



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.

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During the Scottish and UK Parliament summer recess MEMO will be issued fortnightly on 3, 17, and 31 August. The Scottish Parliament will return on 31 August, and the UK Parliament on 6 October.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

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.

Reply from Linda Fabiani: The Cabinet Secretary for Justice wrote to the Home Secretary on 25 January 2008 to raise concerns that the new system would make it more difficult to employ chefs with specific skills from the Asian sub-continent.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0714.htm>

Hugh O'Donnell (S3W-14928): To ask the Scottish Executive what assessment has been made of the Fresh Talent initiative and what costs have been incurred since its inception, broken down by month.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-07-14e.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Hugh O'Donnell (S3W-14929): To ask the Scottish Executive how many people have returned to their country of origin in each of the last five years, having failed to meet the financial threshold which allows them to extend their stay under the Fresh Talent initiative.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-07-14e.htm>

Westminster Debate

Immigration (Supply of Information to the Secretary of State for Immigration Purposes) Order 2008

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord West of Spithead) rose to move, That the Grand Committee do report to the House that it has considered the Immigration (Supply of Information to the Secretary of State for Immigration Purposes) Order 2008.

The noble Lord said: My Lords, Section 20 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 created a statutory gateway that enables the police, the Serious Organised Crime Agency and those accommodating UK Border Agency-supported asylum seekers to supply information to the Home Office for specified immigration purposes. Section 20 also provides an enabling power, subject to close scrutiny in this House and in the other place, to extend this list of bodies and the circumstances in which information may be shared.

Today, to improve further the sharing of information between government departments and the UK Border Agency, we are seeking to include the Secretary of State for Transport in respect of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in respect of social security information, and the chief constable of the British Transport Police in this gateway.

The order provides that certain information held by these departments and organisations may be supplied to the Secretary of State for the Home Department for use for immigration purposes as defined in Section 20(3) of the Act. It also extends the definition of immigration purposes to cover two additional UK Border Agency functions in relation to individuals in receipt of asylum support under Section 4 of the 1999 Act and those individuals who may have civil penalties imposed under Section 15 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006.

There are currently no statutory powers for the Department for Work and Pensions, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency or the British Transport Police to supply information held in pursuance of their functions to the UK Border Agency for use for immigration purposes. These departments currently rely on common-law powers to share such information with the UK Border Agency to exercise immigration functions and to investigate criminal activity.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80716-gc0003.htm#08071687000005>

Immigration (Biometric Registration) (Civil Penalty Code of Practice) Order 2008

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord West of Spithead) rose to move, That the Grand Committee do report to the House that it has considered the Immigration (Biometric Registration) (Civil Penalty Code of Practice) Order 2008.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Debate (continued)

The noble Lord said: I shall take the two measures together. The UK Borders Act 2007 introduced powers for the Secretary of State to make regulations to issue identity cards to foreign nationals who are subject to immigration control. The order and the regulations will enable the UK Border Agency to do that. They are intended to enable the introduction of the first identity cards to be issued to foreign nationals, subject to immigration control, who are staying in the United Kingdom for more than six months.

The first identity cards will be issued from 25 November 2008 to those who are granted limited leave to remain as certain types of students and those who are granted limited leave to remain as spouses, civil partners or unmarried couples under the Immigration Rules. The cards will confirm the holder's immigration status and entitlements to work and to access public funds in the United Kingdom. The identity card will provide foreign nationals who are subject to immigration control with a secure and reliable immigration document. To achieve this, we need to make regulations under the biometric registration powers contained in the UK Borders Act 2007, allowing the UK Border Agency to enrol biometric features. These will be a photograph and 10 fingerprints. Taking the person's fingerprints will enable us to fix a person to a single identity and make it possible to verify that identity against centrally held records. At present, around 50 different documents are issued to foreign nationals granted leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom; I have to say that I was rather surprised by that. This makes it difficult for employers and service providers to check whether a person is entitled to work in the UK before they give them a job or allow them to access public funds.

Identity cards are designed to make it easier for foreign nationals to demonstrate that they are entitled to live and work in the UK. We consider this essential as part of our efforts to tackle illegal working and immigration fraud. In addition, these regulations will be the way that the UK complies with a new European regulation, EC 380/2008, which requires the residence permits that grant leave to remain to be in the form of a card containing the biometric features of the holder.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80716-gc0003.htm#08071696000001>

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Jacqui Smith (Secretary of State for the Home Department): I have laid before Parliament today a draft (partial) Immigration and Citizenship Bill to replace almost all of our current immigration laws with a single piece of legislation, together with plans to radically reform the path to citizenship for newcomers to Britain.

At the heart of the Bill are radical changes to nationality law to ensure that newcomers earn their way to citizenship with full access to benefits and social housing reserved for citizens and permanent residents. Full details of our policy are set out in "The Path to Citizenship: Next Steps In Reforming The Immigration System—Government Response To Consultation" which I am placing in the Library.

Economic migrants will need to speak English and prove they can hold down a job paying taxes to qualify for citizenship.

Committing even minor crimes will slow down citizenship. Serious crimes will trigger automatic deportation.

Citizenship will also be slowed down for those who do not make an effort to become an active citizen.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

We will take powers to ask migrants to pay a little extra towards local public services. In addition our draft Bill sets out how we propose to ensure that the sweeping changes that we are making this year to our border security and immigration system stick.

Ten measures will sit centre stage in the Bill and the immigration rules made under it:

Strong borders

New powers for frontline UKBA officers at foreign ports and airports to cancel visas.

Bringing customs and immigration powers at the border into the 21st century, consolidating and strengthening civil penalties for bringing passengers without the right papers and clandestine entrants to the UK.

Selective migration

The Bill proposes a clear legal duty on migrants to ensure they have permission to be in the UK, for example under our new points system.

The Bill introduces a single, streamlined power of expulsion for those without permission.

Earning the right to stay

Migrants will now have to earn their right to stay in the UK

Automatic bans on returns with new powers to exclude offenders and powers to require those who are expelled to repay costs to taxpayers if we allow them to come back.

Playing by the rules

The Bill gives a new power to require large 'bail bonds' for those awaiting decisions or expulsion, part of a tough menu of conditions for "Immigration bail" as an alternative to detention.

Confirming tough measures to prevent organised illegal immigration by attacking illegal working with civil penalties for employers who do not make the necessary checks.

Simplifying our appeals system to cut red tape; ensuring that the system is properly sensitive to the needs of vulnerable groups: honouring our international obligations to refugees and ensuring the UKBA safeguards and promotes the welfare of children.

Managing any local impacts

Full access to benefits for citizens and permanent residents, with migrants contributing a little extra to the cost of local services;

Our earlier consultations show widespread support for our ambition to reform and strengthen the law. Polling I am publishing today confirms that;

70 per cent. of the public think that newcomers should earn the right to stay in Britain;

83 per cent. think that immigrants in Britain should be made to learn English and;

69 per cent. agree that newcomers should be penalised on the path to citizenship if they do not obey the UK's laws.

But many want to see the detail to understand what we propose in practice. Today's draft Bill will help that debate.

The draft (partial) Bill is accompanied by a Narrative Document "Making Change Stick" which explains the Government's plans for further clauses which are not included in it at this stage.

The Government have also published today explanatory notes on the draft (partial) Bill, illustrative rules on protection and a partial impact assessment.

We have consulted widely in preparation for this Bill including consultations published in June 2007 and February 2008. We want to proceed in the same spirit of openness. We invite views from Parliament and the wider public before finalising the full Bill for introduction.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080714/wmstext/80714m0001.htm#080714500001>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Peter Luff [218101]: What plans she has to amend the immigration rules in relation to students undertaking temporary work in the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The Government's new points system is now being introduced. It replaces some 80 different routes into the United Kingdom with just four. The final stage is the student route, and during the summer I will publish a statement of intent explaining in detail how it and other routes will work.

Peter Luff: The Minister will know that he and I have an honest disagreement on the role of the seasonal agricultural workers scheme in respect of agricultural students coming here to work, which I believe is essential for the future of British growing, but which he does not. May I have the meeting with him or one of his colleagues in the Home Office that I asked for in a letter to the Home Secretary more than a month ago to explore this important question, which I think threatens British food security apart from anything else?

Reply from Liam Byrne: I would be happy to have that meeting. As the hon. Gentleman says, we have an honest disagreement about whether, in my words, we should relax immigration control in eastern Europe and make it easier for people from east Europe to enter and work in the UK. I think we should toughen the system so that it is impossible for low-skilled migration to come in from outside the EU, but I recognise that there will be labour market issues that we will need to confront, which is why I would be happy to have that meeting. I do not anticipate restrictions in the student route being so draconian that overseas students cease to be a source of labour for the agricultural industry or others, but perhaps we should schedule that meeting on the back of that statement of intent, when it is published.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080714/debtext/80714-0003.htm#080714100023>

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government: [HL4733] Why the new European Union directive on illegal migration provides for detention of up to 18 months and no return for five years; whether the directive takes account of population levels and ageing populations in some European states; and whether they supported or opposed the directive.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: This directive aims to establish EU-wide rules and procedures on the return of all categories of illegal migrants. The United Kingdom has not opted in to this directive.

Under the proposed directive an illegal entrant may be detained for a period not exceeding six months, but only where it is judged that there is a risk of absconding, or the person avoids or hampers the return or the removal process. Member states may extend the six-month period for a further 12 months. The purpose of the six-month period, and its possible 12 months' extension, is to facilitate the removal of illegally residing third-country nationals.

A re-entry ban may be imposed for a maximum of five years if a person was removed after failing to leave voluntarily. The ban may be for longer than the five years if the individual represents a serious threat to public safety. Member states which opted in have retained the right to waive, cancel or suspend such bans.

It is not designed to address demographic trends.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80715w0002.htm#0807159900012>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Laird asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4680]: Whether, when calculating the cost of immigration applications, they have regard to the length of time the applicant has lived in the United Kingdom as a taxpayer.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: When calculating the cost of an immigration application we do not take into consideration the length of time the applicant has lived in the United Kingdom.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80715w0003.htm#08071599000017>

Lord Roberts of Llandudno asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4709]: How many failed asylum seekers have been deported to Iran in each of the past three years.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: A total of 390 asylum applicants (including dependants) were removed or departed voluntarily to Iran in 2005; 475 in 2006 and 480 in 2007. Figures include persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities. Figures are rounded to the nearest five and information for 2006 and 2007 is provisional.

It is not possible to say what stage in the asylum process the returnees as a whole have reached at the time of their removal, including whether their claim has failed at that point, because those departing voluntarily can do so at any stage.

Further information on asylum removals from the UK is available from the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80715w0003.htm#08071599000018>

David Ruffley [219056]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many instances of human trafficking for sexual purposes were discovered in each of the last three years; from which countries the persons arrived; and how many successful prosecutions resulted.

Reply from Vernon Coaker: Under Operation Pentameter 1 (which concluded in 2006) there was a total of 88 victims recovered who originated from a number of countries primarily in Eastern Europe, the far east and South East Asia, Africa and South America. Under Operation Pentameter 2 (which concluded in 2008) there was a total 167 victims recovered from similar regions.

Since the inception of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 there have been 84 successful prosecutions of people for human trafficking offences, many of whom also received sentences for related offences. Under Pentameter 2 there were 528 arrests. We therefore expect the number of successful prosecutions to rise in the forthcoming months as such cases progress through the criminal justice system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080717/text/80717w0019.htm#08071796000017>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Peter Bone [218211]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the 167 women and children recovered under Operation Pentameter II have been removed from the UK; and what arrangements have been made for those who have not been removed.

Reply from Vernon Coaker: Under Pentameter 2, 31 victims of trafficking have already returned to their country of origin voluntarily. We are aware that a number of non-EEA nationals initially believed by the police to be victims have been returned to their country of origin using immigration powers. Removal of individuals confirmed to be victims of trafficking would only be sanctioned if it was considered safe and reasonable to do so in accordance with the UK's domestic and international obligations.

Adult victims who chose to accept support in the United Kingdom will have been offered a reflection and recovery period of a minimum of 30 days, support and accommodation.

Of the 13 children recovered in the operation, nine remain in the care of local authorities and four returned home voluntarily following an assessment concluding that it was safe to do so.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080717/text/80717w0019.htm#08071796000018>

Tom Brake (219417): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) families and (b) people in such families have been detained in immigration removal centres in (i) each year from 1997 to 2007 and (ii) each month in 2008 for which data is available.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80716w01.htm>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Diane Abbott (2023) **Darfuri asylum seekers in the UK** – That this House is greatly concerned at the Home Office's recent decision to resume the removal of Darfuri asylum seekers from the UK and return them to Khartoum; recalls that in 2007 the Home Office suspended the deportations in order to investigate further accusations of torture in the region by Sudanese authorities, but concluded that the accusations were not confirmed; notes that this conclusion failed to take into consideration the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' position against the return of Darfuris to Khartoum, which stated that they would be subjected to torture and even death; further notes that upon lifting the ban on deporting Darfuri asylum-seekers the Home Office failed publicly to disclose its change in policy; and therefore urges the Home Office immediately to reverse its decision in order to honour the Government's international human rights obligations.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80715e01.htm>

Press Releases

Newcomers must earn the right to stay in the UK

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

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

Highly Skilled Migrant Programme Forum Judicial Review: implementation of arrangements resulting from the judgement of 8 April 2008

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

Migration in South Wales: employment helps migrants to fit in, but more needs to be done to achieve cohesion

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/pressroom/releases/150708.asp>

UN experts express concern about proposed EU Return Directive

<http://www.unhcr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/227C3A187C0BDB81C125748A0037A405?opendocument>

New publications

Immigration and Inclusion in South Wales

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2209-wales-migration-cohesion.pdf>

Migrants' Rights News

<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/enews/2008/july.htm>

News

Concern voiced on court interpreters

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/07/14/newsstory11649045t0.asp>

Bail plan for illegal immigrants

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7506089.stm

Academic studies Poland's Scots

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/highlands_and_islands/7501969.stm

Assault claims by asylum seekers

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2393508.0.assault_claims_by_asylum_seekers.php

Asylum seekers 'assaulted by British security teams'

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Asylum-seekers--39assaulted-by.4284653.jp>

Guards 'assaulted Dungavel inmates'

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2395387.0.Guards_assaulted_Dungavel_inmates.php

Westminster asylum review expected to praise Scotland's approach

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2395377.0.Westminster_asylum_review_expected_to_praise_Scotlands_approach_to_refugees.php

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Home, and away

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/jul/16/immigration.communities>

Migrant criminal network exposed

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7505574.stm>

Migrants defuse timebomb for Scots population

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Migrants-defuse-timebomb-for-Scots.4306246.jp>

Immigration 'harming communities'

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7508096.stm

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Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Andrew Rosindell [218530]: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on events to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day in each of the last five years.

Reply from Gerry Sutcliffe: The Heritage Memorial Day Trust is responsible for the annual, national commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day. This is not a Government initiative and, therefore, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has no budget for its promotion.

The trust raises awareness, informs and educates about the Holocaust and its contemporary relevance, especially to issues of racism, prejudice and discrimination. It prompts action in the UK in favour of diversity, equality and harmony between communities. We believe that it is important to learn the lessons of the past to build a better future.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080716/text/80716w0008.htm#08071697000022>

Westminster Ministerial Speech

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Hazel Blears:

Preventing violent extremism: next steps for communities

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/preventingviolentextremismnext>

Press Releases

Preventing violent extremism: next steps for communities

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/898004>

Race Relations

Press Releases (continued)

ENAR welcomes the European Parliament Resolution of 10 July 2008 on the census of the Roma on the basis of ethnicity in Italy

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2008-07-15%20EP%20resolution%20on%20Italian%20Roma%20census.pdf>

New publications

Preventing violent extremism: next steps for communities

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/896799.pdf>

Islam and citizenship education: the ICE project

<http://www.theiceproject.co.uk/>

A Common Word for the Common Good

http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/media/word/2/j/A_Common_Word_for_the_Common_Good.doc

News

IslamExpo has gained the moral high ground

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/jul/14/islam.communities?gusrc=rss&feed=politics>

Minister told to stay away from Islam event by Labour officials

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jul/14/islam.race>

Don't portray Muslims as victims. We've moved on

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/yasmin-alibhai-brown/yasmin-alibhaibrown-dont-portray-muslims-as-victims-weve-moved-on-866893.html>

Archbishop of Canterbury 'should be trying to convert Muslims'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/2304417/Archbishop-of-Canterbury-'should-be-trying-to-convert-Muslims'.html>

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Equality

Press Releases

New strategy to promote diversity in the Civil Service

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2008/080717_diversity.aspx

Harman and Miliband: more diversity in public appointments

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2008/080714_diversity.aspx

Equality (continued)

New publication

Financial Inclusion and Ethnicity

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

News

Report on ethnic minorities deems The Vicar of Dibley 'too white'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Report-on-ethnic-minorities-deems.4296399.jp>

Britain's most popular television programmes 'too white', says Trevor Phillips

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/2304563/Britain%27s-most-popular-television-programmes-%27too-white%27,-says-Trevor-Phillips.html>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Bob Russell (2050) Italian government and Roma people – That this House registers with revulsion the actions taken by the Italian government against Roma people; regards such actions, coupled with television footage of Italians verbally abusing and harassing Roma people, and the deliberate burning of Roma property, to be an unwelcome reminder of Italy's 20th century fascist regime; affirms that such discrimination is not compatible with the United Nations Charter and the principles of equality of all citizens laid down in requirements for membership of the European Union; and calls on the Government to make urgent representations to the Italian government to cease repressive measures against the Roma community and to uphold the UN Charter and the principles of EU membership.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmmedm/80715e01.htm>

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Ashok Kumar (219849): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cases of religiously-motivated violence against (a) Muslims, (b) Jews, (c) Christians, (d) Sikhs, (e) Buddhists and (f) Hindus were recorded in each year since 1997.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80717w01.htm>

Westminster Ministerial Speech

Minister for Europe, Jim Murphy:

Inaugural Lecture at the European Institute for the Study of Contemporary Anti-Semitism

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=Speech&id=4142950>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued)

Press Release

ENAR issues a five-point call for action to the French Presidency

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2008-07-15%20French%20presidency.pdf>

News

Asian policeman suing Scotland Yard

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Asian-policeman-suing-Scotland-Yard.4301231.jp>

Disney's first black princess leads to race row

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/2305515/Disney%27s-first-black-princess-leads-to-race-row.html>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Lord Patten asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4471]: When they last drew to the attention of other Governments Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights concerning the right to religious conversion; and which Governments these were.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: The Government condemn all instances of violence and discrimination against individuals and groups because of their faith or belief, wherever they happen or whatever the religion of the individual or group concerned. Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials regularly discuss human rights issues with other Governments, including on issues of religious freedom and religious conversion, bilaterally through and through international organisations. We have raised individual cases bilaterally and with our EU partners recently in Jordan, Egypt, Iran and Indonesia.

FCO officials recently discussed the issue of persecution on the grounds of apostasy with Christian Solidarity Worldwide. Our officials met with Ziya Meral from Christian Solidarity Worldwide, author of the report *No Place like Home*, on 30 May and 24 June. Christian Solidarity Worldwide has agreed to keep the FCO informed of instances where apostates have suffered human rights abuses.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80714w0005.htm#08071431000048>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Neville-Jones asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4589]: Which Muslim organisations have received funding from the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund since January 2006.

Reply from Baroness Andrews: A total of 140 Muslim organisations have successfully received funding in both rounds of the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund. A list of all the successful groups granted funding in each round of the FCCBF is attached to annex A.

A comprehensive list of organisations granted funding is also available on the Community Development Fund website at: www.cdf.org.uk.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80716w0001.htm#080716103000011>

David Drew [218167]: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will promote opportunities for students from ethnic minorities living in urban areas to undertake studies in the land-based economy based in rural colleges.

Reply from David Lammy: The profile and attractiveness of careers in the land-based economy are being drawn to young people's attention in different ways. Those currently interested in learning about land-based industries can already study for a GCSE in environmental and land-based science. From September 2009 there will be a new diploma in environmental and land-based studies. There is also a network of specialist schools and academies located across urban and rural areas. Discretionary learner support funding is available to individual students through colleges, and included within this is support for residential courses. Lantra, the Sector Skills Council for the land-based industries, helps to raise awareness of opportunities in the sector to young people, and has a dedicated website aimed at young people www.ajobin.com.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080716/text/80716w0024.htm#080716114000037>

Baroness Whitaker asked Her Majesty's Government: Whether they will add a separate category to the 2011 census for Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers.

Reply from Lord Davies of Oldham: My Lords, it is not possible to confirm which questions and response categories will be included in the census until the consultation and question-testing programme is complete and formal approval has been given by Parliament in 2010. It is proposed, however, to include a category for Gypsies or Irish Travellers in an ethnic group question.

Baroness Whitaker: My Lords, I thank my noble friend for that reasonably positive Answer. Will the Government urge all service providers to adapt their ethnic minority monitoring categories so that, at last, we can learn more about the real situation of this most discriminated-against minority?

Reply from Lord Davies of Oldham: My Lords, I pay tribute to my noble friend for the work that she has done on this issue. Although my reply is guarded because, obviously, there is still work to be done, I assure her and the House that the intention is to include a category for Gypsies and Irish Travellers, subject to final approval. This will also be a signal for all agencies to recognise this important categorisation.

Lord Avebury: My Lords, I was pleased to hear the Minister's confirmation of the statement made by Mr Ian Wright on 22 May about the inclusion of a tick-box for Gypsies and Travellers. Does the Minister agree that at the census content workshop in March, representatives of the Gypsies and Travellers, and of the CRE, were unanimous in

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

asking for two separate categories to be included; namely, Gypsy and Irish Traveller? The only reason given by the ONS for not doing so was lack of space on the form. Will the Minister ask the ONS to divide the available space into two, using a smaller typeface if necessary, so that the two separate categories can be accommodated and local authorities will have the data that they need for their local development frameworks, in which Gypsies and Travellers have to be provided with separate land?

Reply from Lord Davies of Oldham: My Lords, the House will recognise that space on the form is of great value, given the multitude of demands for information that the census alone can provide. That is why the decision was made to include one tick-box and not two, although I hear what the noble Lord says about his dissatisfaction with that. However, it is recognised that the addition of this category will help public policy in future and, on the whole, Gypsies and Travellers have welcomed this contention.

Lord Marsh: My Lords, does the Minister agree that, although it might be quite romantic to know about Gypsies, caravans and all that lovely stuff, they can be a massive problem for people who live in rural areas?

Reply from Lord Davies of Oldham: My Lords, the Government have been called many things, but I do not recall romantic being one of them. This concept is not a romantic one; it is concerned with factual issues to guide public policy to reduce the very problems which the noble Lord suggests arise from time to time. When we are in a better position to assess the population concerned, we will be better able to provide it with the necessary sites and make provisions in other respects and to avoid the tensions that occur when provision is not there.

Lord Lester of Herne Hill: My Lords, does the Minister agree that the 10 million Roma in Europe, as the European Court of Human Rights has made clear, are the most vulnerable and despised minority in Europe and that the states have a positive obligation to protect them?

Reply from Lord Davies of Oldham: My Lords, that is certainly an important consideration. However, the noble Lord will also recognise that they are a distinct group from the Irish Travellers, so the issue is about being able to identify accurately the resources that need to be attributed to these categories to reduce the pressure of past neglect which the noble Lord has correctly identified.

Lord Clinton-Davis: My Lords, do the Government plan to raise the racist maltreatment of Romany Gypsies in certain countries of the EU, with the special connivance of Prime Minister Berlusconi, who has boasted that his Government are the new Falange?

Reply from Lord Davies of Oldham: My Lords, this Question started off being about the British census, so it is a large departure to go to policy on eastern Europe. However, an example is the best illustration of what should be done, and the Government will set the right one.

Lord De Mauley: My Lords, how do the Government, and indeed local government, communicate formally with Travellers and therefore get the census forms to them if they do not have fixed addresses?

Reply from Lord Davies of Oldham: My Lords, it is quite a challenge, of course, but there is the National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups, the Cardiff Gypsy and Traveller Project and the Gypsy Council, and the Government have consulted all three.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80716-0001.htm#08071684000005>

and continuing

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80716-0002.htm>

Other Westminster (continued)

Early Day Motion

Diane Abbott (2039) Religious beliefs in public service – That this House notes that an Islington registrar has won an industrial tribunal case giving her the right to refuse to officiate at civil partnership ceremonies for homosexual and lesbian couples on the grounds of her religious beliefs; further notes that civil partnerships are legally not the same as Christian marriage; further notes that the Holy Scriptures are entirely silent on the question of civil partnerships; notes with concern that the case could set a precedent for any public servant refusing to treat all members of the public equally because of self-defined religious beliefs; believes that no public servant should be allowed to discriminate on this arbitrary basis; and, should this case not be reversed on appeal, calls on the Government to clarify and, if necessary, amend the law to guard the public against discrimination and prejudice by public servants in the future.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80715e01.htm>

Press Releases

Major new opportunities for diaspora volunteers

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/diaspora-volunteers.asp>

London hosts tackling honour-based violence road show

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease160708c.htm>

New publications

Foreign Affairs Committee report on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Human Rights Annual Report 2007

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmfaaff/533/533.pdf>

An Elected Second Chamber: Further reform of the House of Lords

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/elected-second-chamber.pdf>

and

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/elected-second-chamber-annexes.pdf>

News

Government funds Muslim thinkers

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7512626.stm>

Citizenship class for young Muslims

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Citizenship-class-for-young-Muslims.4301832.jp>

Cameron enters race debate on families

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2399923.0.Cameron_enters_race_debate_on_families.php

Other Westminster

News (continued)

Glasgow East By-election: All the fun of the Fair makes for slim pickings on the hustings

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Glasgow-East-Byelection-All-the.4306217.jp>

Glasgow East By-election: O'Brien attacks 'monstrous' embryo bill

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Glasgow-East-Byelection-O39Brien-attacks.4306218.jp>

Glasgow East By-election: Candidates' photos on poll papers? They should be so lucky

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Glasgow-East-Byelection-Candidates39-photos.4306230.jp>

The last lap

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2403685.0.the_last_lap.php

Glasgow East by-election: Abortion and embryo controversies back in spotlight for final days of campaign

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Glasgow-East-byelection-Abortion-and.4305158.jp>

Glasgow East by-election: Curran accused over role in scrapping fire targets

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Glasgow-East-byelection-Curran-accused.4305036.jp>

Glasgow East by-election: SNP say sorry over police on leaflet

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Glasgow-East-byelection-SNP-.4305206.jp>

The front runner behaving like an underdog

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2403345.0.The_front_runner_behaving_like_an_underdog.php

Labour claims to have turned corner with voters back in the fold

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2403343.0.Labour_claims_to_have_turned_corner_with_voters_back_in_the_fold.php

Labour alerts voters to double jeopardy of 'the two Currans'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Labour-alerts-voters-to-double.4301711.jp>

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New Publications

Right Here, Right Now: teaching citizenship through Human Rights

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/doc/12717/RightHereRightNow.pdf>

New Publications (continued)

Fair Shares? Barnett and the politics of public expenditure

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

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Other News

Islamic veil issue to be looked at by Muslim experts

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2403344.0.Islamic_veil_issue_to_be_looked_at_by_Muslim_experts.php

Muslim panel to focus on wearing of Islamic veils in UK

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Muslim-panel-to-focus-on.4305026.jp>

Muslim panel to advise on rights and wrongs of veil

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/muslim-panel-to-advise-on-rights-and-wrongs-of-veil-871819.html>

Theology takes centuries to evolve

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/jul/18/islam.communities>

Muslims to be taught citizenship

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2402081.0.muslims_to_be_taught_citizenship.php

Promotion of clients and stooges will get us nowhere

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/jul/17/islam.race>

Ethnic awards scheme to put focus on youth

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Ethnic-awards-scheme-to-put.4284732.jp>

Journeys of faith to the centre of the Islamic world

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/arts/main.jhtml?xml=/arts/2008/07/14/nosplit/bvtvmuslim14.xml>

Black or white: Choice for many Americans

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Black-or-white-Choice-for.4296406.jp>

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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>

Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill

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

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>

proposed amendments

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

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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>

Consultations (continued)

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_to_m4-482454.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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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** Ethnic Minority Eye Health Project**

7 August 2008 in Glasgow (5.00-6.30)

Launch of a new initiative to improve the eye health of ethnic minority communities and the access to appropriate services in Greater Glasgow and Clyde.; speakers include Nicola Sturgeon Cabinet Secretary for Health and Well-Being, and Mohammed Sarwar MP. For information contact Gozie Joe Adigwe 0131 311 8500 /

gozie.joeadigwe@mib.org.uk

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

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)

** Sharing Experience – Sharing Concern

National Commission for Pastoral and Social Care conference for faith communities on the theme of raising awareness on domestic abuse. For information contact 0141 847 6137 / nacosoca.admin@btconnect.com or see

http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/08vii_national_commission.doc

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>

Useful Links (continued)

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>*