

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Debates

Immigration and Nationality (Fees) (Amendment) Order 2009

Lord West of Spithead (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office): My Lords, the Government are delivering the biggest shake-up of the immigration system for 45 years. Improvements and new services do not come for free, and our policy is that the burden of paying for them should not fall entirely to the United Kingdom taxpayer. In accordance with our legal powers, this order sets out new applications and services for which we intend a fee to be payable in future. The proposed fee levels have been published, and will be specified in subsequent regulations in the near future. The fees we intend to charge for each new service will be at or below the cost of delivering it.

We intend to charge a fee for the UKBA to issue a letter to confirm a person's status in the United Kingdom when, for example, that person has lost their initial grant letter or the passport in which their leave had originally been placed. Those are currently provided free on request, at cost to the agency. We believe it reasonable that the applicant, who benefits from the letter, should contribute to the costs.

To read the full debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90305-0005.htm#09030545001042>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Debates (continued)

British Curry Industry

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090304/halltext/90304h0004.htm>

Ministerial Statement

Justice and Home Affairs Council

Meg Hillier (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department): The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council was held in Brussels on 26 and 27 February 2009. My right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, my noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Ministry of Justice, Lord Bach, and the Scottish Solicitor-General, Frank Mulholland QC, attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. The following issues were discussed at the Council:

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The Commission presented its proposal for a European Asylum Support Office (EASO) to the Council. The Commission explained that the EASO's aims would be to enhance practical cooperation; help member states under particular pressures; and ensure a common European asylum regime. It would not make case decisions and would be part-financed through changes to the European Refugee Fund. The Commission hoped that the proposal would receive political agreement by the summer and be implemented in 2010. The proposal was broadly welcomed by a number of member states. The UK thanked the Commission for its proposal, noting that it went to the heart of what European co-operation was about: making a difference on the ground. It emphasised its support for practical co-operation on asylum in order to provide protection for those who needed it. The UK stated that systems should be streamlined, to deliver fair decisions quickly and tackle abuse. The UK also argued for more work with countries outside the EU in order to stop asylum being the weak point in immigration systems and to stop refugees having to travel to the EU to find safety.

The presidency presented the Commission's report on implementation of the free movement directive. The Commission said it hoped to adopt guidelines on application of the directive by the summer. They confirmed that the guidelines would cover abuses of free movement rights, including marriages of convenience and persistent criminality: moving to another member state carried responsibilities as well as rights. A number of member states highlighted their concerns about abuses of free movement. The UK welcomed the Commission's work on guidelines and asked that they should set out consequences when these responsibilities are not met.

The Council briefly discussed the issue of combating illegal immigration in the Mediterranean. The discussion highlighted the role of Frontex (the European Border Agency), readmission agreements and the need for further development of the EU's Global Approach to Migration.

The Council also discussed progress in resettling Iraqi refugees following the Council conclusions adopted in November 2008 which set an EU target of 10,000. The Commission welcomed the fact that member states had notified their intention to resettle 5,100 refugees so far, improving the situation of refugees in Syria and Jordan. The Commission stated that additional funds (€20 million) would be made available to support member states' efforts.

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<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090305/wmstext/90305m0002.htm#09030551000016>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Lord Hylton [HL1183]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many current immigration or asylum detainees are either de jure or de facto stateless.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Currently there are 21 detainees held in the estate who are stateless people.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90302w0002.htm#09030220000200>

Lord Patten [HL1567]: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill is compatible with Protocol 4 to the European Convention of Human Rights which guarantees the right of nationals to enter their country of nationality.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The right of British Nationals to enter the UK and any compatible rights under Protocol 4 to the European Convention of Human Rights is not an issue that is covered by the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill.

Only persons with the right of abode in the UK under Section 2 of the Immigration Act 1971, being British citizens and certain Commonwealth citizens, are free to enter and remain in the UK without being subject to immigration control.

British nationals without the right of abode do not enjoy a right as set out in the Protocol 4 of the European Convention on Human Rights. This is because the UK has signed but not ratified Article 3 of Protocol 4 to the European Convention on Human Rights. The protocol was signed in 1963 but not subsequently ratified because of the potential conflict with our domestic law in relation to the issue of British passports and the acquisition of a right of abode by categories of British nationals who do not currently have that right.

British nationals continue to be admitted freely to the United Kingdom on production of a United Kingdom passport issued in the United Kingdom and Islands or the Republic of Ireland prior to 1 January 1973, unless their passport has been endorsed to show that they are subject to immigration control. British nationals may also naturalise or register as a British citizen under the British Nationality Act 1981 and therefore acquire the right of abode in the UK under the Immigration Act 1971.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90302w0002.htm#09030220000200>

Lord Hylton [HL1684]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how they are ensuring that facilities for repatriation are made known to migrants, particularly from eastern Europe, who are unemployed or destitute.

Reply from Baroness Andrews: We have already provided funding to support local authorities in helping destitute eastern European migrants return home or to find work. In London, councils are working with homelessness charities to voluntarily repatriate those eastern European migrants who become destitute. We continue to work with Homeless Link, the national umbrella organisation for homelessness charities, on tackling rough sleeping by eastern European migrants.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90302w0002.htm#09030220000201>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Ashok Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to provide information to migrant workers on their employment rights. [259859]

Reply from Phil Woolas: We include information material in the registration pack for accession state workers registering with UKBA. Furthermore, we provide all workers registration scheme and A2 applicants with the TUC booklet "Working in the UK" explaining their rights at work.

The employment pages of the UKBA website provide useful links to relevant material including the TUC booklet.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090304/text/90304w0012.htm#09030487000023>

Damian Green [260094]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to expand the Gateway refugee programme; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Meg Hillier: We have no plans to increase the quota from its current level.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090303/text/90303w0002.htm#09030349000009>

Claire Curtis-Thomas [259321]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on granting asylum to applicants who claim to have been persecuted by members of (a) another ethnic group and (b) armed groups operating unlawfully in their country of origin.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Our policy in deciding whether to grant asylum is set out in the immigration rules.

In accordance with this policy, UK Border Agency case owners carefully consider asylum claims to determine whether the person has a well-founded fear of persecution on grounds of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group. This will include persecution by members of another ethnic group or armed groups operating unlawfully in the country of origin where the state authorities, or the organisation (including international organisations) controlling the state territory, are unable or unwilling to provide protection against persecution or serious harm and where the individual cannot reasonably be expected to avoid the persecution by relocating within the country concerned.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090303/text/90303w0002.htm#09030349000009>

Claire Curtis-Thomas [259655]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what documentation her Department provides to asylum seekers when they claim asylum after arrival in the UK; and what services such people are entitled to receive on arriving in the country.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Asylum applicants and their dependants are issued with an Application Registration Card (ARC) on or after arrival in the United Kingdom, as an acknowledgement of an asylum claim made to the UK Border Agency. The card contains information about the identity and immigration status of the holder.

Asylum applicants are also issued with information sheets which set out the services they are entitled to receive for the duration of their claim. This includes health care, schooling for children and, subject to their financial circumstances, access to legal representation and benefits.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090303/text/90303w0002.htm#09030349000009>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Claire Curtis-Thomas [259657]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which countries of origin of migrants the UK has re-admission agreements; when each such agreement was signed; and with which countries her Department is negotiating such agreements.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK has always maintained the position that all countries are under an obligation to readmit their own nationals who are removed from another country, independently of Readmission Agreements. The UK wants to build international alliances to help deliver our policies. A key element of this is to co-operate on migration through bilateral and multilateral relationships with other countries. To this end the UK has formal agreements and informal arrangements with various countries to readmit their nationals.

Only where there is a specific need does the UK seek to negotiate Readmission Agreements. There is a bilateral Readmission Agreement in force with Switzerland, signed on 16 December 2005, and we also have another with Algeria which was signed on 11 July 2006. There are currently no negotiations being undertaken for a bilateral Readmission Agreement with any third country.

The UK also works closely with our European partners in the area of returns. The European Union has its own framework of agreements called European Community Readmission Agreements (ECRA). These are negotiated and signed by the European Commission on behalf of the member states and Ministers decide on the UK's opt-in position to these agreements.

There are 11 European Community Readmission Agreements which have been signed and are now in force as follows:

Hong Kong signed on—27 November 2002

Macao signed on—13 October 2003

Sri Lanka signed on—4 June 2004

Albania signed on—14 April 2005

Russia signed on—25 May 2006

Ukraine signed on—18 June 2007

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia signed on—18 September 2007

Serbia signed on—18 September 2007

Montenegro signed on—18 September 2007

Bosnia Herzegovina signed on—18 September 2007

Moldova signed on—10 October 2007

There are also open ECRA mandates with the following countries, but these are at various stages of negotiation and agreements have yet to be signed; China, Pakistan, Algeria, Morocco, Turkey and Georgia. The UK has opted into all ECRA's negotiated so far, and to all negotiating mandates proposed to date.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090304/text/90304w0011.htm#09030487000021>

John Randall [257209]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to bring forward proposals to amend the Leaving Care Act 2000 to allow unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to return to their country of origin.

Reply from Phil Woolas: None; the Children Act 1989 as amended by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 has no effect on the return of unaccompanied asylum seeking children to their countries of origin.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090303/text/90303w0002.htm#09030349000010>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

John Randall [257215]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department is making in relation to special authority status for local authorities who are dealing with unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency will shortly be seeking proposals from local authorities, or groups of local authorities, setting out the numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children they could accommodate, and at what cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090303/text/90303w0002.htm#09030349000010>

Jim Cousins [260455]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 9 December 2004, Official Report, columns 733-7W, to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead on asylum and immigration, how many asylum seekers have been dispersed to each parliamentary constituency in the latest two-year period for which figures are available.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Information on the number of asylum seekers that have been dispersed to each parliamentary constituency over a two year period is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Statistics on the location of asylum seekers in the UK are published in tables 5 and 6 of the quarterly bulletin Control of Immigration on the number of asylum seekers in receipt of support at the end of the quarter, broken down by Government office, region and local authority.

Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>.

Further breakdowns by parliamentary constituency are available from the Library of the House.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090303/text/90303w0002.htm#09030349000009>

Evan Harris [256340]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that mechanisms for returning failed asylum seekers to their countries, with particular reference to the facilities in immigration removal centres, take account of the needs of HIV-positive people.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK border agency examines with great care each individual case before detention and removal. They take into account all individual circumstances including, where appropriate, any serious medical conditions or other compassionate circumstances. Consideration is given to fitness to travel and whether the necessary medical treatment is available in the country to which the individual is being returned.

All UK border agency immigration removal centres have a healthcare team and medical practitioner who are responsible for the care of the physical and mental health of all those detained, including failed asylum seekers. Detainees who are known to be HIV positive at the point of detention or who are diagnosed as being HIV positive while in detention will receive the appropriate medical care and treatment during their detention.

Removals are then carried out in accordance with Home Office policy and guidelines, and with every care and consideration to the dignity and health of the individual. Individuals diagnosed as suffering from a particular medical condition which requires ongoing treatment, including HIV, will be accompanied by a suitable medical escort.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090302/text/90302w0014.htm#09030237000069>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Finlay of Llandaff: To ask Her Majesty's Government why they propose to change the length of student visas, issued by the UK Border Agency, from the full length of the course to a maximum of four years.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, the Government have further considered their intention to restrict the length of a student visa under tier 4 of the points-based system to a maximum period of four years. I am pleased to be able to announce that we have decided to grant degree students visas for the full length of their course in the United Kingdom.

Baroness Finlay of Llandaff: My Lords, I thank the Minister for that reply with which I am delighted. In relation to medical courses, does he recognise that students must complete their pre-registration year and that under the Medical Act the undergraduate dean is required to sign that they are fit to be fully registered? Without being able to complete that year in the UK, the undergraduate dean cannot verify the quality of practice of that doctor and that potentially devalues the degree that they will have obtained here. Do the Government intend to honour Recommendation 11 from Sir John Tooke's inquiry that students who are UK graduates from overseas should be eligible for postgraduate training in this country as well, a recommendation that the Secretary of State at the time agreed to?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, I thank the noble Baroness for her questions. I was delighted to note from yesterday's debate that people were pleased that we had shown flexibility in terms of the duration of time people would be here for a course. I will answer the questions in reverse order. Provision for postgraduate doctors and dentists with a place on a recognised foundation programme has been made under tier 4. In order to qualify, the applicant must have successfully completed a recognised United Kingdom degree in medicine or dentistry in a tier 4 institution, a UK publicly funded institution or a UK bona fide institution. I will come back in detail to the other point in writing because it is rather more complex and would take too long.

Baroness Gardner of Parkes: My Lords, I am aware that the visa system is now based on the Australian points system. While I welcome that, it is important that the Government realise that there is one big difference in terms of people who are destined to become world-famous artists, such as Joan Sutherland. They could never have achieved this if they were limited to a specific amount of time in the UK. No one goes to Australia to become world famous but they come from many countries to achieve greatness here. Does the present flexibility, which I welcome, extend to these potentially great artists?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, I hesitate to comment on the importance of going to the Antipodes to become famous. On the noble Baroness's specific point, I do not know the exact detail. As I understand it, there will be flexibility to achieve this. The aim of the points-based system is to enable us to have some of this flexibility, as is shown in the fact that we have already changed the length of time that a student can stay for a course. That shows that we can change the flexibility of those rules within the overarching tier system. Therefore, that will be there. If that is not the case, I will get back to the noble Baroness in writing.

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: My Lords, will the Minister pay some attention to the sensitivity with which officials in the Home Office implement this policy? As it happens, I heard this morning of an American student at the London School of Economics who was told by the Home Office at the beginning of January that if she did not finish her PhD by the end of February, her visa would be revoked. Does the Minister recall that in early January there was an interesting story in the Times, which said that more officials in the Obama Administration had studied at the London School of Economics than at any other British university? Sensitivity counts in these areas.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, I absolutely take that point. This whole area of education is so crucial for this country. As I mentioned in the debate last night, £2.5 billion in tuition fees alone comes into this country every year: not to mention all the cultural advantages and the fact that we have so many world leaders in all sorts of areas who have trained here. That is absolutely taken on board. I know that the Home Office is not known for sensitivity. Actually, I think it has become more sensitive, although I would not say that that is anything to do with me. I absolutely take the noble Lord's point, and I will ensure that it gets fed back.

Baroness Hanham: My Lords, following up the Minister's reply in our debate last night, will the Home Secretary's recent announcement about limiting the number of immigrants coming here affect student applications, and if so how?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, the intention is that it will not limit the number of students coming here. In terms of the various tiers, as I am sure the noble Baroness is aware, low-skilled migration remains suspended at the moment. That is an area in which there is an immediate impact. There is some movement in the skilled area of tier 2, but so far as students go there is no intention to limit the numbers.

Lord Elystan-Morgan: My Lords, I have a question about Welsh institutions of higher education, and in so doing declare an interest as a former president of Aberystwyth University. The Minister may or may not recollect that for about a century the University of Wales was a federated unified institution. That is no longer the case; there are now 12 separate institutions. There is a great deal of cohesion, happily, between them, and the many modular schemes mean that there is a velocity of travel from one institution to the other. Will the Minister give an assurance that there is no question of foreign students having to apply for a refreshing of their visas in the case of such movement? Such a requirement could jeopardise very greatly the considerable enrichment, both financial and culturally, that comes from that source.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, if the University of Wales is on the sponsor register as the University of Wales, even with those separated units—I imagine it is, but if I am wrong I will get back to the noble Lord in writing—the answer is that the students would not have to apply each time they change. They can change courses within a particular university or unit. That is allowed for in the rules.

Baroness Sharp of Guildford: My Lords, are the rumours about the curtailing of post-study work arrangements for international students entirely unfounded or are they are correct?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, I am not absolutely certain. Is this after they have completed all their studies and then go on to post-study work? There will be an opportunity for them to do postgraduate work, but there is no intention to allow all the people who study in this country to remain here to work. They would have to go through the normal procedure for tiers 1 and 2.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90305-0001.htm#09030545001029>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Damer [HL1277]: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Home Office has authorised the redocumentation of anyone claiming asylum as a Darfuri in the past four months; and what their current policy is regarding the redocumentation of people claiming asylum as Darfuris.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The UK Border Agency has not authorised the re-documentation of any non-Arab Darfuris in the past four months.

On 9 July 2008, the Government announced the suspension of enforced returns of non-Arab Darfuri asylum seekers to Sudan to await the outcome of the country guidance case by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal. The UK Border Agency's current policy is not to seek to re-document non-Arab Darfuris until the country guidance case has been decided. The case is expected to be heard between May and July 2009.

As this policy does not extend to Darfuris of Arab origin, it is possible that the re-documentation of individuals of this group has been authorised in the past four months. Due to the nature of the records kept by the UK Border Agency, to differentiate between such applications and those for Sudanese nationals in general would require detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90305w0001.htm#09030549000221>

Lord Evans of Watford [HL1300]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how they reconcile the fact that British nationals who are not British citizens do not have a right to enter the United Kingdom with the right of nationals to enter their country of nationality, set out in Article 3 of protocol four to the European Convention on Human Rights.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Only persons with the right of abode in the UK under Section 2 of the Immigration Act 1971, being British citizens and certain Commonwealth citizens, are free to enter and remain in the UK without being subject to immigration control.

British nationals without the right of abode do not enjoy a right as set out in the Protocol four of the European Convention on Human Rights. This is because the UK has signed but not ratified Article 3 of Protocol 4 to the European Convention on Human Rights. The protocol was signed in 1963 but not subsequently ratified because of the potential conflict with our domestic law in relation to the issue of British passports and the acquisition of a right of abode by categories of British nationals who do not currently have that right.

British nationals continue to be admitted freely to the United Kingdom on production of a United Kingdom passport issued in the United Kingdom and Islands or the Republic of Ireland prior to 1 January 1973, unless their passport has been endorsed to show that they are subject to immigration control. British nationals may also naturalise or register as a British citizen under the British Nationality Act 1981 and therefore acquire the right of abode in the UK under the Immigration Act 1971.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90305w0002.htm#09030549000233>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Neil Gerrard: [254613] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have applied for permission to work in the UK under European Directive 2003/9/EC since it was introduced; and how many of these applications have been (a) granted and (b) refused.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Under the provisions of the European directive for reception of asylum seekers, since 5 February 2005 asylum seekers in the United Kingdom have been able to apply for permission to work when a decision on their asylum application has been delayed for at least one year and where that delay was not caused by the applicant. When such permission to work is given, it continues only until such time as the asylum claim is finally determined.

The requested information on the number of applications for permission to work under this arrangement and those granted and refused, is not collated and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost through examination of individual case records.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090305/text/90305w0012.htm#09030550000033>

Mohammad Sarwar [256250]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many trafficked persons identified as such by (a) police forces and (b) other authorities in each of the last three years are subsequently known to have been trafficked further.

Reply from Alan Campbell: Figures on re-trafficking of victims are not held centrally. Analysis of the outcomes of Pentameter 2 is currently being undertaken by the UK Human Trafficking Centre and will provide a more up to date picture of the extent of trafficking into the UK and the threat of re-trafficking of victims.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090303/text/90303w0003.htm#09030349000016>

Mohammad Sarwar [256251]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many trafficked (a) women and (b) children discovered through police operations against human trafficking in each of the last three years have subsequently been registered missing and are thought still to be in the UK.

Reply from Alan Campbell: Figures on the number of those identified as trafficked women who have absconded are not held centrally.

Under Operation Pentameter 2, police recovered 16 children, 13 of whom had been identified as potentially trafficked for sexual exploitation, none of whom have been reported as having absconded and three for forced labour, of which, one absconded with the other two remaining in local authority care.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090303/text/90303w0003.htm#09030349000016>

Dominic Grieve [243319]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-British citizens have been convicted and subsequently imprisoned in relation to human trafficking offences in each of the last five years.

Reply from Alan Campbell: Figures from the UK Human Trafficking Centre show a total of 92 foreign nationals have been convicted and imprisoned for the offence of human trafficking.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090305/text/90305w0013.htm#09030550000046>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

- John McDonnell** [258445]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much her Department is spending on the Poppy project in 2008-09;
- (2) [258446] what capacity the Poppy project has to provide intensive support for the initial four-week support period;
- (3) [258447] what mechanisms are in place to monitor the work of the Poppy project, including (a) how public funds are spent, (b) the capacity of the project in relation to demand, (c) the quality of counselling provided and (d) checks on volunteers;
- (4) [258448] how many (a) full-time staff, (b) fully-qualified counsellors and (c) fully-qualified translators are employed by the Poppy project;
- (5) [258449] what conditions apply to people receiving services provided by the Poppy project on (a) the initial four-week support, (b) support for resettlement, (c) compensation through (i) the courts and (ii) the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme and (d) eligibility for the new renewable one-year residence permits;
- (6) [258450] how many identified victims of trafficking received from the Poppy project (a) the initial four week support, (b) support for resettlement, (c) compensation through (i) the courts and (ii) the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, (d) eligibility for the new renewable one-year residence permits and (e) other services in each of the last five years;
- (7) [258451] how many identified victims of trafficking were denied services from the Poppy project in each of the last five years due to (a) the project's limited capacity and (b) the refusal by the victim to co-operate with prosecutions; and what other options for support are available for victims in such cases.

Reply from Maria Eagle: The Government have invested £5.8 million into Eaves Housing for Women to run the Poppy project since 2003. The grant for this financial year is £1.3 million. This provides for a range of services including 35 supported accommodation places and eight full-time staff. While the project facilitates access to counselling and interpretative services and can pay for this where necessary, it does not directly employ these professionals. Eaves Housing for Women is required to submit regular monitoring and financial information, which is reviewed on a quarterly basis. The organisation does not submit any specific information on the use of volunteers. However the organisation is required to take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of clients, which includes undertaking Criminal Records Bureau checks for staff and volunteers. Under the terms of the grant clients can be supported for an initial four weeks, with longer-term services provided in return for cooperation with the authorities. To qualify for support women must be over 18-years-old, trafficked into the United Kingdom and sexually exploited through prostitution in the United Kingdom. Between March 2003 and December 2008, 423 women received support from the Poppy project; 215 benefited from supported accommodation and 208 received outreach support. The Poppy project has developed partnerships with other organisations to help provide alternative services for individuals that do not meet the eligibility criteria or when the project is at capacity. Information on the number of individuals that have been unable to access the Poppy project is not held centrally. It is open to the courts to award compensation orders in favour of a victim of crime and victims of violence can also apply to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. While the Poppy project can inform victims of avenues to access compensation, it is not within their authority to determine eligibility for, or administer compensation. This year we will be expanding support services for victims of human trafficking and extending the reflection and recovery period to a minimum of 45 days. The Government will also introduce new renewable temporary residence permits for identified victims of human trafficking that participate in a criminal investigation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090227x/text/90227w012.htm#09022737000124>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Press Releases

Public enquiry offices open their doors to more points-based system applications

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

MPs' survey finds widespread dissatisfaction with Home Office over immigration case correspondence

http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/home_affairs_committee/hacpn090303no32.cfm

Better school support needed for migrant children, say MEPs

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/038-50632-061-03-10-906-20090302IPR50631-02-03-2009-2009-false/default_en.htm

News

Police in Pole position

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Police-in-Pole-position.5031451.jp>

Release of immigration data blasted

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Release-of-immigration-data-blasted.5035264.jp>

Polish festival and medieval tournament is extended due to high demand

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Polish-festival-and-medieval-tournament.5035963.jp>

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Race Relations

New publications

What Works in Enabling Cross-Community Interactions? Perspectives on good policy and practice

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1165960.pdf>

We need native British Muslim leaders

http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/daniel_hannan/blog/2009/02/24/we_need_native_british_muslim_leaders

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Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Lord Ouseley [HL1658]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how the discontinuation of national equality targets for the police service will affect efforts to eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote equality of opportunity; and how future progress will be monitored and measured.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The policing Green Paper reinforces the need to increase local responsibility for police performance. It will now be for each police authority to set race and gender targets, in conjunction with its force, and involve police officers, police staff and local communities. National oversight will be maintained in particular through the inspection of workforce issues in 2010 by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90305w0003.htm#09030549000241>

Press Releases

Capturing the gains of the Public Sector Duties

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Documents/Equalities/EHRCCapturing.pdf>

Commission calls for reforms to make Parliament fit to represent modern Britain

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

Speaker's Conference – the Commission's submission

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/policyresearch/briefings/Pages/Submissiontospeakersconference.aspx>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Lord Ouseley [HL1609]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what specific targets were set by the Government Equality Office for race equality outcomes in 2008—09; and what was achieved.

Reply from Baroness Royall of Blaisdon: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) did not set specific targets for race equality outcomes in 2008-09. Government priorities, including those on race equality, are set out in the three-year cross-cutting public service agreement (PSA) announced in November 2007. PSA 15 (Equality) aims to address the disadvantage that individuals experience because of their race, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation and religion or belief and includes commitments to improve participation in public life, reduce workplace discrimination and tackle unfair treatment in the delivery of services for people from an ethnic minority.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90303w0002.htm#09030337000520>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued)

Press Release

UN rights chief urges all States to take part in anti-racism conference
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30057&Cr=racism&Cr1=>

New publication

Anti-Semitism - Summary overview of the situation in the EU 2001-2008
http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/Antisemitism_Update_2009.pdf

News

Racist stab attack man locked up
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7920877.stm

Racist knife thug locked up
http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2493238.0.racist_knife_thug_locked_up.php

Racist attackers pull open car door and slash driver at wheel
<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/topstories/Racist-attackers-pull-open-car.5031400.jp>

Police Played 'Spot The Black Officer'
http://www.policeoracle.com/news/Police-Played-Spot-The-Black-Officer_18596.html

Warning over credit crunch racism
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7930614.stm>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Claire Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the comparative rates of imprisonment of (a) black males and (b) white males; how these rates compare with the proportions in the overall population; and if he will make a statement. [259554]

Reply from Maria Eagle: The most recent assessment of the comparative rates of imprisonment for both males and females together are as follows.

For British nationals, the proportion of black prisoners on 30 June 2007 relative to the population was 7.4 per 1,000 compared to 1.4 per 1,000 for white persons. For the overall population it was 1.5 per 1,000.

The latest data therefore indicates that black people are over five times more likely to be in prison than their white counterparts.

Data are not currently available for males alone.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090303/text/90303w0027.htm#09030420000104>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Andrew George [258683]: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans his Department has to reduce fuel poverty among Gypsy and Traveller communities.

Reply from Joan Ruddock: Those living in Gypsy and Traveller communities, and in receipt of a qualifying income or disability related benefit, are able to apply for assistance with heating and insulation measures through Warm Front. Indeed DECC ensures that the Warm Front scheme manager, eaga plc, actively targets minority ethnic groups to ensure they can benefit from the scheme.

Unfortunately, many of those of the Gypsy and Traveller communities live in properties including Park Homes, which can prove 'hard to treat' and may not be suitable for some of the measures currently available under Warm Front. However, we are currently reviewing options for alternative heating and insulation products which could assist these properties.

In addition, those who live in Gypsy and Traveller communities and are over 60 years of age would qualify for the winter fuel payment and, subject to their satisfying the grant eligibility criteria for applicants, could also qualify for assistance under the cold weather payments scheme.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090302/text/90302w0027.htm#09030250000069>

Julie Morgan: As chair of the Gypsy and Traveller law reform all-party parliamentary group, may I ask my hon. Friend what discussions he has had about the 90 Gypsy and Traveller families who are due to be evicted from Dale farm, and who include many young children and elderly people? I gave notice to the hon. Member for Billericay (Mr. Baron) that I would raise this question.

Reply from Sadiq Khan: Again, this may not please hon. Members on the Opposition Benches, but it is for local authorities to decide whether enforcement action should be taken, what enforcement action should be taken, and how that is carried out. The example of Dale farm is one in which enforcement action is being taken by Basildon district council. I know that my hon. Friend has highlighted the fact that vulnerable people—the very young, children and disabled people—are involved there, and I hope the council will take on board the concerns that she has expressed and make sure that it deals sensitively with the people affected.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090303/debtext/90303-0003.htm#09030340000020>

Andrew Selous: I represent an area that already has quite a large number of Traveller sites in it, and the Government are asking us to take more sites. Most of the Travellers in my area are foreign nationals from other EU countries, which make virtually no provision for foreign Travellers in their own countries and do not even make provision for Travellers from those countries themselves. Can the Minister explain to my constituents why the United Kingdom seems to be rather out of step with those other countries in this matter?

Reply from Sadiq Khan: I thank the hon. Gentleman for his supplementary question. The basic principle is that it is for local authorities to decide the needs of the local community. They identify where there is a need and make plans and provision to meet it. *[Interruption.]* The problem with the alternative is more and more unauthorised sites. From his own example, and from his colleagues' experience, too, the hon. Gentleman will appreciate the cost in human misery that those cause.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090303/debtext/90303-0003.htm#09030340000020>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Andrew Selous [259890]: What planning guidance and circulars have been issued relating to the provision of Traveller sites since 2005.

Reply from Sadiq Khan: Planning policy for the provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers is set out in Office of the Deputy Prime Minister circular 01/2006, which is helpfully called "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites". There are additional publications that supplement that planning guidance and are part of the overall planning framework for Gypsy and Traveller sites. All those publications are available on the excellent DCLG website.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090303/debtext/90303-0003.htm#0903034000020>

John Baron: Returning to the subject of Dale farm, the Minister will be aware that some Travellers are reported to be preparing to resist an eviction, despite having exhausted all their arguments in court. No one wants to see a forced eviction and the sorrow that that would bring, so will the Government do what they can to use their influence to persuade Travellers to move on peacefully? To this end, will the Government help to identify transit sites, so that families are not made completely homeless?

Reply from Sadiq Khan: I thank the hon. Gentleman for his question. It is for the council to consider what to do. He will be aware that the Travellers have sought leave to appeal to the House of Lords, so we will have to wait and see what the House of Lords decides to do. As he knows, if there are authorised sites available, the police have more options for moving Travellers and Gypsies on. One of the incentives for Basildon to try to find authorised sites is that that gives the police even more powers to take action against the Travellers and Gypsies to whom he refers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090303/debtext/90303-0003.htm#0903034000020>

Andrew Robathan [259893]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the latest guidance to local authorities is on provision of sites for Travellers.

Reply from Sadiq Khan: Planning Policy for the provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers is set out in ODPM Circular 01/2006.

Local Authorities and Gypsies and Travellers: A Guide to Responsibilities and Powers was published in May 2007 and is available on the Communities and Local Government website.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090303/text/90303w0033.htm#09030420000147>

Lord Pearson of Rannoch [HL1751]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of senior Civil Service staff of the Home Office, UK Border Agency and the panels which advise them are Muslims.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The proportion of Senior Civil Service staff in the Home Office and its agencies who have declared their religion as Muslim is around 2.5 per cent. Staff in the Home Office and its agencies have an option in our system not to give their religion when they are providing us with personal data.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90305w0001.htm#09030549000225>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Warsi [HL1652]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the prevalence of female genital mutilation in Britain.

[HL1653] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have been (a) arrested, and (b) prosecuted for carrying out female genital mutilation in the United Kingdom in each of the past 10 years.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: In October 2007 the Department of Health funded the Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development (FORWARD) to undertake a study in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and City University Midwifery Department to estimate the incidence of female genital mutilation in England and Wales. The study reveals that nearly 66,000 women with FGM are living in England and Wales.

The Department of Health have commissioned FORWARD to undertake further research to update these figures.

To date, neither the Metropolitan Police Service nor the Crown Prosecution Service has a record of any arrests or prosecutions being commenced under either the 1985 or 2003 Acts.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90305w0001.htm#09030549000227>

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New Publication

Ours to own: Your human rights

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Documents/Human_rights/EHRC_ours_to_own%20ER.pdf

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Other News

Quick A- Z of MEPs' duties and obligations

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/007-50576-061-03-10-901-20090302STO50535-2009-02-03-2009/default_en.htm

Human Rights Council opens its annual main session

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

Removing faith school entry criteria is 'unjust' say religious leaders

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/4947124/Removing-faith-school-entry-criteria-is-unjust-say-religious-leaders.html>

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**** Arbitration Bill**

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

Education (Additional Support for Learning) Bill

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

**** Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/24-CrimJustLc/index.htm>

Bill as introduced

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/24-CrimJustLc/b24s3-introd.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/24-CrimJustLc/b24s3-introd-en.pdf>

Policy Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/24-CrimJustLc/b24s3-introd-pm.pdf>

Regulatory Impact Assessment

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/262847/0078580.pdf>

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

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

Revised Explanatory Notes and Financial Memorandum

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

Supplementary Delegated Powers Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/13-HealthBoards/b13as3-introd-dpm.pdf>

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

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

Justice Committee: Stage 1 Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/reports-09/jur09-06.htm>

Scottish Local Government (Elections) Bill

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

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>

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldbills/015/amend/ml015-iiir.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldbills/015/amend/ml015-iii.htm>

House of Lords consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90302-0002.htm#0903028000443>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90304-0002.htm#09030469000370>

Scottish Parliament Justice Committee: Report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/reports-09/jur09-05.htm>

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Consultations (closing date)

**** New or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

End of Life Choices Bill (9 March 2009)

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

Scottish Gypsy Traveller (Discrimination) Bill (21 March 2009)

<http://enf.org.uk/blog/?p=762>

Inquiry into Race in the Construction Industry (24 March 2009)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/policyresearch/usinglegalpowers/pages/raceandconstructionfi.aspx>

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

Call for submissions of practices and initiatives in education that aim to combat intolerance against Muslims (15 May 2009)

<http://tandis.odhr.pl/index.php?p=edu,mus,map>

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Funding Opportunities

Community Chest (closing date 31 March 2009)

Small grant programme providing grants of up to £1,000 and free training to help small community groups in Scotland sustain and develop their activities. For information see <http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/grant-schemes/Comm>

Call for proposals: Fundamental rights and citizenship (closing date 22 April 2009)

The general objectives of the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme are the following:

- a. to promote the development of a European society based on respect for fundamental rights as recognised in Article 6(2) of the Treaty on European Union, including rights derived from citizenship of the Union;
- b. to strengthen civil society and to encourage an open, transparent and regular dialogue with it in respect of fundamental rights;
- c. to fight against racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism and to promote better interfaith and intercultural understanding and improved tolerance throughout the European Union;
- d. to improve contacts, exchange of information and networking between legal, judicial and administrative authorities and the legal professions, including by way of support to judicial training, with the aim of better mutual understanding among such authorities and professionals.

For more information see <http://www.enar-eu.org/Page.asp?docid=20468&langue=EN>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** this week!**

Discrimination Law Update

9 March 2009 in Glasgow (10.00 – 1.00)

Legal Services Agency seminar to provide an update on key developments in discrimination law within the past 12 months. For information contact 0141 353 3354 or see http://www.lsa.org.uk/discriminationlawupdate_1.aspx

**** this week!**

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Receipts and Payments Accounting

11 March 2009 in Nairn (10.30 – 12.30)

12 March 2009 in Wick (10.30 – 12.30)

Video conference about the preparation of charity accounts in the receipts and payments format. For information contact Derek Galbraith 01382 346838 / communications@oscr.org.uk

or see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=b834981a-ff9c-46ab-98f4-61a8429be739>

**** this week!**

Capturing the Gains of the Public Sector Duties in Scotland

13 March 2009 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 3.00)

Equalities and Human Rights Commission conference about their 'Capturing the Gains' Project which demonstrates how public bodies have improved their policies and services by taking the Public Sector Duties into account. For information contact scotlandcommunication@equalityhumanrights.com or see

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/forbusinessesandorganisation/events/Pages/CapturingtheGainsofthePublicSectorDutiesinScotland.aspx>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

From conflict to co-operation

15 March 2009 in Edinburgh (1.30 – 6.30)

Scottish Interfaith Council youth conference. For information contact Frances Hume 0141 420 6982 / fhume@scottishinterfaithcouncil.org

Trustee Duties / Consents & Notifications

17 March 2009 in Nairn (10.30 – 12.30)

19 March 2009 in Wick (2.00 – 4.00)

Office of the Scottish charity Regulator video conference about charity trustee duties, including when to seek consent from, or notify, OSCR of proposed changes to a charity. For information contact Derek Galbraith 01382 346838 / communications@oscr.org.uk or see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=b834981a-ff9c-46ab-98f4-61a8429be739>

Equality and Human Rights Commission

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

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

**** Refugee Integration: the interface between policy, research & practice**

27 March 2009 in Glasgow (9.00 – 3.30)

Scottish Refugee Council, and Institute for Advanced Studies conference to inform delegates of the current policy-making agendas at EU, UK and Scottish levels; highlight the implications of changes to those working with refugees and asylum seekers; give delegates opportunities to feed their views into the development of research into refugee integration; highlight the work of service providers delivering refugee integration programmes and the experiences of refugees themselves; and provide networking opportunities to delegates from across different fields. For information see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/SRC_Spring_Conf or contact graeme.corbett@scottishrefugeecouncil.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>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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.

Working with interpreters

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

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/>

Useful Links (continued)

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/>*