

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with **BEMIS**.*

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

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

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

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Angela Constance: Women with insecure immigration status who are fleeing violence are unable to access public funds, which pay for refuge accommodation and support, so will the First Minister state whether the Scottish Government is able, within its powers, to offer financial support? Will he make representations to the Home Office to exempt women who are fleeing violence from the no-recourse-to-public-funds rule?

Reply from the First Minister (Alex Salmond): We will continue to work with the Home Office to implement the new scheme, which was announced earlier this year by Vernon Coaker, a Home Office minister, to provide women on a spousal visa who have no recourse to public funds with a contribution to housing and living costs of up to £1,000. The Government has set up a working group to look at the matter further and it will report to ministers when that scheme is in operation.

It is true that, under the devolved settlement, the Scottish Government cannot go beyond the remit of the Home Office, but we will continue to engage with the Home Office and ensure that the views of this Parliament are put forward to protect many vulnerable women.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor1204-02.htm#Col13102>

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-18292): To ask the Scottish Executive how many children of asylum seekers have been enrolled in higher education in each year since 1999.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-12-01e.htm>

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Dominic Grieve [232956]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the convictions for human trafficking offences in each of the last five years led to (a) a custodial sentence of more than one year, (b) a custodial sentence of less than one year, (c) a community sentence and (d) a fine.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Of the 90 convictions for human trafficking to date 80 have attracted a sentence of more than one year, four have attracted a sentence of one year or less and five are awaiting sentence. In one case the conviction resulted in a suspended sentence.

Information from the UKHTC indicate there have been no cases which resulted in a community sentence or a fine.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081126/text/81126w0045.htm#0811281000079>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Bob Spink (24): **Immigration Policy** – That this House believes that, whilst visitors should be welcomed to our shores, immigration is a valid area of public policy and should be addressed calmly and honestly; notes that immigrants are generally decent and hard working people, but further believes that failure to openly address this issue damages race relations; further notes that net immigration far exceeds Government predictions, having reached a quarter of a million a year without allowing for unrecorded immigration from EU countries; further notes that this has added a million to the UK's population in the last few years and, unless checked, will increase the population to 70 million much earlier than the Government's estimate of 2028; believes that public finances, services, housing provision and infrastructure are under tremendous pressure from this rapid and unsustainable increase; notes also that one million additional EU immigrants have been employed in Britain over the last few years while the unemployment of British citizens continues to rise rapidly; and therefore calls on the Government to review its policies on EU immigration and, to quote the Prime Minister, 'do whatever it takes', even if this means changing Britain's relationship with the EU.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/81203e01.htm>

Press Release

Putting the asylum seekers at the heart of a human and fair procedure: the EU Commission proposes to modify the Common European Asylum System

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1875&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

New publications

Borders, Immigration and Citizenship Bill

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

World Migration 2008: Managing Labour Mobility in the Evolving Global Economy

<http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1674?entryId=20275>

News

English course for immigrants to be expanded

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/964174>

Immigrant victims of domestic violence turned away from refuges

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/12/04/exclusive-immigrant-victims-of-domestic-violence-turned-away-from-refuges-86908-20944695/>

Phil Woolas: You Ask The Questions

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/profiles/phil-woolas-you-ask-the-questions-1042756.html>

Violent men don't care about visas

http://www.sundayherald.com/oped/opinion/display.var.2473540.0.violent_men_dont_care_about_visas.php

UK expels 5,000 Congo refugees

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-expels-5000-congo-refugees-1055695.html>

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Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Question

David Burrowes [238859]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which religions HM Prison Service recognises.

Reply from Shahid Malik: The Prison Service facilitates the practice of a wide range of religions and denominations. Longstanding Prison Service policy has been not to recognise Scientology, Nation of Islam, or Rastafarianism for the purposes of facilitating religious ministry in prison. All prisoners have the opportunity to register their religious affiliation and to practise within the constraints of good order and discipline.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081126/text/81126w0045.htm#0811281000077>

Race Relations (continued) **Press Releases**

Strathclyde Police Muslim Association

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/12/03141017>

New citizenship classes for mosque schools

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1085869>

New publications

Right to Divide? Faith Schools and Community Cohesion

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/Summaries/RightToDivide-Summary.pdf>

BAKU Declaration: Intercultural dialogue as a basis for peace and sustainable development in Europe and its neighbouring regions

http://www.coe.int/t/DC/Files/Source/20081203_decl_final_en.doc

News

New group for Muslim police staff

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7761366.stm

Faith schools are urged to open doors to all religions

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Faith-schools-are-urged-.4760812.jp>

Study challenges claims of Islamic extremism among students

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2008/dec/03/student-politics-islamic-radicals-cambridge>

Muslim prayer rooms should be opened in Catholic schools, say church leaders

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1091218/Muslim-prayer-rooms-opened-Catholic-schools-say-church-leaders.html?ITO=1490>

Should faith schools admit children of a different religion?

<http://timesonline.typepad.com/schoolgate/2008/12/should-faith-sc.html>

Europe's Islam question

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2008/dec/04/religion-islam-europe>

Winding up of integration groups makes policy weaker

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2008/1128/1227825379426.html>

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Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Cathy Jamieson (S3W-18275): To ask the Scottish Executive when it intends to publish a statement on race equality.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-12-01e.htm>

Press Releases

Harman: Equality Bill confirmed in legislative programme

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/news/prpage22.htm>

National Black role model launch

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1083441>

Civil servants celebrate diversity

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2008/081203_diversity.aspx

New publications

REACH National Role Models biographies

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1084715.pdf>

Equality in Action

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/pdf/news/ezine08_en.pdf

News

Commission welcomes 'ambitious' Bill on fairness

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

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Jamie Hepburn (S3M-3022): **European Parliament Committee's Concern at Human Rights Abuses**—That the Parliament shares the concern expressed by the European Parliament's Civil Liberties Committee that there has been a high number of fundamental rights violations in the European Union in recent years, including instances of serious discrimination against minorities and threats to privacy; notes the committee's concern that its previous recommendations on CIA activities in the EU have not been implemented, and calls on EU institutions and members states to redouble their efforts to ensure that the fundamental human rights of people living in the EU are respected and upheld at all times.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-12-04f.htm>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) Westminster Early Day Motion

Andrew Dismore (83): World conference against racism – That this House notes that the 2001 World Conference Against Racism held in Durban produced unprecedented levels of anti-semitism and anti-Zionism under the banner of the United Nations; notes that a follow-up Review Conference will be held in April 2009; recalls that the Government has publicly pledged to withdraw from the Review process if there is a repetition of the anti-semitism experienced at the 2001 Conference; further notes that Israel and Canada have already withdrawn their participation from the conference; expresses concern that the draft working document produced at the October 2008 Preparatory Committee Meeting of the Durban Review Process contains unacceptable text accusing Israel of committing genocide and apartheid while no other country is singled out for mention, language that downplays the importance of tackling anti-semitism and passages that seek to curtail freedom of expression in order to protect religion from criticism; commends continuing efforts by UK diplomats to negotiate a fair and legitimate Declaration for the conference; and calls on the Government to withdraw from the Durban Review Process if the final Declaration is not acceptable.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/81203e01.htm>

Press Releases

Joint statement of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency and the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights on the Durban review conference

http://fra.europa.eu/fra/material/pub/speeches/JointStat-Durban-Review-conf-051208_en.pdf

FRA welcomes new EU Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia

http://fra.europa.eu/fra/index.php?fuseaction=content.dsp_cat_content&catid=3e6c61340870c&contentid=4933c77bc58e3

New publication

Racism in Europe: ENAR Shadow Report

http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/Shadowreport2007_ENLowRes.pdf

News

Shamed cop faces sack after hurling sectarian abuse at Ibrox

<http://www.sundaymail.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/12/07/shamed-cop-faces-sack-after-hurling-sectarian-abuse-at-ibrox-78057-20951838/>

Asian police chief to sue Scotland Yard

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/dec/07/scotland-yard-police-chief-sue-discrimination>

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Other Holyrood

Debate

Forced Marriages

The Minister for Communities and Sport (Stewart Maxwell): In debating the issues that affect our country, it is not often that we approach a subject with consensus in the chamber. I thank all the parties and their spokespeople for the constructive discussions that we have had in reaching—I hope—an agreed position on the resolution today.

I know that all members in the chamber agree that we want a Scotland where everyone can make vital life choices without threat of intimidation or coercion, or psychological or physical abuse. Whether to marry and who to marry should be decisions that are entered into freely. Forced marriage is a violation of human rights, an infringement of liberty and an abhorrent practice that has no place in Scotland.

To be clear, we are not talking about arranged marriage, which is a legitimate, common and successful practice in a variety of communities. Today's debate is about people who are forced to marry against their will, by coercion or threat, or through fear or manipulation.

Forced marriage has for too long been below the radar. It impacts on young girls and boys and on women and men across a range of communities—often vulnerable young people who are under the control of individuals or families and beholden to their elders with few means at their disposal to take alternative action.

We know from the experiences of those who have been forced into marriage how helpless, lonely and unsupported they feel, and—for those who have to leave their home environment, and sometimes their country—how traumatic it can be. The consequences of forced marriage are devastating to those involved. Many become estranged from their families and wider communities, lose out on educational opportunities and suffer domestic abuse, and there are high rates of self-harm and suicide.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor1204-02.htm#Col13134>

Parliamentary Question

Cathy Jamieson (S3W-18274): To ask the Scottish Executive when it will make a statement on the action it is taking to address the issues faced by the Gypsy/Traveller community in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-12-01e.htm>

Parliamentary Motions

Stewart Maxwell (S3M-3011): Forced Marriages—That the Parliament recognises the right of every person to choose whom to marry without fear of physical, emotional or psychological abuse; recognises that forced marriage is a violation of internationally recognised human rights and a form of violence against women and has no place in Scotland; makes a clear distinction between arranged marriages to which both parties have freely consented, and which are an established and accepted practice, and forced marriage; welcomes the Scottish Government's consultation that asks whether forced marriage civil legislation is required and provides an opportunity to consider what more can be done to help those affected in Scotland and to ensure our communities are safer, stronger and fairer places for all; acknowledges the work of the Forced Marriage Network in tackling this issue, and supports continued efforts to assist those affected, raise awareness of the impact of forced marriage and to end this terrible practice.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-12-03f.htm>

Other Holyrood (continued)

Parliamentary Motions

Jamie Hepburn (S3M-3031): Universal Declaration of Human Rights—That the Parliament welcomes the publication by Amnesty International of a Scots language version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in poster format, in time for its 60th Anniversary on 10 December 2008; believes this will help to promote awareness and understanding of both the human rights agenda and the importance of the Scots language; reaffirms its belief in the declaration's opening statement that "All human beings born free and equal in dignity and rights", which translates as "Aw human sowels is born free and equal in dignity and richts"; notes that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is one of the most translated documents in history and welcomes the Scots and Gaelic translations of it, and further reaffirms its commitment to and respect for fundamental human rights, irrespective of language or any other distinction.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-12-04f.htm>

Press Release

Scottish Government reaction to the Queen's speech

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/12/03135522>

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Other Westminster

Queen's Speech

Queen's Speech and House of Commons debate

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081203/debtext/81203-0002.htm#08120351000002>

House of Lords debate (1st day)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/81203-0001.htm#08120346000179>

House of Lords debate (2nd day)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/81204-0001.htm#08120464000033>

Bills to be introduced or continued in the new parliamentary session:

Banking Bill

This will:

- allow the Bank of England and other authorities to intervene when a bank gets into severe difficulties
- change the Financial Services Compensation Scheme to ensure faster payouts
- give the Bank of England a statutory "financial stability objective" and allows it to "lend in a more effective manner"

Other Westminster Queen's Speech (continued)

Borders, Immigration and Citizenship Bill (UK-wide)

This will:

- create a fully integrated approach to border control
- enable citizenship applications from people who fail to integrate in the UK or commit minor crimes to be slowed down
- place a new duty on the UK Border Agency to recognise the need to safeguard children's welfare

Business Rates Supplements Bill (England and Wales only)

This will:

- allow councils to set a supplement of up to 2 pence in the pound on rateable values to promote economic development

Child Poverty Bill

This will:

- make a commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020

Children, Skills and Learning Bill (mostly England)

This will:

- provide for more flexible school inspections
- require schools to work together to tackle bad behaviour and be given powers to search pupils for alcohol, drugs and stolen goods
- ensure an apprenticeship place for every suitably qualified young person by 2013

Coroners and Justice Bill (mostly England and Wales, some measures extend to Scotland and N Ireland)

This will:

- provide for investigative witness anonymity to protect witnesses to gang-related killings
- reform murder law
- modernise law on assisted suicide to increase public understanding

Equality Bill (England, Scotland, and Wales)

This will:

- streamline existing law to make it more accessible
- impose a new single equality duty for all strands as a powerful means of ending institutional discrimination
-
- end age discrimination in relation to goods and services (but will not affect beneficial discrimination such as free bus passes and television licences)
- extend the use of positive action to increase diversity in the workforce
- introduce greater transparency and ban secrecy clauses in employment contracts
- Use public sector purchasing power to improve equality in the private sector

Health Bill (England)

This will:

- bring in a new NHS constitution

Other Westminster Queen's Speech (continued)

Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill (mostly England)

This will:

- lay a duty on councils to promote democracy
- lay a duty on councils to respond to petitions

Marine and Coastal Access Bill (England)

This will:

- set up Marine Management Organisation to oversee marine conservation

Policing and Crime Bill (England and Wales, some measures also Scotland and N Ireland)

This will:

- ensure more co-operation between agencies over airport security
- strengthen sex offender prevention orders and foreign travel orders

Political Parties and Elections Bill (UK-wide)

This will:

- strengthen the investigative powers of the Electoral Commission
- regulate the spending of political candidates

Saving Gateway Accounts Bill (UK-wide)

This will:

- encourage saving by promising a government contribution to the savings of people on lower incomes

Welfare Reform Bill (England, Scotland, and Wales)

This will:

- provide incentives for people to return to work, and ensure consequences for those who do not

Parliamentary Question

Chris Huhne [238189]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of judgments made by the European Court of Human Rights which required amendments to UK legislation in the last 10 years; what the date was of each such judgment; and in how many cases such amendments have not been made.

Reply from Jack Straw: In the 10 years between 1 November 1998 (when the European Court of Human Rights in its current form came into existence) and 1 November 2008, the Court's statistics record that of the 289 cases involving the United Kingdom in which a full judgment was delivered, 185 resulted in a finding of at least one violation of the convention. All judgments of the European Court of Human Rights may be accessed in full through the Court's website at: <http://www.echr.coe.int/>

Not all of these judgments required amendment of primary and/or secondary legislation; in many cases, either no general measures are required by the judgment, or the general measures may be effected by changes in policy or administrative practice. We do not collate information centrally as to the nature of the remedial measures required by these judgments, so it would be possible only at disproportionate cost to determine how many of these cases did require amendments to primary and/or secondary legislation.

Other Westminster Parliamentary Question (continued)

There are at present 42 judgments in respect of which remedial measures remain the subject of scrutiny by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe; of these, about half are part of a single group of cases settled by the Government on the basis of a leading judgment by the Court. Of the remainder, the number that may require further amendment to legislation will depend on the final form of the general measures taken.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081126/text/81126w0045.htm#0811281000078>

Early Day Motion

Christian Holy Days and Commercial Activities – That this House notes that neither Good Friday nor Christmas Day are included in the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 on the grounds that they are traditional days of rest and worship; further notes that the restrictions under the Sunday Trading Act 1994 do not apply to either of these important days in the Christian calendar; recognises that competitive pressures find many Christians in a position where they feel compelled to work on these days, and that many Christians view commercial activities on these days as showing a disregard and disrespect for their religion; and therefore calls upon the Government to review existing legislation relating to the holiest days in the Christian calendar and bring forward change that will protect Christians from being compelled to engage in commercial activities on Good Friday and Christmas Day.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/81203e01.htm>

Press Releases

Fair rules for strong communities

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page17647>

'Fair rules' agenda revealed

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/fair-rules-agenda>

New publication

Fair rules for strong communities

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/fair-rules-for-strong-communities4.pdf>

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Other News

Travellers' sites plan is dropped

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/968442>

Other News (continued)

OSCE launches channel on YouTube

<http://www.osce.org/item/35139.html>

Prevention and punishment are key – 60th anniversary of the Genocide Convention

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

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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 Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/or-08/he08-2902.htm#Col1346>

Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill

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

Sexual Offences Bill

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

Bills in Progress

Westminster

Draft (Partial) Immigration and Citizenship Bill

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

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Consultations (closing date)

**** New or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

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>

**** closes this week!**

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>

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

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/

Publication of candidates' addresses at UK Parliamentary elections

(28 January 2008)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/candidate-address-consultation.pdf>

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>

Big Lottery Fund (28 February 2009)

<http://www.big-thinking.org.uk/consultationsurvey.aspx>

Consultations (continued)

**** Forced Marriage: A Civil Remedy?** (28 March 2009)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/248674/0071298.pdf>

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Events/Conferences/Training

**** New or updated this week**

**** this week!**

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.

**** this week!**

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.

Scottish Refugee Council AGM

15 January 2009 in Edinburgh

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>

Useful Links (continued)

One Scotland Many Cultures <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Scottish Inter Faith Council <http://www.scottishinterfaithcouncil.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission
<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/Pages/default.aspx>

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/>