

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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The UK Parliament will return from recess on 6 October.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Patricia Ferguson (S3W-16322): To ask the Scottish Executive what guidelines there are for procurators fiscal in relation to the translation into English of evidence in other languages.

Reply from Frank Mulholland QC: The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) has provided guidance to procurators fiscal on commissioning translations. Where translation is required an appropriate translation agency will be instructed. The guidance instructs that, where possible, a translation agency provides translators who hold a valid certificate from Disclosure Scotland at Standard level and who hold relevant qualifications.

On instruction, translators are required to sign a "Code of Conduct" which sets out the standards expected when accepting interpreting and translation assignments from COPFS.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0926.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Patricia Ferguson (S3W-16323): To ask the Scottish Executive what guidelines there are for procurators fiscal in relation to the independent scrutiny of the translation into English of evidence in other languages.

Reply from Frank Mulholland QC: The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) has provided guidance to procurators fiscal on commissioning translations. Where translation is required an appropriate translation agency will be instructed. The guidance instructs that, where possible, a translation agency provides translators who hold a valid certificate from Disclosure Scotland at Standard level and who hold relevant qualifications.

On instruction, translators are required to sign a "Code of Conduct" which sets out the standards expected when accepting interpreting and translation assignments from COPFS.

As a matter of routine, a copy of the translated document is provided to the defence who will consider whether the translation of the document should be reviewed by an independent party.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0926.htm>

Joe FitzPatrick (S3W-16430): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it has information on the impact of the Fresh Talent initiative on (a) the performance of the Scottish economy, (b) the number of foreign students at Scottish universities and (c) levels of immigration to Scotland.

Reply from Linda Fabiani: It is not possible to identify the particular impact of the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme on the performance of the Scottish economy or the number of foreign students at Scottish universities.

Immigration is currently reserved to the UK Government and the Scottish Government does not have information on the impact of the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme on levels of immigration to Scotland. However we do know there have been around 8,400 international graduates applied to remain in Scotland under the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme to work after completing their studies.

We have recently published a review of the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme which is available on the Scottish Government website and the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (Bib. number 46484).

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/08/15155422/0>.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1002.htm>

Joe FitzPatrick (S3W-16429): To ask the Scottish Executive what information it holds on the economic impact of skilled immigration to Scotland.

Reply from Linda Fabiani: While immigration is currently a reserved issue, skilled immigration is an important contributor to the growth of Scotland's economy. We have recently published analysis undertaken by Strathclyde University which identifies that continued levels of immigration will be an important driver of future economic growth in Scotland. This can be found on the Scottish Government's website at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Research/by-topic/public-services-and-gvt/Demography-Research-Prog/EconomicImpactofScottish>.

We are also aware of various analyses that have been undertaken to estimate the impacts of immigration on Scotland's regional and local economies.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1002.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Joe FitzPatrick (S3W-16431): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it has any estimates of the likely impact of the change to the Fresh Talent initiative, making it part of the UK-wide post study immigration category as of 30 June 2008, on (a) levels of immigration to Scotland, (b) numbers of foreign students at Scottish universities and (c) Scotland's economic performance.

Reply from Linda Fabiani: Immigration is currently a reserved issue and as such the Scottish Government has no estimates of the likely impact of the change to the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme. The scheme has enabled over 8,400 international graduates to remain in Scotland and work after study and although the scheme has been widened out to the rest of the UK, international graduates from a Scottish university will still have the opportunity to work in Scotland after they graduate, as will graduates from the rest of the UK.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1002.htm>

Joe FitzPatrick (S3W-16432): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it has any estimates of the likely impact on levels of skilled immigration to Scotland of the change to a points-based immigration system in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Linda Fabiani: The Scottish Government has no estimates of the likely impact on levels of skilled immigration to Scotland of the change to a points-based immigration system. Immigration is currently reserved and the Home Office noted in its Regulatory Impact Assessment, which accompanied the introduction of the UK points-based immigration system, that it is very difficult to accurately predict the exact impact of the new system on the numbers and types of people who might come to Scotland to work.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1002.htm>

Joe FitzPatrick (S3W-16433): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it has any estimates of the likely impact on the performance of the Scottish economy of the change to a points-based immigration system in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Linda Fabiani: The Scottish Government has no estimates of the likely impact on the performance of the Scottish economy of the change to a points-based immigration system. Immigration is currently reserved and the Home Office noted in its Regulatory Impact Assessment, which accompanied the introduction of the UK points-based immigration system, that it is very difficult to accurately predict the exact impact of the new system on the numbers and types of people who might come to Scotland to work.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1002.htm>

Joe FitzPatrick (S3W-16434): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it has received any representations from Scottish businesses expressing concern about the impact of the introduction of a points-based immigration system on their ability to attract and retain skilled workers.

Reply from Linda Fabiani: We received representations from the Asian restaurant industry about its ability to recruit skilled chefs from the subcontinent. As immigration is currently reserved to the UK Government, these were conveyed to the Home Secretary. We also encouraged representatives to engage with the Migration Advisory Committee, which they did. Skilled chefs were included on the Shortage Occupation list produced last month.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1002.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Joe FitzPatrick (S3W-16435): To ask the Scottish Executive what Scottish representation there is on the Migration Advisory Committee and what input the Scottish Government has had on the form that representation should take.

Reply from Linda Fabiani: Immigration is currently reserved to the UK Government and as such appointment to the Migration Advisory Committee is a matter for them.

We are advised that members of the Migration Advisory Committee are independent experts who have been appointed by merit through open competition and as such there is no representation on the basis of geography. The current members are; Professor David Metcalf CBE, Chair, Dr Martin Ruhs, Professor Jonathan Wadsworth, Dr Diane Coyle and Professor Robert Wilson. Mike Campbell of the Commission for Employment and Skills is an ex officio member of the committee.

The previous administration wrote to the Home Secretary asking to ensure appropriate Scottish representation on the MAC. This was declined on the grounds that the appointments would be open competition based on the Nolan principles.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1002.htm>

Joe FitzPatrick (S3W-16436): To ask the Scottish Executive what input it had to the Migration Advisory Committee's work on the production of shortage occupation lists for the United Kingdom and Scotland in relation to tier 2 skilled employment and whether it considers that its input was taken into account in the committee's report.

Reply from Linda Fabiani: While immigration is currently a reserved issue, the Scottish Government has worked closely with the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) since its inception and ministers provided views on the proposed methodology and work plan early in the process. Alongside UKBA, officials facilitated a session for employers in Glasgow and undertook visits to Scottish employers. Along with Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Government officials promoted the MAC's work with a view to raising awareness amongst business networks and encouraging employers to engage with the process. This employer engagement has been reflected in the MAC's report.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1002.htm>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

John Battle [215410]: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has provided to enable Kenyan families displaced by post-election violence to return to their homes.

Reply from Gillian Merron: The UK Government's Department for International Development has committed £2.5 million in humanitarian assistance to Kenya for those displaced by the crisis.

In May, the Government of Kenya launched an operation to assist those who voluntarily wished to return home, providing transport, food, shelter and household items.

Although DFID has currently not committed funds to the resettlement of internally displaced people, we are working with the international community and the Government of Kenya to ensure resources are allocated to meeting the needs of those displaced and in finding ways of successful resettlement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080929/text/80929w0003.htm#0809294000044>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Damian Green [223994]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals against decisions made in legacy asylum claims had been heard by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal as of 31st July 2008.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The reference to "legacy asylum claims" is taken to mean those which have not been processed through the new asylum model since the former Home Secretary John Reid's legacy announcement on 19 July 2006. Our records show that there have been 5,545 such appeals heard by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal.

Note:

The information provided in this response is taken from local management data and is not a national statistic. It should therefore be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080929/text/80929w0004.htm#0809294000051>

Damian Green [223328]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of asylum seekers who had been waiting more than two months to be paid section 4 support at 31 July 2008.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Provision for failed asylum seekers eligible for support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 is in the form of accommodation and vouchers. Cash payments are not made.

No decision was recorded on or before 31 July in respect of 101 applications made before 1 June 2008 for support under section 4.

This is based on management information which is subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080929/text/80929w0004.htm#0809294000051>

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) Zimbabwean and (b) Darfuri asylum seekers of each (i) age group and (ii) sex are in each UK immigration removal centre; and how long each has been there. [219964]

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The following table shows the number of Zimbabwean and Sudanese asylum seekers (including dependants) detained solely under Immigration Act powers as at 29 March 2008, broken down by centre and sex; all detainees were adults.

Following a change in the system in which information is collected, published statistics on all persons detained under sole Immigration Act powers by length of detention are not available.

The UK Border Agency does not electronically record the region from which asylum applicants originate; this information would only be available by examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

It is therefore not possible to say how many Darfuri asylum seekers are in immigration detention centres.

Further national statistics on persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers are 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>

The decision to detain is made on a case by case basis and may be appropriate in one or more of the following circumstances: to effect removal; to establish a person's identity and claim; where a person presents a risk of abscond or where the application is capable of being considered quickly.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Zimbabwean and Sudanese adult⁽¹⁾ asylum seekers⁽²⁾ recorded as being detained in Immigration Service Removal Centres in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers as at 29 March 2008, by place of detention and sex⁽³⁾

Number of individuals

Place of detention	Zimbabwean nationals detained			Sudanese nationals detained		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Immigration Service Removal Centres						
Campsfield House	—	*	*	—	*	*
Colnbrook Long Term	—	5	5	—	5	5
Dover Immigration Removal Centre	—	5	5	—	*	*
Dungavel	*	*	5	—	5	5
Harmondsworth	—	*	*	—	*	*
Haslar	—	5	5	—	*	*
Lindholme	—	*	*	—	—	—
Oakington Reception Centre	—	*	*	—	*	*
Tinsley House	—	*	*	—	*	*
Yarl's Wood	*	—	*	—	—	—
Total	5	25	30	—	20	20

⁽¹⁾ Persons recorded as being aged 18 or over as at 29 March 2008. ⁽²⁾ Persons detained under Immigration Act powers who are recorded as having sought asylum at some stage, including dependants. ⁽³⁾ Figures rounded to the nearest five, (— = 0, * = 1 or 2), may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding and exclude persons detained under both criminal and immigration powers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080929/text/80929w0004.htm#0809294000053>

Jo Swinson [224106]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there are any circumstances in which it makes a material difference to the inheritance of British citizenship by descent whether the citizenship is inherited from the maternal or the paternal side.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The British Nationality Act 1981 makes no distinction between men and women in terms of their ability to pass on the benefits of their status under the Act to their children. Nor does it distinguish, so far as British citizens by descent are concerned, between those whose ancestral connection with the United Kingdom is traced through the male line and those whose connection is traced through the female line.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080929/text/80929w0004.htm#0809294000055>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

David Drew [223573]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what appointment procedures individuals, organisations or companies providing interpretation services in detention or immigration centres are subject to; what account is taken of the specific needs of those in detention and immigration centres in such appointment procedures; whether specific training is provided for those working as interpreters; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Liam Byrne [*holding answer 15 September 2008*]: Immigration Removal and Detained Fast Track Centres will either call on the services of an interpreter from the United Kingdom Border Agency panel of freelance interpreters for face to face interpretation or a commercial supplier for telephone interpretation. Detainee needs vary but are taken into account when arranging an interpreter as far as practicably possible.

Asylum seekers are offered the option of an interviewer and interpreter of a specific gender. Applicants are made aware of this during screening procedures and this is acted on as far as operationally possible.

Interpreters registered with the United Kingdom Border Agency panel of interpreters do receive training which is either one or two day in duration depending on the level of public service interpreting experience they hold.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080929/text/80929w0008.htm#0809294000078>

Damian Green [223329]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many businesses had applied for licences to sponsor foreign migrants by (a) 31 July 2008 and (b) 31 August 2008.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The number of businesses which have applied for licences to sponsor foreign migrants by (a) 31 July 2008 is 469 and (b) 1 August 2008 is 799.

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080929/text/80929w0009.htm#0809294000083>

Jo Swinson [223493]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage refusal rate was for UK visas applied for by Iraqi citizens (a) at the British Embassy in Jordan and (b) overall in the latest period for which figures are available.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The refusal rate for visa applications submitted by Iraqi nationals in the FY 2007-08 at the British embassy in Amman and globally was 51 per cent. and 43 per cent. respectively.

Please note that these figures have not been previously published and should therefore be treated as provisional.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080929/text/80929w0009.htm#0809294000084>

Damian Green [220117]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many suspected illegal immigrants have been apprehended in British waters as a result of boarding inspections carried out by boats used by (a) the UK Border Agency and (b) other agencies in each year since 1997.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080929/text/80929w0012.htm#0809294000090>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Martin Linton [223415]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many known overstayers (a) were deported, (b) were removed, (c) left of their own accord and (d) had no action taken against them in the last 12 months.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The information requested on known overstayers could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost. No Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by December 2008 the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country. This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

On 19 June 2008, the Government set out its plans to more robustly enforce the immigration rules including the removal of those not entitled to be here. Copies of the document are placed in the Library of the House. It is also available to view at:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/?requestType=form&view=Search+results&simpleOrAdvanced%20=simple&page=1&contentType=All&searchTerm=enforcing+the+deal%20&Submit=Go>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080929/text/80929w0012.htm#0809294000090>

Dominic Grieve [219430]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what service standards for the processing of leave to remain applications are in place.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The information requested is as follows:

General Casework Leave to Remain and Employment Leave to Remain

Our current published service standards for deciding charged applications are:

Applications made by post: we aim to decide 70 per cent. of applications within four weeks (20 working days) and 90 per cent. within 14 weeks (70 working days).

Applications made in person: we aim to decide 90 per cent. within 24 hours.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080929/text/80929w0012.htm#0809294000092>

Lord Roberts of Llandudno asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5191]: Whether they will ensure that failed asylum seekers will not be returned to Zimbabwe, Sudan or Iran before the end of 2008.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: We currently have no plans to enforce the removal of failed asylum seekers back to Zimbabwe but we will continue to help those who want to go home voluntarily.

We are aware of recent developments in Sudan and have deferred enforcing returns of non-Arab Darfuris to Khartoum. The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal is due to consider a country guidance case on safety of return to Khartoum. A date for the hearing has not yet been scheduled but we expect the hearing to take place before the end of 2008.

We continue to enforce returns to Iran of those found not to be in need of international protection.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80929w0010.htm#0809014000088>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

James Clappison [176053]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria she used to determine which of the 19,000 foreign nationals, dealt with as old cases, have been granted leave to remain; how many of these have previous convictions either in the UK or another country; what checks were made in the UK, or sought in other countries, in respect of such convictions; how many of these foreign nationals have dependants who are eligible for, or have received, leave to remain; if she will break down the 19,000 foreign nationals by (a) nationality and (b) type of case; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Individuals' entitlement to stay in the UK is considered in accordance with the immigration rules. Before entitlement to stay is confirmed, including for any dependants aged 10 or over, details are checked against the Police National Computer to establish whether there is a criminal record. The checking process may also indicate if an individual is wanted for crimes outside the UK.

The cases of any individuals with a serious criminal conviction are considered as a high priority. Any outstanding applications may be refused and consideration will be given to deportation.

Obtaining figures on the number of applicants and dependants with criminal convictions would be possible only by examination of individual files and this would incur disproportionate cost.

The original figure of 19,000 has now been updated and the breakdown of the figures you have requested is contained in the UK Border Agency Chief Executive's letter, dated 23 July 2008, updating the Home Affairs Select Committee, copies of which are in the House Library.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080929/text/80929w012.htm#0809294000094>

Andrew Murrison[206167]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account is taken of gallantry awards for service in the armed forces in determining applications for settlement in the UK.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Discretion may be exercised to waive certain requirements of the immigration rules applicable to former members of the armed forces, including the requirement for an application for indefinite leave to be made within two years of the date of discharge. Discretion may be exercised in individual cases if there are strong reasons why settlement in the UK is appropriate and account is taken of all relevant factors. Gallantry awards may be one factor in whether discretion is exercised.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080929/text/80929w012.htm#0809294000095>

Baroness Stern asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5078]: What proportion of applicants for asylum or humanitarian protection the Home Office subjected to age assessment in each of the last five years; and what proportion of them were subsequently found to be aged under 18 at the date of application.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The available information which relates to the number of asylum applications which are age dispute cases, by year since 2004, is shown in the table.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Information on the proportion of age dispute cases which were subsequently found to be aged under 18 years at the time of application is not held centrally and could be obtained only through the examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

A working group made up of representatives of the UK Border Agency, major intake authorities, the Association of Directors of Children's Services, the medical colleges, the Refugee Children's Consortium and the Children's Commissioner for England has been tasked with formulating, before the end of the year, recommendations for improvement of the age assessment process.

<i>Applications⁽¹⁾ received for asylum in the UK, and proportions of applications that are age-disputed, excluding dependants, 2004-2007</i>				
	2004	2005	2006 ^(P)	2007 ^(P)
Applications for asylum received in the UK	33,960	25,710	23,610	23,430
Age-disputed applications made in the UK <small>(2)(3)(4)</small>	2,345	2,425	2,270	1,855
Proportion of applications that are age disputes	7%	9%	10%	8%

(1) Figures (other than percentages) rounded to the nearest five.

(2) An age dispute case refers to an applicant who claims to be a child, but whose appearance and/or general demeanour strongly suggests that they are 18 or over, and whose age is disputed by the UK Border Agency unless there is credible documentary or other persuasive evidence to demonstrate the age claimed.

(3) Includes cases for which age disputed at time of application.

(4) Data may understate cases due to data quality issues.

(P) Provisional figures.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80929w0010.htm#0809014000087>

Press Release

Dignity and Justice for Detainees Week

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DignityandJusticeDetaineesWeek.aspx>

News

Two cultures learning to live together

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Two-cultures-learning-to-live.4536965.jp>

Investigation into claims of abuse on asylum-seekers

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/investigation-into-claims-of-abuse-on-asylumseekers-946106.html>

Gurkhas win yet another battle - this time to stay in the UK

<http://news.scotsman.com/uk/Gurkhas-win-yet-another-battle.4542357.jp>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Gurkhas win right to live in the UK

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2455002.0.gurkhas_win_right_to_live_in_the_uk.php

Gurkhas joy as judge rules immigration policy unfair

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/865270>

Gurkhas win battle to stay in UK

<http://news.scotsman.com/uk/Gurkhas-win-battle-to-stay.4544386.jp>

Bride arrested in wedding dress

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/7647086.stm>

'They are sending me to my death' - Jojo Yakob loses his appeal to stay in Scotland

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/39They-are-sending-me-to.4555235.jp>

MP demands justice for 'death sentence' Jojo

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/politics/MP-demands-justice-for-39death.4558616.jp>

Call to change rules as Home Office says it is 'compassionate'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Call-to--change-.4555210.jp>

New minister may cap immigration

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article4882601.ece>

Muslim row MP gets immigration job

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/muslim-row-mp-gets-immigration-job-952056.html>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Bill Butler (S3W-16054): To ask the Scottish Executive how it plans to promote constructive dialogue between faith and belief communities and enhance the interaction these communities have with all levels of government.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government is committed to promoting constructive dialogue between faith and belief communities and uses established fora, such as the Faith Liaison Advisory Group, to do this. We also meet with organisations such as Faith in Communities Scotland to discuss inter-community relations and are pleased that faith and belief communities have participated in national conversation events.

Race Relations

Holyrood Parliamentary Question (continued)

Additionally in April we established the independent Scottish Working Group on Religion and Belief Relations to consider how to promote constructive dialogue between religious and belief communities. The working group has been given the following remit:

"To develop a Scottish strategic framework which can be used to encourage constructive dialogue between religious and belief communities and support the Scottish Government in promoting positive activity between these communities."

The working group is currently taking forward consultation with stakeholders and interest groups, and I have asked them to make their recommendations to me in early 2009.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1002.htm>

News

Policy promotes 'neighbourliness'

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2453983.0.Policy_promotes_neighbourliness.php

[TOP](#)

Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Hugh O'Donnell (S3W-16494): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it recognises the role that the Equality and Diversity Education Officers Network Scotland plays in equality and anti-discrimination education by providing assistance and support for racial equality and diversity officers in schools.

Hugh O'Donnell (S3W-16495): To ask the Scottish Executive, following the decision of the Schools Directorate to halt funding for the Equality and Diversity Education Officers Network Scotland (EDEONS), what measures are being taken to ensure the continuation of the services that EDEONS provides.

Reply from Maureen Watt: The Scottish Government commends the work of the Equality and Diversity Education Officers Network Scotland and has agreed to fund the network in 2008-09, in line with their grant application. I have asked my officials to meet with the network in the near future, to discuss its on-going role and the most effective model of future funding.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1002.htm>

Equality (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Lynne Jones [220005]: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 2831W, on equality, whether individual commissioners are required to give assurances that they support each of the objectives and statutory duties of the Equality and Human Rights Commission as a requirement of (a) appointment and (b) re-appointment.

Reply from Barbara Follett: Commissioners of the Equality and Human Rights Commission have a collective responsibility clause in their code of conduct and, when speaking as representatives of the Commission, are required to express the views of the Commission as a whole.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080929/text/80929w0001.htm#0809294000020>

David Drew [201392]: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether the draft Single Equality Bill will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny in the House.

Reply from Barbara Follett: No. The Government are committed to introducing an Equality Bill during this Parliament. The further policy consideration that our comprehensive consultation provoked, and our ongoing engagement with stakeholders, means that we have no plans to publish the Bill in draft.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080929/text/80929w0001.htm#0809294000021>

Press Releases

Summit puts equality at heart of EU social agenda

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=396&furtherNews=yes>

Commission to consult on permanent funding programme

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

News

Bringing opera to the ethnic masses

<http://www.birminghampost.net/life-leisure-birmingham-guide/birmingham-culture/classical-music-birmingham/2008/10/03/bringing-opera-to-the-ethnic-masses-65233-21958390/>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

David Ruffley [223522]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many racially-motivated crimes were recorded in each police force area in each of the last five years.

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

<i>Total racially or religiously aggravated offences⁽¹⁾ recorded by the police in England and Wales, 2003-04 to 2007-08</i>					
<i>Number</i>					
<i>Police force area</i>	<i>2003-04</i>	<i>2004-05</i>	<i>2005-06</i>	<i>2006-07</i>	<i>2007-08</i>
Avon and Somerset	1,256	1,431	1,326	1,337	1,027
Bedfordshire	207	266	339	308	292
British Transport Police	652	946	1,088	1,188	1,316
Cambridgeshire	384	398	322	351	365
Cheshire	400	438	569	557	536
Cleveland	251	288	528	464	390
Cumbria	116	186	232	219	187
Derbyshire	600	474	494	492	554
Devon and Cornwall	588	694	818	809	696
Dorset	166	254	214	291	294
Durham	138	154	258	304	245
Dyfed-Powys	126	154	118	167	125
Essex	760	807	796	922	913
Gloucestershire	167	215	283	326	264
Greater Manchester	2,864	3,203	3,398	3,677	3,637
Gwent	240	233	289	269	234
Hampshire	415	570	1,120	1,326	1,320
Hertfordshire	730	859	985	954	846
Humberside	438	488	417	655	407
Kent	480	609	798	935	858
Lancashire	1,085	1,183	1,363	1,238	1,042
Leicestershire	809	980	1,007	1,055	941
Lincolnshire	179	169	200	143	101
London, City of	60	48	75	83	73
Merseyside	943	1,061	1,420	1,423	1,100
Metropolitan Police	9,468	9,444	8,769	8,226	7,353
Norfolk	268	333	343	340	265

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Northamptonshire	413	389	455	422	455
Northumbria	974	886	834	924	729
North Wales	278	331	396	356	316
North Yorkshire	54	133	205	234	172
Nottinghamshire	619	551	566	715	793
South Wales	794	735	713	555	611
South Yorkshire	259	471	1,032	1,037	927
Staffordshire	600	646	805	889	760
Suffolk	297	244	240	329	328
Surrey	482	510	845	588	305
Sussex	552	575	710	991	776
Thames Valley	1,104	1,154	1,128	1,483	1,233
Warwickshire	187	222	293	379	416
West Mercia	674	609	527	499	503
West Midlands	2,479	2,413	3,071	3,338	3,249
West Yorkshire	1,874	2,140	2,898	2,691	2,493
Wiltshire	244	220	260	253	196
England and Wales total	35,674	38,114	42,547	43,742	39,643

⁽¹⁾ There are currently seven racially or religiously aggravated offence classifications within the recorded crime series. They are as follows: less serious wounding, harassment, assault without injury, criminal damage to a dwelling, criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling, criminal damage to a vehicle and other criminal damage.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080929/text/80929w0013.htm#0809294000108>

Lord Lester of Herne Hill asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5211]: Further to the Written Answer by the Lord President (Baroness Ashton of Upholland) on 22 July (WA 243), whether, in light of the race directive as interpreted by the European Court of Justice, it is appropriate and necessary to introduce amending legislation to allow the Equality and Human Rights Commission to bring enforcement proceedings where no identifiable victim has come forward, to tackle discriminatory practices directly and indirectly.

Reply from Baroness Ashton of Upholland: The Government's view is that our existing legislative framework is broadly compliant. If a similar situation as occurred in the European Court of Justice case of *Firma Feryn*¹ occurred in the UK, our wider domestic law provisions would provide suitable enforcement remedies for the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC).

In GB, the EHRC is empowered with various enforcement powers under the Race Relations Act 1976 and the Equality Act 2006 in respect of discriminatory advertisements, discriminatory practices and in circumstances where it thinks a person is likely to commit an unlawful act. We are considering how best to take

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

account of the full implications of the judgment in preparation of the forthcoming Equality Bill. The Bill will provide an opportunity to clarify the position in the context of wider harmonisation and simplification proposals.

¹ Case C-54/07 Centrum voor gelijkheid van kansen en voor racismebestrijding v Firma Feryn NV, 10 July 2008

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80929w0021.htm#0809152000021>

Press Release

World experts meet to discuss Freedom of Expression and Advocacy of Religious Hatred

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/WorldexpertsdiscussFreedomExpression.aspx>

New publication

Manifestations of Racism: Employment

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/fact%20sheet%20employment.pdf>

News

Famine song is racist, says Celtic chief Reid

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Famine-song-is--.4536298.jp>

'Racist' football song condemned

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/861304>

Armed racist Ellis Hammond's police links 'kept from court'

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article4882320.ece>

Chief speaks out on police racism

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7651605.stm>

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Other Holyrood

Committee

Justice Committee

Report on Inquiry into Community Policing

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/reports-08/jur08-18.htm>

Other Holyrood (continued) Parliamentary Motion

Hugh O'Donnell (S3M-2618): Eid Mubarak—That the Parliament sends warm greetings to Muslims across Scotland and around the world for the festival of Eid al-Fitr; joins them in honouring the promise of harmony, peace, health and prosperity enshrined in Eid al-Fitr; looks forward to religious diversity and freedom in all countries, and recognises the contribution of Muslim Scots to Scottish life and culture.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-30f.htm>

New publications

Recorded Crime in Scotland 2007-08

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/239682/0066121.pdf>

Long-Term Monitoring of Health Inequalities: First Report on headline Indicators

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/239359/0065955.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Ministerial Statements

Baroness Andrews (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government): My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Iain Wright) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Homes and Communities Agency as established in the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 will for the first time bring together in one agency housing and regeneration funding, public land and expertise to deliver decent, affordable housing and regenerate our communities by creating places where people choose to live. It will play a key role in turning our ambition to deliver 3 million new homes by 2020 into a reality.

As part of that role, I am today announcing that from 1 December 2008 the Homes and Communities Agency will take on responsibility for the Gypsy and Traveller site grant, which provides funding for the provision and refurbishment of Gypsy and Traveller sites. This approach will bring delivery of homes for Gypsies and Travellers into line with the arrangements for housing and accommodation delivery for the rest of the community. It reflects our determination to address the existing shortfall in accommodation for all in society, tackling the problems that can be caused by unauthorised camping and the poor life chances of Gypsies and Travellers themselves.

The HCA will be responsible for administering the Gypsy and Traveller site grant to meet ambitious but realistic targets for the delivery of pitches across England. Through its close relationship with local authorities and other delivery partners, the HCA will be well placed to step up the pace of delivery for the benefit of both Gypsies and Travellers and the settled community. This approach responds to the findings of the independent task group on site provision and enforcement, chaired by Sir Brian Briscoe, whose report issued in December found that the policy framework for site provision was sound, but that delivery was slow.

Other Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

Ministers will continue to have oversight of the programme, ensuring that it achieves the Government's objectives of meeting Gypsies' and Travellers' accommodation needs and supporting community cohesion. We will also be asking the HCA to recommend any changes to the programme for 2010-11 that may be necessary to improve delivery; £97 million was allocated for the grant through the CSR07 period, and funding for 2009-10 and 2010-11 will be transferred in full to the HCA on its establishment.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80929-wms0001.htm#0809153000011>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80929-wms0001.htm#0809153000011>

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice): Lord Laird tabled 34 Questions for Written Answer on human rights covering a number of government departments. Given the length of the answers to these Questions I am providing the information requested in this Statement. Each Question is referred to by means of the House of Lords number. A list of the Questions will be included as an annexe to the text of this Statement deposited in the Library.

The Government keep many areas of their policy under close review. While there may not at this time be specific proposals in relation to many of the specific areas cited in the Questions, continuous assessment of the effectiveness of policy in these areas is often being undertaken. It should not necessarily therefore be inferred from the current absence of such proposals that the Government may not at some future time nevertheless bring forward proposals.

To continue reading this extremely lengthy statement see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80929-wms0005.htm#0809291000002>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80929-wms0006.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80929-wms0007.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80929-wms0008.htm>

Prime Minister sends Rosh Hashanah greetings

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page17018>

PM's Eid al-Fitr message

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page17014>

Eid greeting from Hazel Blears

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/eid2008>

Other Westminster (continued) Parliamentary Questions

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4896]: What assessment they have made of levels of co-operation between police services, the UK Border Agency, and local authority social services concerning children thought to have been trafficked into the United Kingdom; and how they will improve such co-operation.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Local safeguarding children boards are the bodies which co-ordinate all safeguarding activity, including that designed to safeguard children at risk of being, or who have already been, trafficked. Some local and metropolitan authorities have already established trafficking sub-groups to promote best practice in co-operation between agencies. It is at this local level that relevant agencies come together to ensure their work is co-ordinated. The police and local authority children's services are already statutory members of local safeguarding children boards while the UK Border Agency is increasingly playing a proactive role working with LSCBs in key areas.

Multi-agency guidance, *Working Together to Safeguard Children who may have been Trafficked*, published in 2007, provides guidance to all relevant agencies which may come into contact with a trafficked child.

The Government's *Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking*, updated on 2 July 2008, provides the framework to ensure that interagency co-operation concerning trafficked children is effective. This includes the development of a national referral mechanism for child victims of trafficking. The plan contains a number of new actions to assist agencies to record cases of child trafficking to ensure they are afforded entitlements as required by the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

The police, local authorities, local safeguarding children boards, the UK Border Agency and the UK Human Trafficking Centre will all play a significant role in ensuring that the mechanism works effectively and that child victims are identified as early as possible and adequately safeguarded.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80929w0011.htm#0809014000094>

Lord Laird asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4850]: Whether they will consider a breakdown of the question on religion in the 2011 England and Wales census.

Reply from Lord Davies of Oldham: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, National Statistician, to Lord Laird, dated July 2008.

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Question asking for consideration of a breakdown of the question on religion in the 2011 England and Wales census [HL4850].

It is proposed that there will be a breakdown of the question on religion in the 2011 census similar to that of the question asked in the 2001 census.

Final decisions on the content of the 2011 census will not be made until the programme of consultation and question-testing is complete and formal approval is given by Parliament in 2010. A White Paper setting out the proposals for the 2011 census, including the wording of any religion question, is scheduled to be published towards the end of 2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80929w0004.htm#0809014000032>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Laird asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4818]: What are the figures by category for each of the national identity and religion questions in the 13 May 2007 England and Wales test census.

Reply from Lord Davies of Oldham: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, National Statistician, to Lord Laird, dated July 2008.

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Question asking for the figures by category for each of the national identity and religion questions in the 13 May 2007 England and Wales census test [HL4818].

The 2007 census test was a voluntary test carried out among 100,000 households in five local authorities, Bath and North East Somerset, Camden, Carmarthenshire, Liverpool and Stoke-on-Trent. The aims of the test were to: compare the effectiveness of hand delivery and post-out of questionnaires; assess the outsourcing of the recruitment, training and pay for the field force; assess the impact on response of the inclusion of an income question; and assess the quality of available address information.

The detailed responses to the questions included on the test questionnaires will, as in previous tests, be used only to evaluate the outcomes of the test in order to inform the final design of the 2011 census. We are not planning to release details of the responses to particular questions since these will have little statistical value for the following reasons:

the test covered only selected areas within the five local authorities, which were chosen primarily for field administrative purposes; response to the test was voluntary and varied considerably from area to area, with an overall return rate of 46 per cent; no adjustment for non-response bias has been made; no analysis of the multi-tick responses has yet been carried out; and no output processing measures to protect statistical confidentiality have been applied.

The results of the test are still being evaluated, and the reports of the evaluation, due for publication later this summer, will include some analysis of questionnaire responses, but only in so far as they address the objectives of the test.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80929w0004.htm#0809014000032>

David Ruffley [200244]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) males and (b) females aged (i) under 15, (ii) 15 to 24, (iii) 25 to 34, (iv) 35 to 44, (v) 45 to 54, (vi) 55 to 64 and (viii) over 65 years in each ethnic appearance category were registered on the national DNA database in each of the last five years.

Reply from Meg Hillier: Data on the number of males whose profiles have been added to the National DNA Database (NDNAD) by English and Welsh police forces, as at 16 July 2008, broken down by sex and the age groups requested, is shown in table 1. Equivalent data for females is given in table 2. Age is defined as the person's age at the time DNA was taken from them, not their current age. This data could only be further broken down to show which profiles were added in each of the last five years at disproportionate cost.

The number of profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. This is because a number of subject profiles on the NDNAD are replicates, that is, a profile for a person has been loaded to the NDNAD on more than one occasion. This may arise for a number of reasons, such as a person giving a different name on different occasions they are arrested, or because of upgrading of profiles. It is estimated that 13.3 per cent. of the subject profiles held on the entire NDNAD are replicates.

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Ethnic appearance is based on the judgment of the police officer taking the sample as to which of six broad ethnic appearance categories the person is considered to belong to. 'Unknown' means that no ethnic appearance information was recorded by the officer taking the sample.

To read the lengthy tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080929/text/80929w0009.htm#0809294000085>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080929/text/80929w0010.htm>

Lord Avebury asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4916]: How they consider the United Nations Human Rights Committee and the international community should deal with violations of human rights by the lower tiers of government in federal systems of government.

Reply from Lord Bach: When a federal state becomes party to a human rights treaty, all parts of that state are bound by its provisions. Article 50 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) states that "the provisions of the present Covenant shall extend to all parts of federal States without any limitations or exceptions".

The UN Human Rights Committee, set up to monitor adherence to the ICCPR, should deal with violations by all tiers of government in the same way. In advance of a state's examination, the committee selects five members of the committee to look into that state's record. Drawing on the periodic report prepared by the state under review, they are able to consult widely, including using the UN network of experts and special rapporteurs, to help determine a list of issues that will be put to the state as well as the questions that the committee will ask on the day of the examination. Non-governmental organisations are also able to feed their concerns in to the UN Human Rights Committee in advance of the oral examination.

In addition, when a state fails to comply with its obligations, other states can raise concerns in the UN Human Rights Council or in the UN General Assembly, either by making statements, formulating resolutions or calling for special sessions or action by special procedures.

A new innovation in the UN Human Rights Council is the creation of a universal periodic review which is a state-to-state peer review mechanism with every UN country's human rights record being examined over a four year period, on a rolling basis. This process has just started. The UK is aiming to ensure that all states participate actively in the process and use it as an opportunity to be self-critical about their own human rights record and commit to make improvements. It will take time and effort to build this system into a mechanism that can deliver real improvements in the human rights situation on the ground. However, the UK was one of the first to undergo the process and was therefore in a privileged position to be able to lead by example. We are now working with other states coming up for review to encourage them to engage positively in the process.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80929w0022.htm#0809152000029>

Other Westminster (continued) **Press Release**

UK Parliament Ministerial Appointments

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page17065>

New publication

House of Lords Annual Report 2007-2008

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbrieff/152/152.pdf>

News

Murphy 'to be Scottish Secretary'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7650343.stm>

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Other News

Sikh heritage trail moves ahead

<http://news.scotsman.com/edinburgh/Sikh-heritage-trail-moves-ahead.4544968.jp>

Effigies a lot flaming smaller

<http://news.scotsman.com/edinburgh/Effigies-a-lot-flaming-smaller.4540597.jp>

Muslims celebrate end of Ramadan

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7646011.stm

The 100 powerful black Britons who are changing the world

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/oct/05/britishidentity.race>

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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

Bill as passed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/06-JudiciaryCourts/b6bs3-aspassed.pdf>

Bills in Progress Holyrood (continued)

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>

Stage 1 consideration by the Equal Opportunities Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/or-08/eo08-1302.htm#Col609>

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-j.htm>

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

** *closes this week!*

Local Authority Performance Targets for Under Achieving Pupil Groups (concerns schools in England and Wales) (6 October 2008)

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/conSection.cfm?consultationId=1574&dId=913&sId=5504&numbering=1&itemNumber=1>

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

Forced Marriage Statutory Guidance (15 October 2008)

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/forcedmarriage-consultation>

Immigration appeals: Fair decisions, faster justice (16 October 2008)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/immigrationappeals/immigrationappealsconsultation?view=Binary>

Consultations (continued)

Strengthening the Common Travel Area (16 October 2008)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/strengtheningthecommontravelarea/travelareaconsultation?view=Binary>

Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) (Scotland) Bill (21 October 2008)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/inquiries/Offences/offencescall.htm>

No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility (22 October 2008)

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/welfarereform/noonewrittenoff/noonewrittenoff-complete.pdf>

Acquisition and Retention of DNA and Fingerprint Data in Scotland

(21 November 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/239066/0065846.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/online-surveys/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/online-surveys/religiouseducationinroman Catholicschools.asp>

The Modern Scottish Jury in Criminal Trials (11 December 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/238536/0065469.pdf>

**** Monitoring of Cross-border charities** (23 December 2008)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=6990ead9-bbfc-427d-9f8c-3f3495363092>

Appendix 1 <http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=0be569cc-6efc-45f9-9829-43a784b3c6b7>

Appendix 2 <http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=11a26977-b23e-4c67-b083-6e3bd00c2d90>

Patients' Rights Bill for users of the NHS in Scotland (16 January 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/238978/0065812.pdf>

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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

**** this week!**

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/migrationconferrece.shtml>

**** this week!**

Return and Rebuild

8 October 2008 in Glasgow (9.00 – 1.00)

International Organisation for Migration conference to provide information about the support available for those returning to Afghanistan and Iraq to rebuild or repair their family homes. For information contact John Hampsey 0141 5488114 /

jhampsey@iom.int

**** this week!**

Simplification, Sanctuary and Scotland

10 October 2008 in Glasgow (9.00 – 5.00)

Scottish Refugee Council conference to consider developments in UK asylum policy and their impact on asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland. For information contact Graeme Corbett 0141 223 7930 / graeme.corbett@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Scotland's Role - Turning Principles into Practice National Human Rights Institutions at the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

31 October 2008 in Glasgow (9.00-6.15)

Conference organised by the Centre for the Study of Human Rights Law, the University of Strathclyde, and the Scottish Human Rights Commission to consider how the newly instituted Scottish Human Rights Commission will in practice aim to root the principles of international human rights within the cultural and constitutional context of Scotland. For information see

see <http://www.law.strath.ac.uk/udhr60/> or contact cshrl@law.strath.ac.uk

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator Annual Conference

3 November 2008 in Carnoustie (9.15 – 2.30)

OSCR will report on its work over the past 12 months and its strategic and operational priorities for 2009. For information see

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=f0d64243-9ef7-4354-a89a-4e756d2680c2>

PAiH AGM

7 November 2008 in Glasgow (11.00 -)

For more information contact home@paih.org / 0141 353 2220

Leadership Development Day

12 November 2008 in Glasgow

Radar Disability Network training day designed to help disabled people and those with long-term health conditions realise their leadership potential and thus increase the number of disabled people in positions of leadership and influence around the UK. For information contact Judith Simpson Judith.Simpson@radar.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

St Andrew's Day anti-racism march and rally

29 November 2008 in Glasgow

March organised by the STUC to celebrate unity and challenge racism and fascism everywhere. For information see <http://www.stuc.org.uk/events/496/st-andrew-s-day-march-and-rally>

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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 Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism.

<http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>