend/pbc1201007a.3033-3034.html>

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Consultations (closing date)

** New or updated this week

**** The Duty to Promote Community Cohesion in Schools Survey 2008** (short online questionnaire – no closing date specified)

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=DuLrl_2bXuA9e2GClqeKbcwA_3d_3d

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)

http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/religious_and_moral_education_outcomes_codes_tcm4-482454.pdf

Online questionnaire

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

Religious Education in Roman Catholic Schools (November 2008)

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

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/Index.asp?MainID=8276>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** this week!**

Shariah & Scots Law

16 July 2008 in Glasgow

Seminar to explore how the "Shariah effect" on civil matters can be achieved without any changes to Scots law; includes discussion of Intestacy and Wills, Mahr and Prenup, Parenting and Guardianship. For information contact the Scottish-Islamic Foundation info@scottishislamic.org

Mainstreaming Equalities

Six session course, beginning 28 August 2008 in Glasgow

deadline for applications: 4 August 2008

GCVS course to support organisations to mainstream equality across their operations and functions. The course will cover: equality key concepts, understanding mainstreaming, equality impact assessment, consultation for equality, applying equality practice, and moving forward the agenda, and is designed from a human rights framework encompassing the broader concept of equality enshrined in human rights law. For information see <http://www.gcv.org.uk/documents/383> or contact Charlene Reilly 0141 332 2444 / charlene.reilly@gcv.org.uk

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/migrationconferece.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>

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>*