

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-17187): To ask the Scottish Executive what representations it has made to the Migration Advisory Committee regarding the minimum threshold for low-skilled workers, such as Indian curry chefs, coming from outside the European Union.

Reply from Linda Fabiani: The Migration Advisory Committee's (MAC) remit is to provide advice on where shortages of skilled labour can sensibly be filled by migration from outside the European Economic Area. The Scottish Government has not made representations to the MAC on the issue of low skilled workers. In respect of skilled workers on the shortage occupation list, the First Minister wrote to the Home Secretary and Chair of the MAC on 20 October about the minimum salary level of £8.10 for skilled chefs.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1120.htm>

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-17188): To ask the Scottish Executive what representations it has made to the UK Government regarding the minimum threshold for low-skilled workers, such as Indian curry chefs, coming from outside the European Union.

Reply from Linda Fabiani: The Scottish Government has not made representations to the Home Secretary on the issue of low skilled workers. In respect of skilled workers on the shortage occupation list, the First Minister wrote to the Home Secretary who has responsibility for the UK Immigration System, on 20 October about the minimum salary level of £8.10 for skilled chefs.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1120.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-17189): To ask the Scottish Executive what discussions it has had with restaurateurs regarding the effect of the UK Government's new points-based immigration system

Reply from Linda Fabiani: The First Minister met with Enam Ali, the founder and organiser of the British Curry Awards, in January 2008.

In March 2008 officials discussed the points based system with restaurateurs at the evidence gathering event organised by the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC). Officials also met with representatives from the Bangladesh Samity in June 2008 to discuss concerns about recruiting skilled staff and engaging with the MAC.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1120.htm>

Christina McKelvie (S3W-17959): To ask the Scottish Executive how many adults in Scotland were charged under section 2 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004 for documentation offences in each year since 2005; how many of these were (a) found guilty and (b) given custodial sentences, and what impact this has had on police operations.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-11-19e.htm>

Christina McKelvie (S3W-17960): To ask the Scottish Executive how many unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Scotland were charged under section 2 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004 for documentation offences in each year since 2005; how many of these were (a) found guilty and (b) given custodial sentences, and what impact this has had on police operations.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-11-19e.htm>

Westminster Debate

Immigration (EAC Report)

Lord Wakeham rose to move, That this House takes note of the report of the Economic Affairs Committee, *The Economic Impact of Immigration* (First Report, HL Paper 82).

... I thank my colleagues on the committee for their work on our report. As has been the case with all the reports of the committee under successive chairmen, this report is evidence-based and entirely non-political, and was agreed by all members of the committee. I stress this point because the report proved to be controversial in some quarters. I thank also our excellent specialist adviser to this inquiry, Dr Martin Ruhs of Oxford University, as well as the successive clerks to the committee and their small team. In particular, I should mention Robert Graham-Harrison, now retired, who was the clerk for this and many previous reports.

Immigration has, of course, become a major issue in British politics. Net immigration—that is, immigration minus emigration—rose sharply in the past decade to record levels. In 2006, net immigration was running at around 190,000 a year, almost the equivalent of the population of Milton Keynes. Against this backdrop of high immigration, the Government have argued that immigrants bring large economic benefits to the UK. In particular, they argue that immigrants boost economic growth, fill jobs that Britons cannot or will not do and pay more tax than those born in the UK. However, the committee found no evidence of these large economic benefits. We did find serious flaws in the Government's arguments and we concluded that, on average, the economic benefits of immigration were small and close to zero.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81114-0005.htm#08111465000004>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Ministerial Statement

International Organization for Migration (Immunities and Privileges) Order 2008

Lord Bach (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice) rose to move, That the Grand Committee do report to the House that it has considered the International Organization for Migration (Immunities and Privileges) Order 2008.

The noble Lord said: The draft order will confer the legal capacities of a body corporate and privileges and immunities upon the International Organisation for Migration—the IOM. The draft order also confers privileges and immunities on representatives of the states parties, the director-general and officials of the organisation. These privileges and immunities are conferred in accordance with the co-operation agreement with the IOM which was signed on behalf of the United Kingdom on 6 July 2006.

The co-operation agreement between the UK and the IOM is similar to other agreements entered into by the UK with other international organisations having their headquarters or other offices in the UK—for example the International Maritime Organisation, the Commonwealth Secretariat or the North East Atlantic

Fisheries Commission. By conferring on the IOM the legal capacity of a body corporate, the order allows the IOM to have the legal capacity of a body corporate to assist with its day-to-day dealings in the UK—for example, to contract, acquire and dispose of immovable and moveable property and to institute legal proceedings.

The privileges and immunities to be accorded to the IOM and specified categories of individuals connected with the organisation are similar to those routinely granted to this type of international organisation with offices in the UK. The provisions in the order have been closely scrutinised by the relevant departments, such as Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, and have been considered by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments and the Merits Committee of this House. The privileges and immunities to be accorded to the IOM are the minimum necessary to enable the organisation to function effectively in the UK.

To continue reading the statement see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81117-gc0001.htm#081117300004>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5863]: What assessment they have made of the evidence collected by Waging Peace that suggests that some Darfuri asylum seekers who were interviewed in the redocumentation interviews in March and April 2007 had an active asylum claim at that time.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: I can confirm that all Darfuri asylum applicants interviewed for the purposes of redocumentation between March and April 2007 had received an initial adverse decision to their asylum application.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81117w0002.htm#08111719000026>

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5866]: What record was made of any disclaimers signed by Darfuri asylum seekers who were interviewed in the redocumentation interviews in March and April 2007, saying they agreed to be interviewed by the Sudanese official.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: No disclaimers were signed by Sudanese nationals taking part in the redocumentation interviews between March and April 2007. The applicants did, however, sign forms that contained the bio-data details necessary for their redocumentation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81117w0002.htm#08111719000026>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5864]: What constitutes a safe and secure environment for a redocumentation interview for asylum seekers, as mentioned in the letter of the chief executive of the UK Border Agency, Lin Homer, to Waging Peace on 26 September; and how they monitor the provision of such an environment.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: When an applicant is interviewed by a representative from an embassy or high commission, the United Kingdom Border Agency will endeavour to ensure that interviews are conducted in a private and secure location. Whenever possible interviews are conducted in the presence of a United Kingdom Border Agency official and, when required, an independent interpreter.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81117w0002.htm#08111719000026>

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5865]: What information was passed to the Sudanese official present in the redocumentation interviews of Darfuri asylum seekers in March and April 2007.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Disclosure of information during the period between March and April 2007 was limited to that necessary for the redocumentation process. This might include the transfer of basic information about the applicant's identity as well as fingerprints, photographs and any other documentary evidence that supports identity and nationality.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81117w0002.htm#08111719000026>

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6096]: To what extent measures to prevent the trafficking of people to and within Scotland differ from those in England; and whether any safe houses for victims of trafficking are available in Scotland.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The *UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking* is a document jointly published by the Home Office and the Scotland Government. The issues concerning trafficking are common across the UK. However, where there are Scottish specific actions—such as the need to minimise opportunities for trafficking for forced labour during the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games—the Scottish Government lead on efforts to tackle this (under the ambit of the UK action plan).

The TARA project based in Glasgow provides support to women who have been trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation. This project has access to a range of social housing providers and has recently received pilot funding from the Scottish Government to extend the service to other parts of Scotland.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81117w0002.htm#08111719000016>

James Clappison [233180]: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 765-6W, on foreign workers, what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the number of foreign workers in employment in the UK who are living in communal establishments.

Reply from Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on the number of foreign workers in employment in the UK living in communal establishments.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles its most timely employment statistics from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation definitions. Statistics for the number of foreign workers in employment living in communal establishments are not available from the LFS.

An alternative estimate of the number of jobs, known as Workforce Jobs, is available from surveys of businesses. As part of the reconciliation between the two sources, ONS has estimated the total number of workers living in communal establishments as 80,000, based on a pilot survey carried out in 2000. In addition, the number of temporary foreign workers not covered by the LFS has been estimated as 170,000, based on ONS experimental short term migration estimates. An estimate of the number of foreign workers living in communal establishments is not explicitly made.

ONS is undertaking a programme of work to test the feasibility of a communal establishments' survey. Part of the work programme will establish the content of the survey. One requirement for the survey, if feasible, will be to estimate the number of people in employment living in communal establishments.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081117/text/81117w0054.htm#08111833000015>

Damian Green [227553]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the evidential basis is for statements by Ministers in her Department that somebody is removed from the United Kingdom every eight minutes.

Reply from Phil Woolas: There were 63,365 removals, including voluntary departures, from the UK in 2007. As the UK Border Agency operates 24 hours a day and seven days a week this equates to a removal taking place, on average, every eight minutes

National Statistics on removals from the UK are published in table 6.1 of the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2007 bulletin. Copies of this publication 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/pdfs08/hosb1008.pdf>.

The removals figure includes enforced removals, persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls), persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration and persons who it has been established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

This figure is rounded to the nearest five and is provisional.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081118/text/81118w0015.htm#081118105000009>

John Barrett [221810]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children are held at Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre.

Reply from Phil Woolas: On 30 October 2008, there were two children with their mother in detention at Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre. Children are only ever held with their parents and normally spend no longer than 72 hours in the centre.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081118/text/81118w0015.htm#081118105000010>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Keith Vaz [207175]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) operations there were in (a) 2007 and (b) the last 10 years; what records her Department maintains on (i) the number of arrests made during BIA operations and (ii) the number of BIA operations which take place during which no arrests are made; what approval from whom is required for BIA operations; what notice an establishment receives before a BIA operation takes place on its premises; what the maximum number of times an establishment may be raided in a 12 month period is; what obligations there are upon the BIA to avoid unnecessary disruption of business activities during its operations; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Information on how many United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) operations there were in 2007 and in the last 10 years and details of records maintained on the number of arrests made during UKBA operations are set out in the following table.

<i>Operational activity</i>	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Total enforcement visits	11,884	14,443	15,512
Number of arrests made	12,363	11,522	10,750
Number of operations where no arrests made	⁽¹⁾ —	8,793	9,975
⁽¹⁾ Data not recorded prior to 2007-08			

Prior to April 2005 the UKBA did not produce regular reports on numbers of individuals arrested. The data provided are management information. They may be subject to change and do not represent published national statistics.

All UKBA operations are authorised in advance. Operations are grouped into three tiers (lower, middle and upper) and each tier is authorised at a different level. All UKBA operations are intelligence led. There is no limit on the number of times premises can be visited and the UKBA is under no obligation to avoid unnecessary disruption of the employer's business activities during its operations. Officers will always try to ensure that any disruption to members of the public during such operations is kept to a minimum.

Employers can work in co-operation with UKBA. However, in certain cases employers may be reluctant to assist UKBA officials in the identification of illegal workers. In these instances no notice is given and officers are advised to obtain a warrant in order to gain entry to the premises.

Chapter 31.5 of Enforcement Instructions and Guidance details the levels of authority for operations. Chapters 18.6 and 18.7 provide illegal working guidance. 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/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/enforcement/oemsectione>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081118/text/81118w0013.htm#081118105000002>

Meg Munn [235719]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans (a) she and (b) the UK Border Agency has to hold information sessions for hon. Members and their caseworkers on the points-based scoring system in locations other than London.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency held information sessions for MPs and their caseworkers on the points based system in London in July.

Two further events are planned in London on 19 November. Where there is a demand, the UK Border Agency will arrange further information sessions outside London.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081118/text/81118w0016.htm#081118105000019>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Frank Field [232203]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for further leave to remain have been received in each of the last 10 years; how many applications were granted; how many applicants came originally (a) for the purposes of work, (b) to study and (c) for other reasons; and for each category, how many dependants were brought to the UK.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following shows the number of applications made since January 2002, and of those how many were granted. This is the date from when fully electronic consideration and recording commenced. Prior to that paper based records were in use. The data is separated out by year, case type group and main/Dependant applications.

Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

Because of rounding, figures may not add up to total shown.

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

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081118/text/81118w0015.htm#08111810500011>

Damian Green [234787]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many universities, further education colleges and other educational institutions had applied for licences to sponsor foreign students by 1 October 2008.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The number of educational establishments which have applied for licences to sponsor foreign students under the points based system is 541. The breakdown is:

	<i>Number</i>
Universities	19
Further education colleges	169
Other educational establishments	353

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081118/text/81118w0016.htm#08111810500012>

Tom Brake [225195]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were applying for settlement in the UK under each employment route when the qualifying period for settlement was increased from four to five years in April 2006.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table shows the number of applications for settlement in the year prior to the qualifying period being increased (1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006) and in the year post the qualifying period being increased (1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007) broken down by each employment route.

The criteria includes main applicants only and excludes dependants.

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

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081118/text/81118w0016.htm#081118105001030>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Andrew Smith [235945]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether universities will be permitted to be licence holders for sponsored researchers under the points-based migration system.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Under the points-based system, sponsored researchers could come to the UK through the Tier 5: Temporary Workers—Government Authorised Exchange sub-category. The policy framework for this category requires an overarching body to act as sponsor of a scheme, as well as the support of a UK Government Department for the scheme and sponsor. Individual employers are not permitted to act as sponsors of migrants participating in schemes, and universities will not be permitted to become licensed sponsors under this category.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081118/text/81118w0016.htm#081118105000020>

Frank Field [236159]: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what, on the basis of the most recent population projections, is the level of immigration at which the population of the UK would remain below 70 million on unchanged assumptions about birth rates and mortality.

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

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question, regarding what, on the basis of the most recent population projections, is the level of immigration at which the population of the UK would remain below 70 million on unchanged assumptions about birth rates and mortality.

The information requested cannot be calculated directly from the latest national population projections published by the Office for National Statistics in October 2007. These projections included a principal (or central) projection, and a range of variant projections. The variant projections included a low migration variant and a zero migration (natural change only) variant.

In the principal projection, which assumes a long-term net inward flow of +190,000 persons a year, the population of the UK is projected to reach 70 million in 2028. In the low migration variant, which assumes a long-term net inward flow of +130,000 persons a year, the population of the UK is projected to reach 70 million in 2035. In the zero migration variant, which shows the effect of the principal assumptions of fertility and mortality in the absence of migration (or where migration inflows and outflows are equal at every age), the population of the UK is projected to reach almost 64 million in the year 2032 and then start to decline.

Assumptions for national population projections are conventionally expressed in terms of net migration (immigration less emigration) rather than for the gross flows separately. However, nominal immigration and emigration totals are used in the projection process mainly to enable plausible age distributions to be calculated for the assumed net migration totals. It is apparent from the 2006-based projections that a level of annual net inward migration, somewhere between zero and +130,000, could be assumed at which the population would remain below 70 million. However, there are a range of combinations of immigration and emigration levels which could achieve this outcome. For example, a lower level of immigration could be used than in the 2006-based projections but with no change to emigration. Alternatively, both immigration and emigration could be reduced. In practice, it is likely that lower levels of immigration than those experienced in recent years would, in time, lead to a reduction in the level of emigration as well.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081118/text/81118w0037.htm#0811193000096>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Alistair Carmichael [235996]: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he plans to make an announcement on the details of an alternative to detention for children at Dungavel.

Reply from Ann McKechnin: On Thursday 23 October my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced that the UK Borders Agency, working with the Scottish Government, Glasgow City Council the Scottish Refugee Council and other partners, is going ahead with an alternatives to detention pilot based in Glasgow. The pilot is due to commence in early 2009 and run for an initial 18-month period, although this will kept under review when the pilot commences.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081119/text/81119w0005.htm#08111989000047>

Jo Swinson [232797]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of detention period in Dungavel Detention Centre of (a) a family and (b) an individual, aged (i) under 18, (ii) under 16 and (iii) under 10 years old in each of the last three years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The average length of detention for a family in Dungavel House has remained at three days for 2006, 2007 and up until September for 2008.

The average length of detention for single detainees was 17 days in 2006, 23 days in 2007 and 27 days up until September 2008.

We do not have the data available in relation to age groups and to provide this would be at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081119/text/81119w0029.htm#08112012000017>

Dominic Grieve [232793]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) arrests and (b) convictions there were for human trafficking offences in each of the last five years.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: A total of 860 people were arrested under the Operations Pentameter 1 and 2.

Since the commencement of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (which came into force on 1 May 2004) to date, there have been 90 convictions for trafficking for sexual exploitation. Details of convictions by year are as follows:

	<i>Number of convictions</i>
2004	3
2005	21
2006	32
2007	23
2008	11

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081119/text/81119w0031.htm#08112012002255>

Dominic Grieve [232952]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how long victims of human trafficking may remain in the UK.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: There is no cap on how long a victim of human trafficking can remain in the UK. The length of stay is determined by the individual circumstances of the victim and is decided on a case by case basis.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081119/text/81119w0031.htm#08112012000024>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Dominic Grieve [232957]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there were for human trafficking for the purpose of (a) forced labour and (b) sexual exploitation in each of the last five years.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Since the commencement of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (which came into force on 1 May 2004) to date, there have been 90 convictions for trafficking for sexual exploitation. Details of convictions by year are as follows:

	<i>Number</i>
2004	3
2005	21
2006	32
2007	23
2008	11

In respect of trafficking for forced labour there have been a total of four convictions to date all of which were secured in 2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081119/text/81119w0031.htm#08112012000024>

Mike Hancock [235657]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to raise awareness of sex trafficking; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Alan Campbell: We have run a number of awareness campaigns with partners. Our approach focuses on the use of the UK Human Trafficking Centre 'Blue Blindfold' awareness campaign, which was launched in January 2008. This campaign has the key message that trafficking is in local communities in the UK and encourages the public to call Crimestoppers with any information. We have also run a targeted campaign aimed at the purchasers of sex about the level and nature of exploitation and trafficking involved in off street prostitution. All prevention material produced provides details of the bespoke Blue Blindfold website—www.blueblindfold.co.uk, which contains information on indicators of trafficking and dispelling myths about trafficking for sexual exploitation as well as providing contact details for local groups who wish to access the prevention material.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081119/text/81119w0031.htm#08112012000025>

Dominic Grieve [233200]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals for a tariff of mandatory minimum sentences for human trafficking offences.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: No. Sentencing guidelines issued by the Sentencing Guidelines Council provide adequate advice on sentencing for human trafficking cases, including aggravating and mitigating factors that can inform the judicial decision.

Courts are also guided by case law arising from Court of Appeal decisions on sentencing and the Attorney-General has the power to refer cases to the Court of Appeal where it is believed the sentence passed is unduly lenient.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081119/text/81119w0031.htm#08112012000026>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Dominic Grieve [232951]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made towards introducing a 45-day minimum recovery period for all victims of trafficking, as set out in the UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking 2007.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The 'Update to the UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking', published on 2 July, committed the Government to implement a 45-day reflection and recovery period before 1 April 2009. We are working with partners to finalise formal victim identification arrangements and the training associated with it and are on track to meet this deadline.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081119/text/81119w0031.htm#08112012000027>

David Ruffley [234670]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what access her Department has to the results of Criminal Records Bureau checks carried out in other EU member states; what arrangements are in place to ensure that all EU migrants are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check before commencing employment in the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Meg Hillier: There is no direct equivalent to the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) in other countries or EU member states. Each country operates its own arrangements for providing access to criminal record information and the CRB does not currently access overseas criminal records as part of its Disclosure Service.

The Disclosure Service is only available for those positions and types of work included in the Exceptions Order (1975) to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. The standard and enhanced disclosure process includes checks against the Police National Computer (PNC) and, if applicable, a search against Section 142 of the Education Act 2002, the Protection of Children Act and Protection of Vulnerable Adults (PoCA and PoVA) lists. Enhanced disclosures also contain a further check conducted by police forces for any relevant non-conviction information. All individuals who have received a successful offer of employment for a role which brings them into contact with children or vulnerable adults are subject to these checks irrespective of an applicant's nationality or length of residence in the United Kingdom.

The CRB introduced an overseas service in February 2003 to provide details and guidance to employers and individuals on how to obtain a certificate of good conduct or a copy of a person's own criminal record from those countries included in the overseas service.

This information can be used in conjunction with the full range of pre-appointment checks to ensure that the prospective employee is suitable for the post. These pre-appointment checks are the responsibility of the employer and a CRB disclosure is only one part of that process. Full details of this service are available on the CRB website at: www.crb.gov.uk/overseas.

Some countries also have arrangements enabling their citizens to obtain certificates of good conduct or extracts from any existing criminal record to show to prospective employers. These may be obtained once the prospective employees have arrived in the UK but it may be advisable for them to obtain the document before leaving their home country.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081119/text/81119w0032.htm#08112012000032>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Damian Green [208720]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 5-6WS, on the UK Border Agency detention estate that an immigration offender is removed from the United Kingdom every eight minutes, how many new arrivals refused entry to the UK at port are counted as removed immigration offenders.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Of the 63,140 removals from the UK in 2007 (which equates to one removal, on average, every eight minutes), 33,680 were persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed from the UK. The latter figure includes cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls, persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them and removals which have been performed by Immigration Officers at ports using enforcement powers. Figures are rounded to the nearest five and are provisional.

National Statistics on immigration and asylum 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>.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081119/text/81119w0032.htm#08112012000033>

Dominic Grieve [231631]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people the Government have been unable to deport in the last 12 months; and for what reason in each case.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not centrally collated and can only be obtained through the detailed examination of individual casefiles at disproportionate cost. The Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly provided the Home Affairs Committee with the most robust and accurate information available on the subject of foreign criminals and associated deportation action.

Having exceeded the Prime Minister's target of 4,000 deportations or removals of foreign prisoners in 2007, the Agency has now been set an even tougher target and aims to remove or deport more than 5,000 foreign prisoners in 2008. In the first six months of this year, the Agency had deported or removed nearly 2,500 which is a record performance, 22 per cent. higher than for the same period in 2007 and nearly 140 per cent. higher than in 2006.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081120/text/81120w0011.htm#08112075000035>

Dominic Grieve [233979]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons suspected of terrorism offences the Government has been unable to deport owing to (a) legal challenges and (b) an assessment that the individual concerned will be tortured if deported to the country of nationality in each year since 2001.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Foreign nationals suspected of involvement in terrorism are considered for deportation action. However, deportation action cannot be taken where it is concluded that removal would be contrary to our international obligations, in particular under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

The way in which individual immigration decisions are recorded and the timescales involved means it is not possible to provide a comprehensive reply of breakdown cases by year. However:

16 individuals were certified under part 4 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 as suspected international terrorists and were detained on the basis that their removal was prevented by a point of law which related wholly or partly to an

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

international agreement. One other person was also certified under part 4 but was detained under other powers. Those detained had the right to leave the UK at any time, two did so. Six have since been deported.

Since 2005, there have been 19 cases where deportation action on national security grounds was commenced, but was later discontinued because it was concluded that it would not be possible to demonstrate that removal would be in conformity with the UK's international obligations, including our obligations under article 3 ECHR. These cases are kept under review.

There are currently 11 cases where we are seeking to deport individuals on grounds of national security because of their suspected involvement in terrorism. These are at various stages in the appeals process. In a twelfth case, the appeal against the decision to deport was allowed by the Special Immigration Appeals Commission as it was not satisfied that the case for deportation on national security grounds had been made out.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081120/text/81120w0011.htm#08112075000037>

Dominic Grieve [232949]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government has considered the establishment of a system of guardianship for child victims of trafficking.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The Home Department does not believe a system of guardianship for child victims of trafficking would offer any extra value beyond what is currently provided by local authorities. Local authority children's services have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children including those that are thought to have been trafficked. Following an assessment of a child's circumstances and under section 20 of the Children Act 1989, a local authority has a duty to provide accommodation for them within its area if it considers that the child is in need of care. Using the powers in the Children Act 1989, where there is a risk to the life of the child or a likelihood of serious harm, the local authority or police are required to act quickly to secure the immediate safety of the child.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081120/text/81120w0012.htm#08112075000041>

Dominic Grieve [232953]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support system is in place for children who are victims of human trafficking.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Under the Children Acts of 1989 and 2004, it is the responsibility of local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of any separated child who is assessed to be at risk of harm and in need of accommodation. As separated children at risk of harm, trafficked children become the responsibility of local authorities as looked-after children. They also have access to legal advice, education, medical and psychological support. The Government's White Paper "Care Matters" and Children and Young Persons Bill currently in Parliament contain additional measures to strengthen the service provision and improve outcomes for all looked-after children even further.

In England, local safeguarding children boards co-ordinate safeguarding activity for children at risk of harm. Some local and metropolitan authorities have already established trafficking sub-groups to promote best practice and co-operation between agencies. On 7 December 2007, the Government published supplementary guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children who may have been Trafficked" which actively guides practitioners towards making appropriate decisions for safeguarding children they suspect may have been trafficked.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081120/text/81120w0012.htm#08112075000041>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Dominic Grieve [234733]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost per day of detaining an immigration offender in the immigration estate was in the latest period for which figures are available.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The estimated average cost of detaining an immigration offender in an immigration removal centre is £130 per day.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081120/text/81120w0012.htm#08112075000045>

Patrick Hall (237121): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of asylum seekers detained during 2007 were released on temporary admission.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81117w01.htm>

Patrick Hall (237042): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of asylum seekers who were detained during 2007 were subsequently released on temporary admission and then rearrested and detained.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81117w01.htm>

Neil Gerrard (237098): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, to which countries (a) failed asylum seekers and (b) other people subject to removal directions have been returned via chartered flights in the last six months; and how many such (i) flights and (ii) returnees to each country there have been.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81117w01.htm>

Paul Burstow (237282): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many immigration cases are awaiting resolution; and of those how many the UK Border Agency plans to resolve by (a) January 2009, (b) January 2010, (c) January 2011 and (d) January 2012.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81118w01.htm>

Ministerial Speech

Caroline Flint: Modern migration: the Polish experience

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=Speech&id=9449967>

Press Releases

Third quarter removals at a six year high

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

Points-based system - dates for submission of applications

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

Sponsorship management system passwords issued

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

Immigration in the EU27 in 2006 40% of immigrants who settled in the EU27 were citizens of EU27 Member States

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/08/162&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

Divided Parliament approves EU Blue Card system

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/socialeurope/divided-parliament-approves-eu-blue-card-system/article-177380>

Migration to Europe: a threat, or an opportune remedy to ageing of the population?

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1373497&Site=DC&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE>

New publications

Control of immigration: quarterly statistical summary, United Kingdom July 2008 – September 2008

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/immig308.pdf>

Dignity Across Borders

http://www.icmc.net/pdf/DIGNITY_ACROSS_BORDERS.pdf

Older Migrants and Access to health and long-term care

http://www.age-platform.org/EN/IMG/pdf_AGE_Health_and_Older_Migrants_FINAL.pdf

Working together: Trafficking in Women for sexual exploitation: Assistance and Prevention

http://www.womenlobby.org/SiteResources/data/MediaArchive/Publications/Working%20Together_Nordic%20Baltic%20Network%20publication.pdf

News

Eight held over human trafficking

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/northamptonshire/7735623.stm>

Translations cost NHS £20k

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Translations-cost-NHS-20k.4703476.jp>

Bride-to-be's mother refused entry to UK

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/11/19/newsstory12263021t0.asp>

Visa U-turn delights worried bride-to-be

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/11/20/newsstory12268492t0.asp>

Bolivian 'led breach of Scottish border'

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2469088.0.Bolivian_led_breach_of_Scottish_border.php

300,000 visas a year 'wrongly approved'

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2469089.0.300_000_visas_a_year_wrongly_approved.php

Net immigration increases as fewer leave UK

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/uk/Net-immigration-increases-as-fewer.4708265.jp>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Number of immigrants coming to UK falls but net level up

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2469376.0.Number_of_immigrants_coming_to_UK_falls_but_net_level_up.php

Asylum-seeker charities are just playing the system, says Woolas

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/nov/18/immigration-policy-health-politics>

Johnson ponders immigrant amnesty

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7743081.stm

Johnson examines amnesty for illegal immigrants

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2469863.0.Johnson_examines_amnesty_for_illegal_immigrants.php

Woolas plans to curb high court role in deportation cases

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/nov/21/phil-woolas-high-court-immigration>

Law firms help asylum-seekers submit fake claims

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/politics/lawandorder/3501476/Law-firms-help-asylum-seekers-submit-fake-claims.html>

'Asylum solicitors' should be punished

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2008/11/23/dl2302.xml>

Make immigrants legal - Cardinal

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7744556.stm>

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Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Lord Tebbit asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6147]: Further to the Written Answer by Baroness Andrews on 3 November (WA 17), whether, in order to grant Christianity equal status with other religions whose festivals were marked on the website of the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2007, they will mark the festival of Christmas in December 2008 with a suitable message.

Reply from Baroness Andrews: In 2008 we sent a goodwill message to Christian communities at Easter, and will mark Christmas with messages of goodwill in Christmas cards to all our stakeholders.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81120w0001.htm#08112052000012>

News

Bid to bring foreign cop in to police trouble area

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2468558.0.bid_to_bring_foreign_cop_in_to_police_trouble_area.php

Race Relations

News (continued)

Centre marks Ramadan end

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Centre-marks-Ramadan-end.4703447.jp>

Race and identity in 21st century Britain

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/race-and-identity-in-21st-century-britain-1023019.html>

From Punjab to Putney: the rise of British Sikhism

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article5207347.ece>

Young, black and British: The young men who refuse to bow to the stereotypes

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/this-britain/young-black-and-british-the-young-men-who-refuse-to-bow-to-the-stereotypes-1026040.html>

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Equality

Ministerial Statement

Jacqui Smith (Secretary of State for the Home Department): On 6 October, I asked the Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety to undertake an assessment of minority ethnic recruitment, retention and progression nationally across the police service. This assessment gave us the opportunity to consider the recent cases as well as look to the future of minority ethnic recruitment, retention and progression when current race employment targets for the police service, set in 1999, come to an end in 2009.

The assessment is now complete and I am grateful to the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the Association of Police Authorities (APA), police staff associations, the national police diversity staff support associations, the Post-Lawrence Project Group—including Doreen Lawrence—and others who contributed to this work.

The assessment confirms that the police service has come a long way and made good progress since the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry report (1999) by Sir William Macpherson and the Secret Policeman Programme (2003). Over the years we have seen positive changes in relation to race equality which have also benefited other minority groups. These positive changes have been due to the commitment of many police officers and police staff and prominent community members such as Doreen Lawrence and other independent chairs of the Post-Lawrence Project Groups. It is important to emphasise that we are not starting from “point zero” on equality. A lot has been achieved but we should not be complacent and recognise that we still have a lot to do.

Copies of the assessment paper will be placed in the Library of the House today.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081120/wmstext/81120m0001.htm#08112038000014>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Lord Ouseley asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6267]: Whether they will review the present regime for equality enforcement; and whether they will introduce new enforcement arrangements in the forthcoming Equality Bill.

Reply from Baroness Royall of Blaisdon: A full analysis of the way discrimination law is enforced in the courts and tribunals was undertaken as part of the discrimination law review. As a result, we are making a number of changes in the forthcoming Equality Bill, including:

allowing employment tribunals to make wider recommendations in discrimination cases, which will benefit the wider workforce and help to prevent similar types of discrimination occurring in the future; transferring disability discrimination school education cases in Scotland (including education cases relating to admissions and exclusions) to the Additional Support Needs Tribunals for Scotland, and; making provision for the use of expert assessors to advise judges in court cases involving discrimination across all the protected grounds.

In addition, if practical, we want to allow discrimination claims to be brought on multiple grounds. This is a complex area and we are exploring it further, including whether the legislation could be made to work in practice and what the costs and benefits would be.

The new single public sector equality duty will, like the current race, disability and gender equality duties, be enforced by the Commission for Equality and Human Rights or by judicial review.

We recognise that strong and effective enforcement is necessary to make a reality of legal rights. The changes that we are making in the Equality Bill will help us to tackle discriminatory policies and practices in a more systematic way.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81118w0001.htm#08111878000009>

Lord Ouseley asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6364]: Whether they promote the use of equality impact assessments in measuring and managing equality performance; and what role ethnic monitoring data play in contributions to accurate information gathering.

Reply from Baroness Andrews: The Government consider that equality impact assessments are essential if policies, programmes and services are to be designed and delivered in ways that promote equality. The Government consider that ethnic monitoring can be a valuable tool in helping to assess race equality outcomes.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81118w0001.htm#08111878000010>

Lord Sheikh asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6185]: How many black minority ethnic police officers have been recruited by each police force in each of the past five calendar years.

To read the lengthy table given in reply by Lord West of Spithead see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81119w0005.htm#08111985000033>

Press Release

REACH moves into the final stages of the search for role models to inspire Black Boys

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1061789>

Equality (continued) New publications

A methodological workshop on attitudes to equality in Scotland

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Documents/Equalities/attitudes_to_equality_Scotland.pdf

Equal pay reviews survey 2008

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Documents/Gender/Equalpayreviewssurvey.pdf>

The under-pensioned: disabled people and people from ethnic minorities

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Documents/Equalities/The%20under-pensioned%20disabled%20people%20and%20people%20from%20ethnic%20minorities%20-%20FINAL%2003%2011%2008.pdf>

News

Police ethnic recruitment lagging

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7739942.stm>

Ethnic recruitment to police drops by half in five years

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/ethnic-recruitment-to-police-drops-by-half-in-five-years-1031216.html>

Black and Asian jobseekers 'do not face discrimination'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/3503040/Black-and-Asian-jobseekers-do-not-face-discrimination.html>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-17191): To ask the Scottish Executive how many racially aggravated crimes have been reported in the last three years, broken down by police force.

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: The latest available information on the number of racially aggravated crimes recorded by the eight Scottish police forces covers financial year 2005-06. The number of these crimes, covering the period 2003-04 to 2005-06 and broken down by police force, is given in the following table.

Racially Aggravated Crimes Recorded by Police Force Area, 2003-04 and 2005-06

Police Force	Financial Year		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Central		402	575
Dumfries and Galloway	53	85	90
Fife	450	464	357

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Grampian	459	701	671
Lothian and Borders	781	913	1,306
Northern	172	215	143
Strathclyde	2351	2,620	2,892
Tayside	290	332	405
Total	4,556	5,732	6,439

Note: Central Scotland police force were unable to supply data for 2003-04. Please note that, as the 2003-04 data is only available for seven of the eight police forces, care must be taken when examining trends over time in the overall Scotland total.

It is expected that the numbers of crimes would have been affected by the implementation (from 1 April 2004) of the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS), which means that no corroborative evidence is required initially to record a crime related incident as a crime if so perceived by the victim. This was expected to increase the numbers of minor crimes recorded by the police, such as minor crimes of vandalism, minor assaults and breach of the peace.

This suggests that increases from 2003-04 to 2004-05 in the number of those crimes recorded as a part of a racist incident might have been affected by the new recording standard.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1117.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-18009): To ask the Scottish Executive how many of the 33 projects awarded funding from the Race, Religion and Refugee Integration Fund on 28 July 2008 are aimed at tackling sectarianism.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-11-21e.htm>

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

James Kelly (S3M-2893): **Show Racism the Red Card Activities in Rutherglen and Cambuslang**—That the Parliament congratulates the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Sports Council, Unison, Strathclyde Police Community Safety Team and the Active Schools coordinators on the recent Show Racism the Red Card football tournament held at the South Lanarkshire Lifestyle centre in Cambuslang and the Burnhill Sports Centre in Rutherglen; welcomes the ongoing efforts to tackle racism and to help children and young people recognise the diversity of cultures that makes up today's society, and wishes the organisers well in any future events to deliver the anti-racism message.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-11-17f.htm>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

David Davies [194980]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many claims for discrimination, based on (a) sex, (b) race and (c) sexual orientation, were brought by members of his Department and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years.

Reply from Gillian Merron: The information is as follows.

In 2003, there were no employment tribunal claims based on discrimination on grounds of sex, race or sexual orientation against the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

In 2004, there were two tribunal claims based on discrimination on grounds of sex and one on grounds of race brought against the FCO. The two sex claims were dismissed by the tribunal. The race claim was withdrawn. There were no claims based on sexual orientation.

In 2005, there were six tribunal claims based on discrimination on grounds of race brought against the FCO. The Home Office was a joint respondent in two of these. Two claims were dismissed by the tribunal. Four were settled out of court. There were no claims based on discrimination on sex or sexual orientation.

In 2006, there were five tribunal claims based on discrimination on grounds of race that included one joint sex/race claim brought against the FCO. The tribunal dismissed all five race claims and ruled that it did not have territorial jurisdiction to hear the sex discrimination claim. There were no claims based on discrimination on sexual orientation.

In 2007, there was one claim based on discrimination on the grounds of sex and one joint claim based on discrimination on grounds of sex and race brought against the FCO. The sex claim was settled out of court. The joint sex/race claim was dismissed by the tribunal. There were no claims based on discrimination on sexual orientation.

To date in 2008, there have been two tribunal claims based on discrimination on grounds of race brought against the FCO. Both claims were withdrawn. There have been no claims based on discrimination on grounds of sex or sexual orientation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081117/text/81117w0045.htm#08111823000034>

Lord Ouseley asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6224]: Whether they intend to take positive action to tackle any institutional racism in the United Kingdom's political bodies.

Reply from Baroness Royall of Blaisdon: The Government intend to use the forthcoming Equality Bill to broaden the range of voluntary positive action measures which can be taken to the full extent allowed by European law. The Bill will allow political parties to take a wider range of actions in relation to matters regarding their constitution, organisation and administration, including:

carrying out an audit of political party membership to identify the proportion of members from under-represented groups and identify where gaps are present; setting targets for recruitment drives; carrying out general and specific or targeted recruitment drives; running mentoring and leadership programmes; setting targets for increasing the proportion of politicians and staff from under-represented groups; and establishing and supporting in-house forums for under-represented groups.

Further, on 12 November the House of Commons agreed to establish a Speaker's Conference which will consider, and make recommendations for rectifying, the disparity between the representation of women and ethnic minorities and disabled people in the House of Commons and their representation in the UK population at large. This will be an important platform to discuss the action needed and we look forward to the findings of the conference.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81119w0006.htm#08111985000036>

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Mr. Amess [235692]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which Jewish cemeteries in England and Wales have been desecrated in the last two years; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Bridget Prentice: This information is not recorded centrally. However we have been told by the Community Security Trust charity that they received reports of nine incidents of desecration of Jewish cemeteries in the United Kingdom in 2006 and six in 2007. For reasons of security and confidentiality they feel it would be inappropriate to make public details of the sites concerned.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081118/text/81118w0020.htm#08111811000022>

David Kidney [237916]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will assess the extent of inter-communal discrimination against Dalit people living in the UK.

Reply from Sadiq Khan: The Department for Communities and Local Government has conducted, with stakeholders, an informal scoping exercise to learn more about the extent to which some communities believe caste is a continuing social phenomenon within British society and to identify any evidence that individuals have been discriminated against on these grounds. We are currently in the process of assessing responses received.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081120/text/81120w0018.htm#08112075000114>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Stephen Pound (2529) **Press Complaints Commission and Giles Coren** – That this House notes with great sadness the decision of the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) to refuse to take action in the case of Giles Coren's article of 26th July 2008 published in The Times and supports the Association of the Foundation of Poles in Great Britain that the use of offensive words such as 'polack' and the statement that Poles '...used to amuse themselves at Easter by locking Jews in the synagogue and setting fire to it' should most certainly be condemned and fall within the remit of the PCC; and, while saluting the dignified response of Her Excellency the Polish Ambassador, acknowledges the great pain and distress caused by this article to the Polish community in the UK and beyond.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/81119e01.htm>

Press Release

Young people have a 1 in 4 chance of being bullied because of their faith

<http://www.beatbullying.org/>

New publications

Fighting Racism and Promoting Equal Rights in Education and Training

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/GPP%20No%205%20Education%20-%20EN%20final%20and%20adopted.pdf>

Racism and Religious Hatred New Publications (continued)

Beatbullying Interfaith Report

<http://www.beatbullying.org/pdfs/Interfaith%20Report.pdf>

News

One in four children hit by faith-based bullying

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/2008/11/17/one-in-four-children-hit-by-faith-based-bullying-86908-20901658/>

Hospital racist given jail term

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside_and_central/7735971.stm

Downturn blamed for racism rise

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/highlands_and_islands/7735082.stm

BNP members held over leafleting

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/merseyside/7744332.stm>

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Other Holyrood

Debate

Identity Cards

Fergus Ewing (Minister for Community Safety): I welcome today's debate. It allows us to discuss the United Kingdom Government's plans on ID cards, and it enables me to make quite clear where the Scottish Government stands on the issue. The debate is timely because, earlier this month, the Home Office announced how it will start to implement its plans for ID cards. It also released its latest cost projections for its ID scheme. The Scottish Government is extremely concerned about the costs of the scheme. In the current financial climate, the UK Government should have better use for the vast sums of money being spent on the scheme.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor1119-02.htm#Col12499>

Committee

Audit Committee

"Living and Dying Well: A national action plan for palliative and end of life care in Scotland"

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/audit/or-08/au08-1602.htm#Col718>

Other Holyrood (continued) Parliamentary Questions

Cathy Jamieson (S3W-17941): To ask the Scottish Executive which local authorities have applied for funding to create and improve Gypsy/Traveller sites since May 2007.
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-11-19e.htm>

Cathy Jamieson (S3W-17942): To ask the Scottish Executive what priority will be given to applicants for funding for Gypsy/Traveller sites in local authority areas that have residential or transit sites.
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-11-19e.htm>

Cathy Jamieson (S3W-17943): To ask the Scottish Executive when it next expects local authorities to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies/Travellers in their areas.
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-11-19e.htm>

Cathy Jamieson (S3W-18004): To ask the Scottish Executive what priority will be given to applicants for funding for Gypsy/Traveller sites in local authority areas that do not have residential or transit sites.
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-11-21e.htm>

New publications

Revised guidance on spiritual care in the NHS in Scotland
http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2008_49.pdf

Use of Longitudinal Research in the Evaluation of the Scottish Government's National Outcomes
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/245341/0069121.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Debates

Health: Donor organs (EUC Report)

Baroness Howarth of Breckland rose to move, That this House takes note of the report of the European Union Committee, *Increasing the Supply of Donor Organs within the European Union* (17th Report, HL Paper 123).

The noble Baroness said: My Lords, a couple of weeks ago, I spent the weekend with a super group of children and their families where one child in each family had a serious heart condition. Many have hypoplastic left heart syndrome—they were born with half a heart—and, unless there is a miracle development in mechanical devices in the next few years, most will need transplants. They will then be competing with all those already on waiting lists and matches will have to be found in wider Europe—all that will happen in a very short time. Less than 20 years ago, such children did not survive at all. We have a responsibility, having got them this far, to ensure that they can look forward to full lives. Therefore, in introducing this debate, I declare an interest as patron and trustee of Little Hearts Matter. Although much of what I will say will be about policy and structures, let us not for a moment forget in this debate the human story behind every transplant.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81114-0001.htm#08111465000003>

Other Westminster Debates (continued)

Dawn Primarolo (Minister of State, Department of Health): Welcome to the Chair, Miss Begg. Just over 40 years ago, the surgeon Christiaan Barnard performed the first heart transplant on a human. The 55-year-old recipient survived for only 18 days, but the operation was an important medical milestone, showing that transplant surgery was a viable procedure for patients with organ failure. Since then, surgical techniques have moved on enormously in terms of both the range of transplants performed and their success rate. Today, transplant surgery helps thousands of desperately ill patients every year, giving them a new lease of life and new hope for the future against all odds. However, the impact that this miracle of medical science can bring to patients' lives is limited by the fact that the demand for organs far exceeds the supply. Currently, 8,000 patients are on the waiting list for transplants. Of those, 3,000 will eventually receive surgery, but 1,000 will die while waiting for organs to become available and thousands face a long and uncertain future.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081120/halltext/81120h0001.htm#08112070000001>

Ministerial Statement

Organ donation taskforce

Alan Johnson (Secretary of State for Health): On 20 September 2007, I announced that I had asked the organ donation taskforce to look at the complex issue of an opt-out or presumed consent system of organ donation.

The taskforce's terms of reference were:

"To examine the potential impact on organ donation of introducing an 'opt-out' or presumed consent system in the UK, having regard to the views of the public and stakeholders on the clinical, ethical, legal and societal issues, and publish its findings"

The taskforce is today publishing its report "The potential impact of an opt-out system in the UK". The report has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members in the Vote Office.

I am grateful to the chair of the taskforce, Mrs Elisabeth Buggins, and all the members for their careful and thorough examination of this subject and for producing such an authoritative piece of work. The taskforce has presented a cogent and well-balanced analysis of a substantial body of evidence drawn from a wide range of stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, organ recipients, donor families, representatives of faith and belief groups, and members of the public.

The taskforce has concluded that introducing an opt out system in the UK at the present time, whilst having the potential to deliver benefits, would present significant challenges on a number of fronts, and may not be necessary to deliver the improvement in donation rates we all want to see. The taskforce has therefore recommended not changing to an opt-out system at this time, but monitoring progress of implementing the recommendations of the taskforce's first report.

The taskforce has given a clear indication that donation rates can be optimised successfully without a change in the legal framework. I therefore accept its recommendation that we should aim to raise donation rates without the added complications associated with a change in legislation, only revisiting the question of a change to opt-out if the implementation of those recommendations does not deliver the projected increase in donations.

However, I want to see more progress more quickly, to ensure that UK patients have the best possible chance of getting the treatment they need. I have therefore set a further

Other Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

challenge as part of the implementation of the taskforce's second report. I would like to see 20 million people registered on the organ donor register by 2010 working towards 25 million on the register by 2013.

I also want to see our donor rates match those in many parts of Europe and rise to 1,400 donors per year by March 2013—nearly twice current levels. On average each donor can help three people in need, so this could mean an extra 1,800 people get the chance of the transplant they so desperately need.

To support this, in addition to the extra £11 million made available this year to implement the taskforce's first report we have made £4.5 million extra funding available over the two years 2008-10 for a major multimedia campaign from March 2009 to make people aware of the importance of organ donation, with further funding agreed for future years.

However, it is not all about money or setting Government targets. Achieving these ambitious aims will require not only the support of Government and the NHS, but also widespread public support. We as a society need to change the way we view organ donation. Professionals can play their part by ensuring that all potential donors are identified and donation is discussed at the right time with families. Most importantly, we all need to talk about donation with our family and friends, make our wishes known and register on the organ donor register. We may then all give someone the opportunity to benefit from a transplant after our death.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081117/wmstext/81117m0001.htm#08111712000006>

Parliamentary Questions

Julie Morgan [236265]: What progress has been made in increasing site provision for Gypsy and Traveller families.

Reply from Sadiq Khan: Between 2006 and 2008, the Government have awarded grants to provide more than 400 additional socially rented pitches, and 120 sites have been refurbished. The timetable for allocating suitable land for Gypsy and Traveller sites is set out in local authorities' local development schemes. However, where there is a clear and pressing need, work should begin now on identifying land for sites.

Julie Morgan: I thank my hon. Friend for that reply and congratulate the Government on their initiative in trying to provide an adequate number of Gypsy and Traveller sites. Does he believe that there is a net increase in the number of pitches being provided? In some situations, refurbishment leads to a reduction in the number of pitches because it expands the size of individual pitches. Does he feel that there is an expansion in the number of pitches that are being provided by local authorities at the moment?

Reply from Sadiq Khan: I congratulate my hon. Friend; as chair of the all-party group on Gypsy and Traveller law reform, she has been the catalyst for much of the progress that has been made. She raises a serious point about whether, in our enthusiasm for investing in refurbishment and providing additional pitches, some may be lost in other parts of the country. The important point for local communities and local authorities to recognise is the benefit that the provision of well-managed, authorised sites can offer. They help to reduce the number of unauthorised sites and mean that there are more levers at the disposal of local authorities when it comes to removing unauthorised sites. We will ensure that we encourage local authorities to continue to provide additional pitches and to refurbish those pitches that are already in existence, as they should do.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081118/debtext/81118-0002.htm#08111874000020>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Avebury asked Her Majesty's Government [HL6333]: How many pitches there were on local authority Gypsy and Traveller sites in England and Wales in May 1997; and how many there were on the latest date for which figures are available.

Reply from Baroness Andrews: In January 1997, the biannual count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans found that there were 5,438 pitches on local authority sites in England, accommodating 6,324 caravans. In January 2008, there were 4,902 pitches on local authority sites accommodating 6,696 caravans.

The Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for the caravan count in Wales.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81119w0003.htm#08111985000020>

Mike Penning [234592]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many mosques (a) were registered and (b) had applied for registration to perform joint civil and religious marriage ceremonies at the most recent date for which figures are available.

Reply from Meg Hillier: The Places of Worship Registration Act 1855 provides for places of religious worship, except those of the established Church, to be certified to the Registrar General. A building has to be certified as a place of religious worship before it can be registered for marriages by the Registrar General under the Marriage Act 1949.

The total number of buildings currently recorded by the Registrar General as certified places of meeting for religious worship by those professing the Muslim religion in England and Wales is 809. Of those 159 buildings are registered for marriage.

The Marriage Act draws a distinction between civil and religious marriages. Where a marriage is conducted in a registered building it may be solemnized according to such form and ceremony as the persons contracting the marriage see fit to adopt. Civil marriages may only take place in a register office or other building approved for that purpose by the local authority in which it is situated.

The register of buildings registered for marriage is not held in a format that can provide the total number of applications since the 1855 Act was implemented.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081118/text/81118w0017.htm#081118105000022>

Press Releases

Hajj pilgrims urged to be wary of scams

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=385028&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=False>

New rules to protect exploited women

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/tough-action-protect-women>

New publications

The potential impact of an opt out system for organ donation in the UK

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_090312?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=177202&Rendition=Web

Tackling the demand for prostitution: a review

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/tackling-demand?view=Binary>

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New Publication

European Commission Legislative and Work Programme 2009

http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/docs/clwp2009_en.pdf

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Other News

Range of Muslim views not represented in media, says Dorothy Byrne

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2008/nov/20/raceandreligion-channel4>

Diplomats dash to rescue 15-year-old British girl from threat of forced marriage in Pakistan

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/pakistan/3501442/Diplomats-dash-to-rescue-15-year-old-British-girl-from-threat-of-forced-marriage-in-Pakistan.html>

A new weapon in the fight against forced marriage

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2008/11/23/do2309.xml>

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Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Education (Additional Support for Learning) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/16-EdAddSup/index.htm>

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

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

Health and Sport Committee: Stage 1 evidence from the NHS, Electoral Commission, Society of Local Authority Chief Executives, and the Association of Electoral Administrations

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/or-08/he08-2702.htm#Col1262>

Finance Committee Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/finance/reports-08/fir08-health-boards-bill-fm.htm>

**** Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill**

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

Equal Opportunities Committee: Stage 1 evidence from CARE for Scotland, the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Evangelical Alliance, Help the Aged, and UNISON

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/or-08/eo08-1602.htm#Col708>

Bills in Progress

Holyrood (continued)

**** Sexual Offences Bill**

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

Justice Committee: Stage 1 evidence from ACPOS, Dundee, Edinburgh, and Glasgow Universities, the Scottish Law Commission, the Law Society of Scotland, and the Faculty of Advocates

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/or-08/ju08-2802.htm#Col1333>

Subordinate Legislation Committee: Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/subleg/reports-08/sur08-SexualOffencesBill.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/093/amend/ml093-i.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/096/amend/am096-a.1-2.html>

House of Lords consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81117-0002.htm#0811175000006>

House of Commons consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081119/debtext/81119-0004.htm#08111982000007>

House of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/168/2008168.pdf>

Explanatory Notes to House of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/168/en/2008168en.pdf>

House of Commons Amendments and Reasons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/096/2008096.pdf>

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

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

**** Draft (Partial) Immigration and Citizenship Bill**

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm73/7373/7373.pdf>

Written evidence submitted to the Home Affairs Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmhaff/memo/1130/migration/ucmemo.htm>

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Consultations (closing date)

**** New or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

UK Equality Bill (25 November 2008)

The Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee will take evidence from Vera Baird QC MP, Solicitor General, on the UK Equality Bill and its implications for Scotland, on 2 December 2008. The Bill, which is expected to be introduced to the UK Parliament shortly, aims to “strengthen protection, advance equality and declutter the law”.

The Committee recognises that there is widespread interest in the Bill, and is keen to give key stakeholders an opportunity to submit questions for the Solicitor General. Send questions to equal.opportunities@scottish.parliament.uk by 25 November, keeping them as brief as possible. Note that the Committee cannot guarantee that all questions submitted will be asked.

**** closes this week!**

Religious and Moral Education (30 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/online-surveys/religiousandmoraleducation.asp>

**** closes this week!**

Religious Education in Roman Catholic Schools (30 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>

Health in our Multi-ethnic Scotland: Future Research Priorities

(8 December 2008)

<http://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/8248-Report%20-%20Health%20in%20our%20Multi-ethnic%20Scotland.pdf>

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

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

Adoptions with a Foreign Element Regulations 2009 (19 December 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/240124/0066276.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>

**** Discussion paper: Coverage of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002**

(12 January 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/925/0069128.pdf>

Consultations (continued)

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

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

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Strategic plan, Equality Scheme and Grants Programme (7 December)

Consultation guides

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/policyresearch/consultations/pages/consultation08.aspx>

online consultation <http://equalityhumanrights.dialoguebydesign.net/>

UK Border Agency race, disability and gender equality scheme, 2009 to 2010

(28 January 2009)

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/workingforus/racedisability_genderscheme/

**** Identity Cards Act secondary legislation** (13 February 2009)

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/downloads/NIS_Legislation.pdf

**** Proposed Palliative Care Bill** (28 February 2009)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/MembersBills/pdfs/PalliativeCareConsultation.pdf>

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Job Opportunities

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** this week!**

Statutory Review and Reconsideration Orders: Access to Justice for Asylum Seekers

24 November 2008 in Glasgow (9.30-4.00)

Training event organised jointly by the Glasgow Immigration Practitioners' Group, Scottish Refugee Council, and the Murray Stable. For more information see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/GILPA_Training_Event or contact train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** this week!**

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>

Events/Consultations/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

Scottish Muslim Futures

30 November 2008 in Glasgow (10.00 – 7.00)

Scottish Islamic Foundation conference to provide a forum for discussion on the present condition of the Muslim community and its future. For information see http://scottishislamic.org/images/events/061108180115_file_01.pdf or contact 0141 890 1120.

Discrimination Law Update

9 December 2008 in Glasgow (10.00 – 1.00)

Legal Services Agency seminar to provide an awareness and understanding of the up-to-date changes in discrimination law, consider the impact of these changes and how to apply those changes in the workplace, and consider any forthcoming changes to the law. For information see <http://www.lsa.org.uk/discriminationlawupdate.aspx> or contact 0141 353 3354.

**** Child Trafficking and the UK**

8 December 2008 in Glasgow (9.30 – 12.40)

Legal Services Agency Seminar to present recent research on child trafficking in Glasgow, discuss specialist services in respect of child trafficking which already exist in the UK, and discuss issues around, age assessment, guardianship, legal safeguards and learning from services for adult survivors of trafficking. For information see <http://www.lsa.org.uk/childtraffickingtheuk.aspx> or phone 0141 353 3354.

Scottish Refugee Council AGM

15 January 2009 in Glasgow

For information contact Graeme Corbett 0141 248 9799 / graeme.corbett@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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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/>

Useful Links (continued)

Equality and Human Rights Commission

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

Scotland Helpline 0845 604 5510

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/>