

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with the **Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland**. It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary Activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.*

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-3251 Christopher Harvie: Racism and the UK Borders Agency—That the Parliament notes with concern reports that members of the British National Party have been found working as immigration staff for the UK Border Agency and its private security contractors; hopes that the official inquiry will prevent such occurrences in the future; also notes the Home Office Complaints Audit Committee Annual Report 2007-08, which depicts serious problems in the handling of allegations of racism against Border Agency officials and in particular against detention centre contractors' staff, evidence that raises concerns about the Dungavel Detention Centre, and stresses the desirability of immigration being devolved to the Scottish Parliament to enable policies that respect the dignity of refused asylum seekers to be implemented, a stance long given up by the UK Government, and to enable the Scottish Government to attract the skills needed by the Scottish economy, as acknowledged in the first report of the Calman Commission on Scottish Devolution.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-09/bb-01-21f.htm>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL580]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what procedures need to be followed by pupils of non-European Union schools and youth organisations to enable them to enter the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Information about the procedure for children and study is available on the UKBA website at www.ukba.gov.uk. In summary however, there is no specific provision under the Immigration Rules for pupils of non-European Union schools or youth organisations to come to the United Kingdom to attend a state-maintained school.

Where the child's primary reason for coming to the UK is for education, the Immigration Rules do not permit access to state education. Children under 18 who wish to come to the UK to undertake a period of study for more than six months must fully satisfy, and enter under, the main student rules. Children under 16 may only qualify on this basis if they have been accepted for studies at an independent fee-paying school which meets the requirements of the Education Act 1944.

There is, however, currently a concession outside the Immigration Rules which permits non-EEA students aged under 18 to attend a state-maintained school for up to a year as part of an organised exchange. Provided appropriate arrangements have been made, and all the criteria met, leave may be granted outside the Immigration Rules for the duration of the exchange, up to a maximum of 12 months.

It should be noted that the existing student provisions will be deleted at the end of March when we introduce the student tier, tier four, of the points-based system for migrants. The policy for tier four is still under consideration and full details of the tier four arrangements will be published as soon as they have been finalised.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90122w0001.htm#09012255000349>

Baroness Stern [HL233]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the greatest number of days that any child has been detained in an immigration removal centre in each of the past five years.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The attached table shows the greatest number of days that any child has been detained in an immigration removal centre as shown in local management information. All children were detained as part of a family unit.

Year(1 April—30 March)	Number of days detained
2004	163
2005	137
2006	190
2007	140
2008 (year to date)	95

Please note that full data are not available for 2004.

Length of detention may include time spent by a mother and her child spent in one of the Prison Service's mother and baby units following completion of a prison sentence and pending transfer into the UK Border Agency's estate.

The detention of families with children is kept to the minimum period and is subject to frequent and rigorous reviews, including ministerial authority for families detained for over 28 days. The majority of families are detained for far shorter periods than the exceptional cases shown above, with many removed or released within seven days.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The figures provided do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should therefore be treated as provisional.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90122w0002.htm#09012255000355>

Dominic Grieve [243317]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Government has spent on raising awareness of human trafficking in each of the last five years.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Raising awareness of human trafficking is central to our approach to combating human trafficking. This is an issue that is being led by the UK Human Trafficking Centre through the development of its Blue Blindfold campaign and its work to increase awareness among law enforcement agencies. Any costs associated with this work has been met from within the overall budget of the UKHTC. Additionally, much work has been undertaken to raise awareness within the relevant law enforcement and other agencies which are likely to come into contact with victims of human trafficking. The costs associated with this work have been met from within existing budgets.

In addition to these costs we have spent £136,000 on raising awareness through a project run in conjunction with the International Organisation for Migration in Romania and Bulgaria and on the "Walk in a Punter" poster campaign in Nottingham and London in 2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090119/text/90119w0052.htm#0901206000031>

Dominic Grieve [243318]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-British citizens convicted of human trafficking offences have been deported from Britain in each of the last five years.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Records of deportation of those who have been convicted of crime are held on a generic offences database. It is not possible to disaggregate those convicted of human trafficking from a range of other offences.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090119/text/90119w0052.htm#0901206000031>

Dominic Grieve [243329]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has provided for funding human trafficking investigations in each of the last five years.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Since 2006 we have invested a total of £4.646 million in the law enforcement response to human trafficking. This includes the doubling of the budget for the UK Human Trafficking Centre from £843,000 to £1.7 million for this year, £1.7 million to the Metropolitan Police for Operation Maxim, including their human trafficking team in 2007-08, the fund of £1.678 million this year which is administered by ACPO and the £435,000 for the MPS to assist them in their effort to mainstream the work of the trafficking into their existing budget.

The Serious Organised Crime Agency receive a total of £400 million in order to combat organised crime including that focused on immigration related matters such as human trafficking. This work is being taken forward through the co-ordination of two inter-agency programmes of activity to reduce such crime at source and key points overseas and to reduce the exploitation of migrants within the UK. Additionally, we provided a total of £60 million under Reflex for time limited projects to tackle organised immigration crime under the 2002 spending review period.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human trafficking is core police business and as such forces are expected to meet operational costs of undertaking this work from within existing budgets. Historically, we provided a central funding stream to encourage forces to increase their efforts on organised immigration crime, including human trafficking. It is not possible to disaggregate this funding to give an accurate figure for the amount dedicated to human trafficking work for the period 2004 to 2006.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090119/text/90119w0052.htm#0901206000031>

Andrew Rosindell [247693]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had on policy to combat human trafficking.

Reply from Alan Campbell: We have a regular dialogue with a range of interested groups from all sectors and with our partner organisations both nationally and internationally and on 17 December we ratified the Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings.

Our victim-centred policy on human trafficking is set out in the UK Action Plan and progress on the action points contained within it continues to be overseen by the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090119/text/90119w0052.htm#0901206000031>

Paul Holmes [240932]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions for offences relating to the trafficking of human beings were brought in each year since 1997.

Reply from Alan Campbell: Human trafficking as dedicated offences was introduced in 2004 with the introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004.

While the number of prosecutions since the introduction of this Act are not held centrally by the Home Office there have to date been 92 convictions for trafficking for sexual exploitation and four for trafficking for forced labour.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090121/text/90121w0014.htm#09012169000017>

Press Releases

Europe to penalise employers of illegal immigrants

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/018-46697-019-01-04-902-20090120IPR46696-19-01-2009-2009-false/default_en.htm

OSCE conference focuses on effective migration management

<http://www.osce.org/item/35942.html>

UKBA Response to the National Audit Office report on management of asylum applications

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/nao-asylum-report-response>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

New publications

Management of Asylum Applications by the UK Border Agency

<http://www.nao.org.uk/idoc.ashx?docId=aab5d6ba-743f-4478-8422-bdb7458fe339&version=-1>

Territorial dynamics in Europe: Trends in population development

http://www.espon.eu/mmp/online/website/content/programme/1455/2175/2176/2177/file_5330/espon_territorial_observation_no1_211108.pdf

News

Exemption result for overseas footballers

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2482660.0.Exemption_result_for_overseas_footballers.php

Scotland 'will be retirement home without new migrants'

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2482987.0.Scotland_will_be_retirement_home_without_new_migrants.php

Asylum inspector: I won't be a stooge

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/features/display.var.2482913.0.Asylum_inspector_I_wont_be_a_stooge.php

Backlog of asylum cases doubles

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7846140.stm>

Last-ditch effort launched to overturn family's deportation

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Lastditch-effort-launched-to-overturn.4906870.jp>

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Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Richard Benyon [248950]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to achieve community cohesion; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Sadiq Khan: In 2007 we announced a renewed commitment to community cohesion with a £50 million investment over three years and a new public service agreement to build cohesive, active and empowered communities. We continue to support local authorities in delivering improvements in cohesion by providing a framework of guidance and targeted local support. We are also working with faith communities to build interfaith work and support social action.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090120/text/90120w0006.htm#09012045000090>

Race Relations (continued) **Press Releases**

Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association Lecture

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/01/22171050>

New Commission poll shows British institutions need to 'keep up with Obama generation'

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

New publications

All Together Now? A portrait of race in Britain

<http://edit.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Documents/AllTogetherNow.pdf>

Ethnicity and family

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Documents/Race/Ethnicity_and_family_report.pdf

Speech by Trevor Phillips, Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission to mark the tenth anniversary of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/newsandcomment/speeches/Pages/Macphersonspeech190109.aspx>

Who Cares about the White Working Class?

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/WhoCaresAboutTheWhiteWorkingClass-2009.pdf>

News

Britain has 'new attitude to race'

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Britain-has-39new-attitude-to.4889255.jp>

Institutions must catch up with public on race issues

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/newsandcomment/Pages/Institutionsmustcatchupwithpubliconraceissues1.aspx>

New report paints picture of a more diverse Britain with increased trend for mixed race relationships

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

Religion divides us more than race, say Britons

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1123176/Religion-divides-race-say-Britons.html>

Church vows to keep faith with its schools, despite Muslim majority

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/article5576412.ece

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Bill Butler (S3W-19127): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will ensure that Show Racism the Red Card's Islamophobia educational resource is made available to every school in Scotland.

Reply from Maureen Watt: Learning and Teaching Scotland are seeking discussions with Show Racism the Red Card with the intention of arranging to put the resource on to Glow, Scotland's national intranet for education, so that schools can access it. In addition, the Scottish Government is supporting the Centre for Education for Racial Equality in Scotland (CERES) to develop anti-Islamophobia resources for use in all schools. These will be available on our Anti-Sectarianism: Don't Give It, Don't Take It website.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-09/wa0120.htm>

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Mr. Amess [247788]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legal provisions are in place to prevent (a) the preaching of hatred and (b) incitement to commit criminal acts against the Jewish community in England and Wales; how many persons have been (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of offences under such provisions in each of the last two years for which figures are available, broken down by (A) age of offender, (B) sex of offender and (C) police force area of charge; and if she will make a statement.

Alan Campbell: The use of threatening words with the intention of stirring up religious hatred constitutes an offence under the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 and would apply in the case of such threats used in respect of the Jewish community.

Section 18 of the Public Order Act 1986 which relates to stirring up hatred on racial grounds would also apply, as Jews are considered to be a racial group. This section states that a person who uses threatening, abusive or insulting words commits an offence if he intends to stir up racial hatred, or having regards to all the circumstances, racial hatred is likely to be stirred up thereby.

In addition, sections 44-46 of the Serious Crime Act 2007 relate to offences of assisting and encouraging crime. These offences can apply in respect of any offence, including those targeted against the Jewish community.

The statistics collected in relation to these offences do not include information which would allow the separate identification of offences committed against the Jewish community and this detailed breakdown is therefore not available.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090119/text/90119w0049.htm#0901206000005>

Press Release

Human Rights First Condemns Antisemitic Backlash Attacks in Europe

<http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/media/disc/2009/alert/390/index.htm>

News

Phillips clears police of racism

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7836766.stm

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Institutional racism dead?

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7838071.stm

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Alistair Burt [248949]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will revise the guidance to local authorities in respect of the application of race relations legislation to planning applications involving Gypsy and Traveller sites to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the police and local authorities in managing such sites.

Reply from Iain Wright: The Government have no plans to revise the guidance contained in ODPM Circular 1/06 as suggested by the hon. Member. Local authorities have a general duty under the Race Relations Act 1976, as amended, to actively seek to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote good race relations in all they do. We will be publishing good practice guidance on the management of Gypsy and Traveller sites shortly.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090120/text/90120w0006.htm#09012045000089>

Eleanor Laing [248958]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has for the future of Gypsy and Traveller site provision.

Reply from Iain Wright: Planning policy for the provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites is set out in ODPM Circular 01/2006: "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites". Local authorities have a duty to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and identify enough land to meet the number of pitches set out in the regional spatial strategy. The Homes and Communities Agency will continue to provide funding for the provision of new public sites.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090120/text/90120w0006.htm#09012045000089>

David Davies [248951]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department next plans to review its planning guidance and circulars relating to Travellers.

Reply from Iain Wright: The Independent Task Group on Site Provision and Enforcement concluded the Government's planning policies for Gypsy and Traveller sites in England are sound. The Government have committed to keeping Parliament informed on the work undertaken to address the issues they highlighted. We will publish a progress report later this year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090120/text/90120w0006.htm#09012045000089>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Stoddart of Swindon [HL418]: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 25 November (WA 332), what representations they are making to the Black Police Association to ensure that the Association's stance on recruitment to the Metropolitan Police furthers the aims and objectives of the police service.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My honourable friend the Minister of State for Policing, Crime and Security, Vernon Coaker, has met with the National Black Police Association (NBPA), as part of his assessment of minority-ethnic recruitment, retention and progression in the police service. The assessment together with an ambitious action plan was published on 20 November 2008. Although no representation has been made on this particular issue, we will continue to work with the NBPA to take forward the action plan and through this to promote equality and diversity in the police.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90122w0003.htm#09012255000365>

Lynne Featherstone [247899]: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the vaccines for (a) diphtheria, (b) tetanus, (c) pertussis, (d) polio, (e) Haemophilus influenza type b, (f) pneumococcal conjugate, (g) meningitis C, (h) MMR and (i) HPV available for use by GPs are halal; what halal alternatives are available for those which are not; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Dawn Primarolo: Vaccines for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b, pneumococcal, Meningitis C, and HPV do not contain gelatine according to the summary of product characteristics provided by the manufacturers. Two MMR vaccines are available; one MMR vaccine—MMRVAXPRO—contains gelatine, the other MMR vaccine—Priorix—does not contain gelatine.

Vaccines that contain gelatine may not be considered halal. However, the Muslim Council of Britain supports the use of these vaccines and has always advised that vaccination must always be offered to all individuals identified to be at risk of communicable disease in order to prevent disease and deaths and have urged the Muslim community to continue to participate in the immunisation programmes to protect our children and adults from serious and potentially fatal infections.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090122/text/90122w0013.htm#09012265000119>

Early Day Motions

Ashok Kumar (530) Accord Coalition – That this House supports Accord, the national coalition that unites religious and non-religious individuals and organisations campaigning for inclusive schools; believes that all state schools should be open to children and teachers of all backgrounds and beliefs; is concerned that current legislation permits schools with a religious character to discriminate against staff and students on the basis of their religion or belief and to teach a partial religious education curriculum; calls for religious education to be objective, balanced and fair; welcomes the positive approach taken by Accord and the breadth of its membership; and urges the Government to remove exemptions from equalities legislation for state-funded religious schools.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=37557&SESSION=899>

Other Westminster Early Day Motions (continued)

David Taylor (510) pre-stunning of animals for slaughter - That this House recalls the Farm Animal Welfare Council's recommendation in 2003 which called for the repeal of the exemption from stunning prior to slaughter for animals killed by Moslem Halal and Jewish Shechita methods; notes that these exemptions remain; further recalls the Council's scientific evidence showing that sheep become insensible within five to seven seconds of the incision whilst adult cattle may take between 22 and 40 seconds, and calves may take up to two minutes to become insensible; abhors all forms of racism and religious intolerance; proposes that the stunning of an animal post-cut addresses animal welfare concerns whilst remaining compliant with the theological tenets upon which halal and kosher are based; supports the existing use of pre-stunning in the slaughter of over 90 per cent. of animals killed in the UK for halal meat; observes that bans on slaughter without pre-stunning in Norway, Sweden and New Zealand have been in place for over five years without harming religious freedom or community relations in those countries; and calls on the Government to work actively and constructively in co-operation with the Muslim and Jewish communities in the UK to address the animal welfare implications of all religious slaughter and to amend the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 accordingly.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=37535&SESSION=899>

Julie Morgan (504) Gypsy and Traveller sites – That this House notes the shortage of Gypsy and traveller sites; believes that an increase in the supply of Gypsy and traveller sites related to actual need will reduce the number of unauthorised encampments and developments and enforcement costs, improving community relations and cohesion; and further believes that more sites will improve Gypsies' and travellers' access to services and opportunities to contribute culturally and economically to communities.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=37528&SESSION=899>

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New Publication

**House of Lords & House of Commons Joint Committee on Human Rights:
A Bill of Rights for the UK?**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt200809/jtselect/jtrights/15/15.pdf>

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Other News

Travellers lose eviction appeal bid

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Travellers-lose- eviction-appeal-bid.4903451.jp>

Equality and Human Rights Commission responds to Court of Appeal ruling in Dale Farm Traveller case

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

Other News (continued)

Defiant travellers facing eviction say they'll move - to the next field

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article5569848.ece>

Office of the Scottish Charity Register: Integrated reporting

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=a85aeab0-7557-4209-8232-abb8eb3d27ad>

Scouts adopt Islamic pledge

<http://www.christian.org.uk/news/20090120/scouts-adopt-islamic-pledge/>

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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>

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

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

Justice Committee: Stage 1 evidence from the Equality and Human Rights Commission, ACPOS, Law Reform, Criminal Law Committee, and the Law Society Scotland

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/or-09/ju09-0302.htm#Col1509>

Sexual Offences Bill

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

Bills in Progress (continued)

Westminster

**** Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/borderscitizenshipandimmigration.html>

Scottish Government: Legislative Consent Motion

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/legConMem/LCM-2008-2009/BordersCitizenshipImmigration-Bill_LCM.pdf

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Consultations (closing date)

** New or updated this week

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/

Consultations (continued)

Publication of candidates' addresses at UK Parliamentary elections

(28 January 2008)

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

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Strategic plan, Equality Scheme and Grants Programme (7 February 2009)

Consultation guides

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

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

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>

Consultation on the legislative framework for the regulation of alternative finance investment bonds (sukuk) (4 March 2009)

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/consult_sukuk101208.pdf

End of Life Choices Bill (9 March 2009)

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

Forced Marriage: A Civil Remedy? (28 March 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/248674/0071298.pdf>

Regulations to implement the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Act 2008

(30 March 2009)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_092465?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=180685&Rendition=Web

Scottish Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan (31 March 2009)

http://scottishhumanrights.com/documents/SHRC_StrategicPlan.pdf

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Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities advertised in MEMO+ Recruitment



Policy & Race Equality officer

£26,496 - £28,806 (37 Hours Per week)

This is a key post to assist in the development and delivery of BEMIS objectives and work in relation to race equality, promoting diversity and advising on policy reviews, strategic planning.

For details see http://www.bemis.org.uk/job_vacancies.html

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Funding Opportunities

(closing date)

** New or updated this week

** **Scottish Islamic Foundation Youth Development Fund** (11 February 2009)

Grants of up to £2000 are available for projects to strengthen national government outcomes amongst the young Muslim community through a range of local partnerships.

For information see <http://scottishislamic.files.wordpress.com/2009/01/sif-fund.pdf>

Young Scot: Access All Areas: Young People's Integration Project

"Young Scot: Access all Areas" is a new project aimed at empowering young people from ethnic minority, refugee, asylum seeking and faith groups to influence service provision in their local area, enhance access and promote inclusion. It was developed with a view to involving young people in democratic processes and promoting "informed participation" in local civic structures. Working in partnership with local agencies and using a Local Investigation Team model, groups of young volunteers will be supported to plan and deliver a research project on a topic of their choice in relation to service provision in their area. For information contact Lesley Anderson or Lauren Bruce 0131 313 2488 / accessallareas@youngscot.org or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09i_young_scot.pdf

** **European Integration Fund** (6 March 2009)

The European Integration Fund is aimed at legally newly arrived migrants (within the last five years) who are not asylum seekers or refugees, European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) nationals and who have not come to the United Kingdom under visa categories such as students. It can fund local authority, adult, further education and community colleges wishing to offer, or expand capacity, for English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses, that are intended to help legal migrants to become fully functional in United Kingdom society; innovative projects that support the efforts made by the United Kingdom in enabling third country nationals of different social, cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds to fulfil the conditions for permanent residence in the United Kingdom; and work to evaluate the effectiveness of existing and future programmes in bringing about effective integration.

Funding may be up to a maximum of three years and successful bids must also be able to demonstrate that matched funding, usually half is secured before funding will be released. For more information see

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

Equality and Human Rights Commission

11 February 2009 in Melrose

25 February 2009 in Inverness

18 March 2009 in Aberdeen

Opportunities for advice-giving and frontline representatives of voluntary, community, and educational organisations to meet the EHRC Legal Team and find out more about the Commission and how to work with it, and to let the EHRC know what issues are most significant to you and your service users. For information contact James Andrew 0141 228 5917 / David Reilly 0141 228 5967 / roadshow@equalityhumanrights.com

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Make a difference in your community

13 February 2009 in Glasgow (10.00 – 1.00)

Government Equalities Office event to encourage more women, especially those from ethnic minority backgrounds to consider standing as a local councillor. For information see http://www.equalities.gov.uk/women_councillors_taskforce/events.aspx

**** Equality and Human Rights Commission**

24 February 2009 in Glasgow

Consultation event to provide views and comment on the draft strategic priorities that will guide the Commission's work and proposed programmes. For information contact Rebecca Thomas 020 3117 0306 / strategicplanconsultation@equalityhumanrights.com

Equality and Diversity

23 April 2009 in Aberdeen (9.30 – 4.30)

SCVO seminar exploring the myths and facts surrounding the six equality strands - race, gender, disability, religion and belief, sexual orientation and age. For information contact Jane Baillie jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 8019.

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/home.htm>

Scottish Government <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Home>

Westminster Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.eu.int/parliament/public.do?language=en>

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

Equality and Human Rights Commission

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

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>

Useful Links (continued)

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 (SCoJeC)** 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. (Scottish Charity SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS (the Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland) 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/>