

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 Debate

Human Trafficking

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor0204-02.htm#Col14707>

Westminster Debate

Human Trafficking Convention

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090203/halltext/90203h0001.htm#0902037000001>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

John Robertson [254310]: If [the Minister] will take steps at EU level to secure greater employment opportunities for UK workers when contracts for work in the UK are awarded to companies registered overseas; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Pat McFadden: The Government support the rights of labour mobility that go with European Union membership. We supported the European Commission's proposals to ask its group of experts to examine the operation of

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

the posted workers directive and to ask social partners at European level to discuss the implications of recent European Court judgments. The posted workers directive operates throughout the EU and the recent report from the European Commission showed that there were 47,000 UK posted workers in the rest of the EU—three times more than the 15,000 posted workers from the rest of the EU working here in the UK.

John Robertson: The posted workers directive is, of course, the problem. The court ruling has brought it into disrepute, with subcontracting companies playing worker against worker, which is why we ended up with the strikes this week. Is it not time the UK put workers rights in the EU as No. 1 on the agenda, and made sure that we lead the field in ensuring that the rights of those workers are looked after?

Reply from Pat McFadden: I understand what my hon. Friend says, but I am not sure that the recent court judgments are relevant to the unofficial strike action over the past weeks. Those judgments are essentially about pay and about the capacity of trade unions to take industrial action in support of collective agreements. We have been told that all sub-contractors on the site at the Lindsey oil refinery are required to pay according to the industry agreed rates. ACAS will test the veracity of that claim, but that is what we have been told, so whatever this week's dispute was about, it does not seem, on the face of it, to have been about a race to the bottom in terms of pay.

David Heathcoat-Amory: Is not the recent industrial unrest a direct result of the Prime Minister's call, from weakness, for "British jobs for British workers"? In answering the hon. Member for Glasgow, North-West (John Robertson), would it not be more honest for the Government to admit that the Prime Minister could never deliver on that promise? He is legally bound by EU law, which the European Commission has no intention of amending at all. What other way is the Minister finding through this terrible dilemma of serious industrial unrest, up against a legal prohibition on anything serious being done to remedy it?

Reply from Pat McFadden: I do not accept the right hon. Gentleman's premise. Everyone in the House wants to see British workers having jobs, and we want them to have the skills and training necessary for that. However, we do not want to forsake a relationship whereby half our exports go to the rest of the EU, half of our inward investment comes from the rest of the EU, and 3 million to 3.5 million—one in 10—of the jobs in this country are in some way associated with trade with the rest of the EU.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090205/debtext/90205-0001.htm#09020541000029>

Lord Avebury [HL799]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many charter flights were used to remove persons from the United Kingdom under immigration statutes in 2008; and what was the total number of passengers removed on such flights.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Charter flights used to remove persons from the United Kingdom have routinely operated since March 2001. For the period January to December 2008, there were 66 charter flights made for this purpose; and a total number of 1,529 passengers were removed on those flights. This includes both enforced and voluntary returns.

These figures do not constitute part of national statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90202w0001.htm#09020211000377>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Frank Field [253923]: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many non-UK born individuals have been in (a) public and (b) private sector employment in each year since 1978; and how many such individuals were in employment in each year.

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 February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many non-UK born individuals have been in (a) public and (b) private sector employment in each year since 1978; and how many such individuals were in employment in each year. 253923

The available information is provided in the attached table. Comparable estimates prior to 1995 are not available.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The distinction between public and private sector is based on respondents' views about the organisation for which they work. The public sector estimates provided do not correspond to official Public Sector Employment estimates. Those are derived directly from employers and are based on National Accounts definitions, but do not include this detailed age breakdown.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures have been derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently the estimates from Q3 2006 onwards are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, or the migrant worker figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

To read the table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090205/text/90205w0003.htm#09020552000010>

Phyllis Starkey [252450]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) Iraqi and (b) Syrian refugees were included in the resettlement quota agreed with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009; and how many candidates had been identified at the latest date for which figures are available.

Reply from Meg Hillier: Under the UK's agreement with UNHCR for the Gateway Protection programme, 500 Iraqi refugees will be resettled during the financial year 2008-09 and 500 during financial year 2009-10.

500 Iraqi refugees have been identified for resettlement under Gateway during 2008-09. No Iraqi refugees have been yet been identified for resettlement under Gateway during 2009-10.

The UK has no plans to resettle Syrian nationals under the resettlement quotas in either of the financial years 2008-09 or 2009-10.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090203/text/90203w0014.htm#09020356000005>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Chris Huhne [250833]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of identity cards to be issued to (a) foreign nationals and (b) British and Irish citizens resident in the UK in each year to 2014-15.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The UK Border Agency expects to issue in the region of 50,000 cards by the end of April 2009 to non-EEA foreign nationals who are subject to immigration control. Volumes will rise rapidly thereafter.

Under current plans over the next three years the scheme will be extended to other categories for non-EEA foreign nationals extending their stay in the UK and be widened to include those coming in to the UK on visas for more than six months. Within three years we expect to be issuing over one million identity cards a year to foreign nationals. All new entrants and those extending their stay will have a card within three years.

The following table summarises the estimated volumes published in the November 2008 National Identity Cards Scheme Cost Report, combining the total volume of Identity Cards and Passports issued by IPS to British and Irish Citizens resident in the UK. The figures for issuing both products were combined as, in many cases, the same application would result in the issue of both a passport and an identity card.

<i>Estimated passport and identity card products issued to British and Irish citizens resident in the UK</i>	
<i>(million)</i>	
2009-10	5.5
2010-11	5.4
2011-12	5.9
2012-13	7.9
2013-14	10.5
2014-15	12.5

This is the most recently published information on product volumes that is currently available. The Identity and Passport Service is currently developing the product choice offered to customers, as indicated in the National Identity Scheme Delivery Plan published in March 2008, figures for the projected product volumes will be published in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090204/text/90204w0016.htm#09020492000070>

Chris Huhne [249923]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to reduce the number of appeals in immigration and asylum cases.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: We have recently consulted on a number of proposals in this area and will publish our plans in due course. Our ongoing Quality Initiative Project, in conjunction with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, aims to improve the quality of decision making in asylum cases which should reduce the number of appeals. UNHCR have published reports over the last four years which illustrate both the work that has been done to improve quality and the progress UNHCR and UKBA have jointly made.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090204/text/90204w0016.htm#09020492000073>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Chris Huhne [249924]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were waiting for a successful appeal against a UK Borders Agency determination to be reflected in their documented immigration status at 31 December (a) 2003, (b) 2004, (c) 2005, (d) 2006, (e) 2007 and (f) 2008.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Information on the number of people who were waiting for a successful appeal against a UK Border Agency determination to be reflected in their documented immigration status at 31 December (a) 2003, (b) 2004, (c) 2005, (d) 2006, (e) 2007 and (f) 2008 is not available.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090204/text/90204w0016.htm#09020492000073>

Chris Huhne [250597]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets the UK Border Agency has for the length of time it should take to regularise the paperwork of an immigration or asylum applicant following a successful appeal made by that applicant against one of the Agency's decisions.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: There are currently no targets in place governing the length of time that it should take to implement an applicant's status following an allowed appeal.

However, UKBA has recently undertaken a piece of work to review the processes involved in granting status following an allowed appeal. The review has identified potential process amendments to make the system more timely.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090204/text/90204w0016.htm#09020492000073>

Chris Huhne [249970]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she monitors the length of time taken by the UK Border Agency between a successful appeal against its decisions and the regularisation of the applicants' paperwork; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: UKBA does not currently monitor the length of time taken between a successful appeal and the regularisation of the applicants' paperwork.

However, UKBA has recently reviewed the processes. The review has identified potential amendments to make the system more timely. We are currently working to finalise how these changes will be implemented. Arrangements have been made to monitor progress in this area.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090204/text/90204w0017.htm#09020492000089>

Chris Huhne [241802]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for the decision to cease funding the Metropolitan Police's human trafficking unit; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Following discussions with the Metropolitan Police Service, we have decided to provide additional funding for the MPS trafficking team. This will enable the MPS to ensure the trafficking team continues during 2009-10.

Human trafficking is part of core police business. The funding, which is a one-off grant, is designed to enable the MPS to mainstream this work into its daily activities in a planned and organised fashion.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090204/text/90204w0016.htm#09020492000069>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Early Day Motions

John Mann (652) Fair competition for British workers – That this House deplores the use of temporarily resident overseas workers living in substandard accommodation by Total and IREM at Killingholme, RWE at Slaythorpe and the lack of clarity of UK law on social dumping; congratulates Unite, GMB and other unions on exposing this exploitation and the absence of equal opportunities to apply for all jobs; welcomes the principle of the Posted Workers Directive that all European workers should receive local terms and conditions giving the right of all British workers to compete on a level playing field for all such jobs; notes with concern the potential for lower standards of health and safety with the use of temporarily resident contractors; further notes the huge capital programmes being brought forward and the forthcoming new power station build, including nuclear new build; calls for these to be built by companies employing primarily British labour on decent pay and conditions; further calls for an isolating of these companies continuing to exploit social dumping; welcomes the Government's intervention through ACAS; and calls on ACAS to investigate the contract at Slaythorpe and to examine in detail the accommodation and travel charges levied on the temporarily resident contract workers and whether acceptance of this accommodation and travel is conditional on working on site.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=37702&SESSION=899>

John Grogan (714) Regularisation of undocumented migrants – That this House recognises the cross-party commitment to tightening UK borders and reducing undocumented immigration; notes with interest that such undocumented immigration has fallen by well over 50 per cent. in Spain following the 2005 regularisation programme; further notes that a regularisation would lead to significantly less opportunity for low paid workers to be undercut in the UK labour market as well as increased tax revenue for the Exchequer; recognises that the status quo leaves 500,000 people with no recourse to the police or justice system open to abuse, exploitation and profiteering by criminal gangs; and welcomes the debate on regularisation led by a broad collection of think tanks, unions, academic institutions, religious organisations and service providers and the Strangers into Citizens campaign.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=37768&SESSION=899>

European Parliament

Implementation in the EU of Directive 2003/9/EC on the minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers: visits by the Committee on Civil Liberties 2005-2008

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2009-0047+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

Sanctions against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/plenary/home.do?date=20090208&tab=LAST&language=EN>

New publications

The potential of migrant and refugee community organisations to influence policy

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/migrant-refugee-community-organisations.pdf>

The Gateway Protection Programme: an evaluation

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/horr12c.pdf>

Immigration and Asylum New Publications (continued)

The European Refugee Fund (ERF) II 2005–2007: an evaluation of ERF II 2006
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/horr11c.pdf>

News

Wildcat protests set to spread as ministers meet unions

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2486279.0.Wildcat_protests_set_to_spread_as_ministers_meet_unions.php

Call for change to EU laws as strikes escalate

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2486208.0.Call_for_change_to_EU_laws_as_strikes_escalate.php

Wildcat strikes set to increase as foreign worker row escalates

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Wildcat-strikes-set-to-increase.4935049.jp>

Strikes spread amid row over foreign staff

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2486377.0.strikes_spread_amid_row_over_foreign_staff.php

More workers walk out as foreign labour row grows

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/More-workers-walk-out-as.4935773.jp>

Migrant workers vital—claim

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/02/03/newsstory12588336t0.asp>

Jobs for British workers

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/editorial/display.var.2486548.0.Jobs_for_British_workers.php

Strikes 'have exposed exploitation'

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Strikes-39have-exposed-exploitation39.4940555.jp>

Hundreds refuse to go back to work in foreign labour row

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Hundreds-refuse-to-go-back.4939563.jp>

Deal hope in foreign workers row

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7868777.stm

Rise in illegal immigrants entering Britain

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/politics/lawandorder/4549923/Rise-in-illegal-immigrants-entering-Britain.html>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

David Amess [252967]: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made since December 2008 of incidents of intimidation of Jewish and Israeli students on university campuses; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from David Lammy: This Government deplores acts of racial or religious intolerance and we are committed to tackling anti-Semitism and any form of racial intolerance. Higher education institutions have the primary responsibility for ensuring that their students are not subject to threatening or abusive behaviour on campus and addressing any complaints received. The Department does not collect this type of data.

We are committed to encouraging higher education institutions to ensure that discrimination has no place in any of their policies or practices and to act swiftly when incidents or complaints are brought to their attention. The Department is setting up a dedicated sub-group to the Cross Government Working Group against anti-Semitism to facilitate discussions between the Jewish community and higher education stakeholders.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090203/text/90203w0027.htm#09020363000007>

Claire Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many racial incidents were reported by prisoners during 2008; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of subsequent investigations. [253153]

Reply from Shahid Malik: In 2008 there were 8911 incidents of alleged racism reported by prisoners—of those 2849 were about the behaviour of other prisoners and 6062 were concerned with the actions of members of staff. A small proportion consist of allegations of misconduct by staff and all such matters are subject to disciplinary investigation under the code of conduct and discipline.

All investigations into reported acts of racism are overseen and signed off by the Governor or Deputy Governor. In addition, the area manager conducts bi-annual checks of a random sample of investigations.

'Race Review 2008' recently published by NOMS and available in the Library sets out the current assessment of race equality in the prison service, including the effectiveness of these systems and plans for work further to improve them.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090204/text/90204w0008.htm#09020492000024>

News

Rise in antisemitic attacks 'the worst recorded in Britain in decades'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/feb/08/police-patrols-antisemitism-jewish-community>

Auntie's being absurd over this latest gaffe

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/featuresopinion/display.var.2487024.0.Aunties_being_absurd_over_this_latest_gaffe.php

Golliwogs removed from Queen's shop

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Golliwogs-removed-from-Queen39s-shop.4949063.jp>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Remark isn't racist (and she'd laugh if you called her a silly English cow)

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Allan--Massie-Allan-.4948552.jp>

Teenager admits racist stabbing

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7872498.stm

Fife group asks for 'offensive' dolls to go

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/02/06/newsstory12603046t0.asp>

Say what you like, we have to get past this 'humour'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/opinion/Joyce-McMillan-Say-what-you.4957249.jp>

Oldfangled racism

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/feb/06/comment-thatcher-golliwog-bbc-racism>

BBC was right to take a stand against ignorance

http://www.sundayherald.com/oped/opinion/display.var.2487663.0.bbc_was_right_to_take_a_stand_against_ignorance.php

The Golliwog: Rag doll causing a stir in the playroom

http://women.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/women/the_way_we_live/article5683448.ece

Golliwog row: It's not what you say, it's where you say it

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/jennymccartney/4549595/Golliwog-row-Its-not-what-you-say-its-where-you-say-it.html>

Equality chief blasted over race row

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/feb/08/race-row-carol-thatcher>

Police search for trio over racist attack

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Police-search-for-trio-over.4957907.jp>

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Other Holyrood

News

'A humble and dedicated man ... he was quite simply a gentleman'

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2487779.0.a_humble_and_dedicated_man_he_was_quite_simply_a_gentleman.php

Politicians pay respects at funeral of MSP Ahmad

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Politicians-pay-respects-at-.4958490.jp>

Funeral held for first Muslim MSP

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7876579.stm>

Other Holyrood News (continued)

Bashir Ahmad, Scotland's first Muslim MSP, has died

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/politics/scotland/4542995/Bashir-Ahmad-Scotlands-first-Muslim-MSP-has-died.html>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Eric Pickles [252364]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department has authorised the Legal Services Commission to provide for legal advice and representation for Travellers through the exceptional funding scheme in (a) 2007-08 and (b) 2008-09; and in respect of which planning inquiries such funding was drawn upon in each year.

Reply from Shahid Malik: The Ministry of Justice has authorised the Legal Services Commission (LSC) to grant funding, through the exceptional funding scheme, for gypsies and travellers to be represented at planning inquiries amounting to: £33,496.22 in the financial year 2007-08, and £13,958.69 (to date) in the financial year 2008-09. The final amounts paid may have varied slightly from the figures aforementioned as the LSC can adjust the grant if necessary (for example if the hearing is longer, or shorter, than expected).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090202/text/90202w0014.htm#09020233000026>

Eric Pickles [252397]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding the Legal Services Commission allocated to the Community Law Partnership to provide legal advice for Travellers in (a) 2007-08 and (b) 2008-09.

Reply from Shahid Malik: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) holds a contract with the Community Law Partnership to provide a helpline for Travellers to provide legal advice on a range of matters.

In 2007-08 the contract for this helpline was worth £56,540 excluding VAT. In 2008-09 the contract for this helpline was worth £61,680 excluding VAT. The Gypsy and Travellers' telephone helpline receives funding each year contingent upon the Community Law Partnership delivering their contracted 1,100 hours in 2007-08 and 1,200 hours in 2008-09.

The helpline forms a small part of the LSC's national telephone helpline, Community Legal Advice (0845 345 4 345).

The Community Law Partnership also has a contract with the LSC to deliver services in legal categories including housing, welfare benefits and community care law. That contract is for legal help and does not include representation in court. The LSC is unable to say how much of this funding has been provided to Travellers because it does not hold information to indicate whether clients follow any particular lifestyle.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090202/text/90202w0014.htm#09020233000026>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Caroline Spelman [252751]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on the compulsory purchase of land to provide for Traveller encampments; and what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the matter.

Reply from Iain Wright: Guidance on the compulsory purchase of land is contained in ODPM Circular 06/04 "Compulsory Purchase and the Crichel Down Rules". The use of compulsory purchase powers is entirely a matter for the local authority. If a local authority wished to compulsorily purchase any land, it would have to demonstrate that there is a compelling case in the public interest before any compulsory purchase order could be confirmed. This is true for the purchase of land to provide Traveller sites as in any other circumstance. Planning advice for Gypsies and Travellers is contained in ODPM Circular 1/06 "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites".

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090204/text/90204w0023.htm#0902055000050>

Lord Avebury [HL1167]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the particular responsibilities of local authorities in conducting evictions of elderly Gypsies and Travellers from unauthorised encampments.

Reply from Baroness Andrews: Advice on local authorities' responsibilities when taking enforcement action against Gypsies and Travellers is set out in our *Guide to the Effective Use of Enforcement Powers*. Part 1 states that local authorities have an obligation to carry out welfare assessments on unauthorised campers to identify any welfare issues that need to be addressed before taking enforcement action against them. Part 2 states that taking "default" enforcement action, under Section 178 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, can be extremely traumatic for vulnerable residents in a site such as the elderly and that careful thought needs to be given to ensuring that action taken to restore a site to its original state is proportionate and considered. *Guidance on Managing Unauthorised Camping* states that, where bailiffs or other agencies and contractors are employed to take such enforcement action, a code of expected behaviour should be drawn up. This code must recognise that private bodies have a local authority's human rights and race relations responsibilities while acting as its agent.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90206w0001.htm#09020646000073>

Rob Marris [253544]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 in enabling the courts to prevent forced marriages.

Reply from Bridget Prentice: As the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 was only implemented on 25 November 2008, it is too early to evaluate trends. 10 orders have been made since the introduction of the Act including one for the victim returned from Bangladesh. We are continuing to monitor the number of forced marriage protection orders made by the courts. We have asked the courts dealing with the Act to provide statistics on the number of orders they make.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090203/text/90203w0041.htm#09020412000011>

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New Publication

Data use in voluntary and community organisations

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/2343-voluntary-community-organisations.pdf>

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Other News

Victory for suspended Christian nurse

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article5675452.ece>

Hospitals betray their history by banishing prayer

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/4548047/Hospitals-betray-their-history-by-banishing-prayer.html>

Foster parent who has looked after 80 children struck off...because a Muslim girl in her care became a Christian

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1138701/Foster-parent-looked-80-children-struck-Muslim-girl-care-Christian.html>

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Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

**** Arbitration Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/19-Arbitration/index.htm>

Delegated Powers Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/19-Arbitration/b19s3-introd-dpm.pdf>

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>

proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-09/bb-02-02g.htm>

Bill as amended at Stage 2

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/13-HealthBoards/b13s3-stage2-amend.pdf>

Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill

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

Bills in Progress Holyrood (continued)

**** Scottish Local Government (Elections) Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/21-SLGelections/index.htm>

Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/21-SLGelections/b21s3-introd.pdf>

Policy Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/21-SLGelections/b21s3-introd-pm.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/21-SLGelections/b21s3-introd-en.pdf>

Delegated Powers Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/21-SLGelections/b21s3-introd-dpm.pdf>

Sexual Offences Bill

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

Bills in Progress Westminster

Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill

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

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Consultations (closing date)

**** New or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

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>

Consultations (continued)

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

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Funding Opportunities

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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**** 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

**** this week!**

Understanding the new points-based immigration system

11 February 2009 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.00)

Ethnic Minorities Law Centre conference to give an understanding of the Point Based System, the implications and impact including the: purpose and benefits of Points Based System, who should register for a sponsorship license and criteria, and the rights of migrants and their family's in the UK under the Points Based System. For information contact the EMLC 0141 204 2888 / admin@emlc.org.uk

**** this week!**

Fit for Funding

12 February 2009 in Glasgow

23 February 2009 in Glasgow

Faith in Communities Scotland training for faith-based organisations working to tackle poverty and disadvantage who needs to raise funds for their work. The one day session covers: How to raise funds, ethical considerations when raising funds, and how to find the right funder for you. For information contact Eleanor Logan

0141 221 4576 / eleanor@transformationteam.org

**** this week!**

Working with interpreters

12 February 2009 in Glasgow

28 April 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work with non-English speaking service users, including asylum seekers and refugees, who need a comprehensive understanding of some of the key issues of working with interpreters. For information see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=72> or contact SRC 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** this week!**

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

Supporting Migrant Workers in Scotland

18 February 2009 in Glasgow (1.00 – 5.00)

Scottish Migrants Network Conference for migrant workers and support organisations in Scotland to share policy and practice five years after accession. For information contact Seonad Forbes 0141 353 2220 / migrantaction@paih.org

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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

**** Promoting Equality, Dignity and Respect in the Workplace**

25 March 2009 in Glasgow (10.30 – 3.00)

BEMIS / STUC conference to promote a better understanding and deployment of employment rights within the race equality agenda. For information contact Adnan Miyasar 0141 548 8047 / Adnan.miyasar@bemis.org.uk

**** An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees**

2 April 2009 in Glasgow

9 June 2009 in Glasgow

20 August 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council seminar for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=67>

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.

**** Introduction to the Needs of Refugee Women**

21 May 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting women seeking sanctuary in Scotland. For information contact SRC 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=65>

**** Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees**

9 June 2009 in Glasgow

20 August 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to identify the issues and concerns participants have in relation to working with asylum seekers and refugees, provide information on legal, political, economic and historical factors in relation to people seeking asylum, share ideas for developing good practice, and to identify strategies and resources for work with refugees. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=73>

**** UKBA (formerly NASS) Asylum Support - The Essentials**

3 September 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course covering the asylum process and the legal framework, support arrangements available to asylum seekers from the beginning to the end of the asylum process, and entitlements for refugees and unaccompanied or separated asylum-seeking children. For information contact SRC 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=60>

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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>

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/>