

## 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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## Immigration and Asylum

### Holyrood Parliamentary Question

**Christina McKelvie (S3O-6433):** To ask the Scottish Executive what information it has on any progress on implementing the alternatives to detention pilot for asylum-seeking families announced by the Secretary of State for Scotland in 2008.

**Reply from Alex Neil:** The pilot has not yet formally started but is expected to do so soon. The planning process, engagement with external stakeholders and the recruitment of staff to run the project are currently taking place.

This pilot will help reduce the number of families detained in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-09/wa0326.htm>

### Westminster Debates

**Immigration (Biometric Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2009**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90326-0011.htm#09032630000688>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Debates (continued)

### Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2009

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90326-0012.htm#09032630000689>

## Ministerial Statement

### Human Trafficking

**Vera Baird (The Solicitor-General):** The Government are investing a further £3.7 million over the next two years into the POPPY project to help vulnerable victims of human trafficking. The POPPY project, managed by Eaves Housing for Women, has provided refuge to hundreds of victims of human trafficking since 2003, backed by £5.8 million Government support. This new investment will help meet the commitments of the Council of Europe convention on action against human trafficking which the UK ratified in December 2008, coming into force in April. It is part of a wider package for victims, with the introduction of a 45 day extendable recovery and reflection period; new temporary residence permits for those participating in a criminal investigation; and a more co-ordinated and multi-agency way of identifying and referring victims into support.

The new resources will see:

an expansion of supported accommodation with refuge places for victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and domestic servitude in London, Sheffield and Cardiff;

an increase in advocacy workers to provide one-to-one tailored support to victims; facilitating their access to services and helping them through the criminal justice process;

the continuation of the community outreach team;

link workers based within the UK Human Trafficking Centre to work in partnership with the police, UK Border Agency and other partners to help with victim identification and onward referral into support; and

a new national co-ordinator to help set consistent standards of care, capacity build and raise awareness with local agencies and funders.

Victims are often subjected to multiple crimes including rape, physical violence, kidnapping and threats. The Government are committed to making the United Kingdom a hostile environment for traffickers and protecting victims. We published a comprehensive UK action plan in March 2007 which was updated on 2nd July 2008. We will continue to work internationally and in this country to combat these crimes.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090324/wmstext/90324m0001.htm#09032427000008>

## Westminster Parliamentary Questions

**Douglas Carswell [264798]:** What recent estimate she has made of the number of illegal immigrants resident in the United Kingdom.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** Since the phasing out of embarkation controls from 1994, no Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally. However, with the implementation of our new e-borders system, which the Opposition oppose, by 2010 more than 95 per cent. of non-European economic area foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country, and that will rise to 100 per cent. by 2014. This is part of the programme of border protection that also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, watch-list checks for all travellers before they arrive or depart from the UK, and identity cards for foreign nationals.

**Douglas Carswell:** Ministers will recall that many thousands of illegal migrants were found to be working in the security industry, yet last month it was revealed that a mere 35

## Immigration and Asylum

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

had been removed. Will the Minister specifically update the House on how many more have been removed since?

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** I congratulate the hon. Gentleman on repeating that question. The answer is on the record—if he wants further details, I shall, of course, write to him.

**Jeremy Corbyn:** The Minister will be aware that there are a number of people who have been in this country for a long time without papers, but who nevertheless make a huge contribution to our society, have children and families here and, under article 8 of the European convention on human rights, have a right to family life. Will he look sympathetically at these cases, so that those people, who are making a good contribution to our society, can be brought completely into the fold, as opposed to having to live a semi-legal existence?

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** Of course, if a person remains in the country illegally and has not been removed, but through no fault of their own, they are in a different situation. I note that my hon. Friend supports the ideas of the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, in calling for an amnesty in such cases. Our objections to that are first that it is unfair to those who are here legally and are contributing, and secondly that we fear it would act as a further pull factor for even more attempts at illegal immigration.

**To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090323/debtext/90323-0002.htm#0903235000019>

**Barry Gardiner** [264801]: What progress has been made on the implementation of the points-based immigration system.

**Reply from Jacqui Smith:** The points-based system is the most radical reworking of the immigration system in a generation, consolidating approximately 80 work and study routes into five simple tiers. Tiers for highly skilled, skilled and temporary workers have been implemented. The student tier will be introduced later this month. The tier for low-skilled workers is suspended indefinitely.

**Barry Gardiner:** Many of my constituents enjoy performances by artists who come over under tier 5, yet they have noticed in recent months that there has been a discrepancy in the application of the criterion that states that they should be employed on national minimum wage minimum rates. Sometimes, higher rates are being demanded in order for them to obtain the necessary visas. Will she look into this and ensure that the criteria are applied rigorously and that too much discretion is not being applied?

**Reply from Jacqui Smith:** The relevant codes of practice for performers who come in under the tier 5 criteria indicate that the salary paid should meet the industry minimums, rather than the national minimum wage. They are the standard payment rates set out in the collective agreements of Equity and the Musicians Union, negotiated with other industry bodies. I am sure that notwithstanding the pleasure gained by my hon. Friend's constituents from performers who come here from overseas, he would not want such performers to be exploited or for high-quality UK performers to be undercut in their opportunities to provide entertainment for his constituents.

**To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090323/debtext/90323-0002.htm#0903235000021>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Jim Cousins** [264451]: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what checks he requires to be made on the validity of documentation supplied by non-UK EU citizens in the course of child benefit claims; (2) [264450] what estimate he has made of the number of non-UK EU citizens claiming child benefit; and how many children in respect of whom such benefit is paid are not resident in the UK.

**Reply from Stephen Timms:** Any person making a claim for child benefit must provide documentary evidence of the child being claimed for, such as an original birth certificate, adoption certificate or passport. HMRC checks the validity of this document upon receipt. All claims for child benefit are subject to a wide range of checks throughout the life of each claim and it would be inappropriate to disclose a complete list of such checks as to do so may provide assistance to those attempting to defraud the system. Claims by EU migrant workers to family benefits in the UK (child benefit and child tax credit) are subject to additional checks between HMRC and the competent authorities of the other member state on the composition of the worker's family resident in that other state and whether family benefits are in payment there.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090320/text/90320w0003.htm#09032041000045>

**Chris Huhne** [255870]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for which (a) countries and (b) regions of countries the Government does not carry out forced removals of refused asylum seekers because of conflict or generalised violence which makes it unsafe for them to be returned.

**Reply from Jacqui Smith:** We do not accept that there is currently any country in the world where it is unsafe for returns to take place on a blanket basis because of conflict or generalised violence. Instead, all cases are considered on their individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090323/text/90323w0022.htm#09032339000018>

**Jim Cousins** [264323]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers (a) were referred to the National Asylum Support Service and (b) exited the National Asylum Support Service in each local authority area in the North East in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The National Asylum Support Service (NASS) no longer exists, although its functions continue to be exercised by the UK Border Agency. Information on the number of asylum seekers that have applied for and exited support in each North East local authority area over a period is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Statistics on the numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support at the end of the quarter are published in tables 5 and 6 of the quarterly bulletin Control of Immigration; these statistics are 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/cm090323/text/90323w0022.htm#09032339000019>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Jenny Willott** [264168]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applications her Department has received from (a) individuals and (b) families from (i) the Palestinian Territories and (ii) the Gaza Strip in each of the last (A) 12 months and (B) five years; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The requested information is unavailable and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records. However, information on the number of nationals from the Palestinian Territories that have applied for asylum in the United Kingdom between 2004 and 2008, broken down by main applicant and dependants have been provided in the table. Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Statistics for the first quarter of 2009 will be available in May 2009 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>

**To read the lengthy table see**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090323/text/90323w0022.htm#09032339000020>

**Philip Davies** [264191]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department has had with airline operators on the cost they will incur in modifying systems to comply with the data requirements under the e-Borders programme.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The e-Borders Programme has engaged with carriers from its inception, and continues to have ongoing consultations with the industry. A regulatory impact assessment was undertaken between August and October 2007, in which carriers had the opportunity to highlight the costs that would fall to them in connection with discharging their e-Borders obligations.

The programme has developed a wide range of methods to enable the carriers to transmit data to the e-Borders system. These have been created to align, as far as possible, with industry standards and current data transmission methods.

This allows carriers to continue to use systems already in use for transmitting data to other countries who collect passenger data, e.g. US and Spain, and has minimised the need to develop new systems.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090323/text/90323w0023.htm#09032339000021>

**Philip Davies** [264192]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of passenger movements she estimates will utilise full passenger name record data checks in (a) 2009, (b) 2010, (c) 2011, (d) 2012, (e) 2013 and (f) 2014.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** Other passenger information (OPI) is known in the airline industry as passenger name record data and relates to details collected for a carrier's own commercial purposes. It may include information such as passenger's name, address, telephone number, ticketing information and travel itinerary. There are currently no plans to collect OPI data for every passenger movement; however, it will be collected incrementally over five years to reach a maximum of 100 million passenger movements by the end of December 2013.

Currently, e-Borders obtains and processes advance passenger information (API) provided by carriers. This includes details available from travel documents such as a passport and scheduled departure and arrival information.

The e-Borders Programme remains on track to meet the milestone of capturing 60 per cent. (equivalent of 120 million passenger movements) of all passenger movements by December 2009.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090323/text/90323w0023.htm#09032339000021>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Philip Davies** [264193]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of implementing the authority-to-carry element of the e-Borders programme.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The long-term vision of the UK Border Agency is to establish the capability to automatically deny authority to carry (ATC) at the point of check-in to certain categories of individuals seeking to travel to the UK. The e-Borders programme will provide the ATC capability.

There will be a manual trial period to assess the benefits, impact and costs for the ATC capability. Following this trial, consideration will be given to the funding required.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090323/text/90323w0023.htm#09032339000021>

**Philip Davies** [264194]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of implementing the passenger name record element of the e-Borders programme.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The total cost of the other passenger information (OPI) element of the e-Borders contract is £89,025,118.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090323/text/90323w0023.htm#09032339000021>

**Lynne Featherstone** [263892]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been held in immigration removal centres for a period of more than (a) two weeks, (b) one month, (c) two months and (d) six months in 2008; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The requested information is not held centrally and would be available through the detailed examination of individual case files only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the numbers of children detained within the UK Border Agency detention estate solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis as at the last Saturday of each quarter of 2008, broken down by length of detention. National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. This information is published in tables 9-11 of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom bulletins which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

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

Children are detained only in the following limited circumstances: most usually, as part of a family group whose detention is considered necessary; exceptionally, when unaccompanied, while alternative care arrangements are made and normally just overnight; to facilitate supervised escort of an unaccompanied child, who is being removed, from his/her normal place of residence to the port where removal will take place—detention occurs only on the day of the planned removal to enable the child to be properly and safely escorted to his/her flight and/or to their destination; and in exceptional circumstances where it can be shown that an ex-foreign national prisoner aged under 18 poses a serious risk to the public and a decision to deport or remove him/her has been taken.

The Government's stated policy on detention of families with children is set out in the 1998 White Paper "Fairer, Faster and Firmer—A Modern Approach to Immigration and Asylum". In all cases there is a presumption in favour of temporary admission or temporary release and all reasonable alternatives to detention are considered before detention is authorised.

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

<i>Children<sup>(1)</sup> recorded as being in detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers, by length of detention as at the last Saturday of each quarter in 2008<sup>(2),(3)</sup></i>				
<i>Number of children<sup>(1)</sup></i>				
<i>Length of detention<sup>(4),(5)</sup></i>	<i>29 March</i>	<i>28 June</i>	<i>27 September</i>	<i>27 December</i>
Seven days or less	10	15	30	5
Eight to 14 days	*	5	*	15
15 to 28 days	5	20	20	15
29 days to less than two months	15	15	5	5
Two months to less than three months	5	—	—	*
Three months to less than four months	—	—	—	—
Four months to less than six months	—	—	—	—
Six months to less than one year	—	—	—	—
One year or more	—	—	—	—
Grand total	35	55	55	40

<sup>(1)</sup> People recorded as being under 18 on the last Saturday of each quarter. These figures will overstate if any applicants aged 18 or over claim to be younger.

<sup>(2)</sup> Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, \* = 1 or 2), may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding and exclude persons detained in police cells, Prison Service establishments and those detained under both criminal and immigration powers.

<sup>(3)</sup> Figures include dependants.

<sup>(4)</sup> Relates to most recent period of sole detention.

<sup>(5)</sup> Two months is defined as 61 days; four months is defined as 122 days; six months is defined as 182 days.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090323/text/90323w0023.htm#09032339000023>

**Michael Ancram** [265300]: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of non-EU nationals who have entered the UK since 2004.

**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 March 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your question concerning how many non-British EU nationals have entered the UK since 2004. (265300)

Official estimates show that there were 640,000 international immigrants of non-British EU citizenship to the UK between 2004 and 2007.

An international migrant is defined as someone who changes their country of usual residence for at least a year so that the country of destination effectively becomes the country of usual residence.

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

<i>Migration by EU nationals, 2004 to 2007, United Kingdom</i>			
<i>Thousand</i>			
	<i>European Union<sup>(1)</sup></i>	<i>European Union<sup>(1)</sup> 15</i>	<i>European Union<sup>(1)</sup> A8</i>
<i>Inflow</i>			
2004	128	75	53
2005	149	70	76
2006	167	71	92
2007	197	79	112

<sup>(1)</sup>European Union estimates are for the EU25 (EU15 and A8 groupings plus Malta and Cyprus) from 2004 to 2006, and for the EU27 (EU25 plus Bulgaria and Romania) from 2007. Estimates are also shown separately for the EU15 (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, the Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden) and the A8 (the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia).

*Note:*  
This table is published as table 2.01a on:  
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15053>

*Source:*  
International Passenger Survey, Home Office, Irish Central Statistics Office.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090323/text/90323w0027.htm#09032341000014>

**Chris Grayling** [262366]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 818W, on illegal immigrants, what research has been (a) commissioned and (b) carried out by her Department on the likely number of illegal immigrants in the UK since the publication in 2001 of Home Office Online Report 29/05, Sizing the unauthorised (illegal) migrant population in the United Kingdom.

**Reply from Jacqui Smith:** The Home Office has not commissioned or carried out any further research on the likely number of illegal immigrants in the UK since the Home Office Online Report 29/05, "Sizing the unauthorised (illegal) migrant population in the United Kingdom in 2001" was published in 2005.

We are determined to bear down on illegal immigration both on and after entry to the UK and as part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery by 2010 over 95 per cent. of non-EEA foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country. This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, watch-list checks for all travellers before they arrive or depart from the UK and ID cards for foreign nationals.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090323/text/90323w0024.htm#09032339000029>

**Sarah Teather** [258003]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people receiving section 4 support have been waiting to have their asylum case processed for longer than (a) six months, (b) one year, (c) three years, (d) five years and (e) 10 years.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** None. People receiving section 4 support have had their asylum claim considered and their appeal rights are exhausted.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090324/text/90324w0025.htm#09032470000132>



## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Damian Green** [263131]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many illegal immigrants were arrested in UK Border Agency operations conducted in (a) care homes, (b) hospitals, (c) higher education institutions, (d) schools and (e) childcare facilities in 2008;

(2) [263219] how many illegal immigrants were arrested in UK Border Agency operations on restaurants in 2008.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The system on which the details of enforcement operations conducted by the UK Border Agency are recorded categorises the nature of the facility visited into one of several broad groups. Therefore, it is not possible to differentiate between hospitals and care homes without examination of individual records at disproportionate cost, as these are recorded together under one category (along with nursing homes); restaurants and takeaway food outlets are similarly categorised.

In 2008 there were a total of 58 enforcement visits made to hospitals, care homes and nursing homes, as a result of which 96 arrests of immigration offenders were made. In the same period, a total of 12 visits were made to colleges, and 18 immigration offenders were arrested as a result. There were no enforcement visits made to schools or child care facilities in 2008.

In 2008 there were a total of 1,685 enforcement visits made to restaurants and takeaway food outlets, as a result of which 3,168 arrests of immigration offenders were made.

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 is subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090323/text/90323w0024.htm#09032339000030>

**Keith Vaz** [263556]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures her Department has put in place for the deportation of illegal immigrants; what (a) funding and (b) other resources her Department has provided for such procedures in the last 12 months; how much on average it cost to deport an illegal immigrant in 2008; how many people are awaiting a decision on deportation from her Department; and to which country the most illegal immigrants have been deported in the last 12 months.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The procedures the UK Border Agency has in place for the removal and deportation of all categories of immigration offenders are set out in the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance (EIG) manual available to view on the UK Border Agency website via the link below. Procedures for deportation can be found in chapters 11-15; illegal entrants at chapter 47 and those subject to administrative removal at chapters 50 and 51. This is a 'live' document which is subject to constant change.

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/enforcement/>

Appendix A of the UK Border Agency business plan for April 2008-March 2011 contains a table which shows the overall budget allocation and staffing plans for the agency for the current financial year. This document is available to view in the Library of the House and at the following website:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/businessplan/>

There are many staff involved, including seconded police officers, in the enforcement process across the UK Border Agency and the funding and other resources in place to support the removals process can not be disaggregated from the overall budget and resources. However, UK Border Agency plans for enforcing the immigration laws including removing the most harmful first and the additional

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

resources put in place to support enforcement and compliance activities are set out in the enforcement business plan, 'Enforcing the Deal', copies of which are available to view in the Library of the House and at the following web-link:

[http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/enforcementbusinessplan08\\_09/enforcementbusinessplan08\\_09.pdf?view=Binary](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/enforcementbusinessplan08_09/enforcementbusinessplan08_09.pdf?view=Binary)

The UK Border Agency is not able to provide the average cost of a removal because there are many different factors which may or may not be involved in the cost of a case (such as detention costs, travel costs, and the cost of escorting the individual in question). We are therefore unable to disaggregate the specific costs and any attempt to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

However, the National Audit Office (NAO) gave a breakdown of what it costs to enforce the removal of a failed asylum seeker in appendix 2 of their report "Returning Failed Asylum applicants", published on 19 July 2005. In this they estimated the average cost of an enforced removal as being £11,000. This report has since been superseded by their report "Management of Asylum Applications by the UK Border Agency" which was published on 23 January 2009. This does not give a single average figure for the cost of removal but instead (on page 36 of the report) breaks it down into upper- and lower-end estimates for a range of people in different circumstances (for example, a single undetained adult who is removed after exhausting his/her appeal rights, the cost range given is between £7,900 and £17,000 excluding accommodation and support costs, and between £12,000 and £25,600 including accommodation and support costs). This report is available to view at the following website:

[http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/management\\_of\\_asylum\\_appl.aspx](http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/management_of_asylum_appl.aspx)

There is no central pool of information on the numbers awaiting a removal/deportation decision on their case and this information could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

The destination country to which the most number of people were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in 2008 was France; this includes non-asylum cases refused entry at port (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls) and subsequently removed. Excluding such cases, the destination country to which the most number of people were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in 2008 was India. This is the latest 12 month period for which published statistics are available; the information is provisional.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed and departed voluntarily from the UK, broken down by destination, on a quarterly and annual basis. National Statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090323/text/90323w0024.htm#09032339000031>

**Lord Hylton [HL2149]:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce the number of asylum applicants who are detained on arrival in the United Kingdom; and whether they will review the quality of decision making under the fast-track procedure.

**Reply from Lord West of Spithead:** The majority of asylum applicants are not detained while their applications are under consideration. The decision as to whether or not to detain will be made on a case-by-case basis and a person will only go into the detained fast-track process where they meet the criteria set out in

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

the published guidance manual which can be found on the following website at [http://www.homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk/IND/Manuals/Asylum/resources/Asylum\\_Processes\\_&\\_Guidance/Detention/Guidance/DFT\\_DNSA\\_intake\\_%20selection.doc](http://www.homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk/IND/Manuals/Asylum/resources/Asylum_Processes_&_Guidance/Detention/Guidance/DFT_DNSA_intake_%20selection.doc)

A copy of this document will be placed in the Library of the House of Commons.

All case owners dealing with cases in the detained fast-track (DFT) process have been fully trained and give each case full and careful consideration. Each case refused asylum within the DFT process has the same avenue of appeal as for other asylum decisions. The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal upholds the case owner's decision in 97 per cent of the cases that go before it. The UK Border Agency is taking steps to further improve decision quality. The Quality Assurance Team quality assesses 10 per cent of asylum decisions, including those taken in the DFT process, per month. In addition to this, each DFT decision is reviewed by line managers or senior caseworkers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90324w0001.htm#09032440000427>

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL2115]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers from the Congo were granted leave to remain in the United Kingdom between 2005 and 2008.

**Reply from Lord West of Spithead:** Information on the number of asylum seekers, excluding dependants, from the Congo who were granted leave to remain in the United Kingdom between 2005 and 2007 is published annually in table 4.1 in the annual *Home Office Statistical Bulletin—Asylum Statistics United Kingdom*.

Statistics for 2008 are published in the table B of the supplementary web tables published with the *Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary—Fourth Quarter 2008*. This table shows applications received for asylum in the UK (excluding dependants) and initial decisions broken down by country of nationality. 2007 and 2008 figures are provisional and may be subject to change. These publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90324w0001.htm#09032440000428>

**Lord Dykes** [HL2180]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what results they expect from the European Union blue card entry system for highly skilled entrants from third countries, and what proportion of entrants they expect to apply to be United Kingdom entry under the new tier two provisions.

**Reply from Lord West of Spithead:** The United Kingdom has not opted into the directive on the entry and residence of third country nationals for the purpose of highly qualified employment. It is not possible for the Government to reliably predict how many of those admitted onto the territory of another member state as the holder of a blue card issued under the terms of the directive will subsequently apply for admission to the United Kingdom under the points-based system, or which tier of the points-based system they would seek to access. However, since the UK has not opted into the directive, any such worker would need to meet the full criteria of the points-based system in the same way as a person seeking admission from outside the European Union.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90324w0003.htm#09032440000448>

## Immigration and Asylum

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Lord Hylton** [HL2189]: To ask Her Majesty's Government why (a) Mr Ahmed Abu Bakar Hassam has been held at Oakington detention centre for 28 months; and (b) Mr Ali Saifi has been held at Colnbrook detention centre for 22 months.

**Reply from Lord West of Spithead:** Information contained in individual records held by the UK Border Agency is treated as being confidential and is not normally disclosed to third parties. This is, of course, unless they are authorised representatives of the individual concerned. This is not a question of secrecy for its own sake but simply a matter of protecting the privacy of the individual.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90324w0003.htm#09032440000445>

**Lord Hylton** [HL2150]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will reduce the length of time that individuals are held in immigration and asylum detention centres; and how many people are detained for more than one year.

**Reply from Lord West of Spithead:** It is important that those who apply for asylum in the UK have their application processed as quickly, as possible and that is why we have set a target to conclude 90 per cent of asylum applications within six months by December 2011. In order to effect removal of those who have committed crimes in the UK at the earliest opportunity, the early removal scheme and the facilitated returns scheme are available specifically for foreign national prisoners who meet the qualifying criteria. Under these incentives removals take place considerably more quickly decreasing pressures on prisons and the UK Border Agency's detention estate.

Detention will always be for as short a time as possible and for no longer than is necessary. However, detention is often prolonged by individuals and families with no right to be here refusing to leave voluntarily and frustrating our attempts to remove them. They can voluntarily leave the UK at any point.

Published management information indicates that as at 27 December 2008, a total of 150 persons were recorded as being detained within the UK Border Agency's detention estate solely under Immigration Act powers for one year or more. This figure is rounded to the nearest five, has not been quality-assured under National Statistics protocols, is subject to change and should be treated as provisional. This is the latest date for which published statistics are available.

National statistics on persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. This information is published in tables 9-11 of the *Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary*, United Kingdom bulletins, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90324w0003.htm#09032440000445>

**Nicholas Soames** [265687]: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the net international migration was affecting (a) England, (b) Scotland, (c) Wales and (d) Northern Ireland in each year since 1991.

**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 March 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your question concerning what the net international migration was for (a) England, (b) Scotland, (c) Wales and (d) Northern Ireland in each year since 1991. (265687)

Official estimates of net international migration for the constituent countries of the UK in each year since 1991 are given in Table 1.

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

<i>Net migration to the countries of the UK, 1991-92 to 2006-07</i>				
<i>Thousand</i>				
<i>Mid-year to mid-year</i>	<i>England</i>	<i>Wales</i>	<i>Scotland<sup>(1)</sup></i>	<i>Northern Ireland<sup>(2)</sup></i>
1991-92	+23	-2	-16	—
1992-93	-6	-1	-3	+1
1993-94	+44	—	-1	+1
1994-95	+78	+1	-3	—
1995-96	+72	+4	-4	+2
1996-97	+58	+2	-6	+1
1997-98	+85	+3	-9	+1
1998-99	+156	+2	+1	-5
1999-2000	+148	+4	+12	-1
2000-01	+179	-1	+8	-2
2001-02	+148	+3	—	-1
2002-03	+152	-1	-4	-1
2003-04	+172	+2	+1	—
2004-05	+251	—	+8	+5
2005-06	+162	+3	+6	+9
2006-07	+180	+5	+17	+8

<sup>(1)</sup> The estimates for Scotland have been revised. However, international migration estimates for Scotland for the purposes of estimating population change will not be revised and so there may be some differences. <sup>(2)</sup> The Northern Ireland figures are based on new registrations with a family doctor from outside the UK. *Source:* International Passenger Survey, Home Office, Irish Central Statistics Office, NISRA. Figures for England, Wales and Scotland are published as table 2.11 on: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15053>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090324/text/90324w0023.htm#09032470000126>

**Cheryl Gillan** [264661]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for British citizenship are (a) being processed and (b) awaiting processing, broken down by applicant country of origin.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The following table in provides an analysis of the current British citizenship application work in progress recorded on the UKBA computer system. This includes applications received on or before 7 March.

Applications received after that date are awaiting input and UKBA is unable to report upon these data until it has captured the information on the application form electronically. Therefore the information requested in part (b), could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

The information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such, it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

**To read the lengthy tables see**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090326/text/90326w0017.htm#09032644000025>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Douglas Carswell [264751]:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications were (a) received and (b) granted for family visit visas in each of the last six years.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The information requested is given in the following table. Reliable data for years prior to 2004 is not available from our global visa database.

	<i>Applications</i>	<i>Issued</i>
2004	354,413	248,268
2005	457,571	331,143
2006	502,197	376,415
2007	473,553	354,083
2008	414,159	312,524

*Notes:*  
1. Data is by calendar year.  
2. This information is unpublished and should be treated as provisional.  
*Source:* Central Reference System

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090326/text/90326w0018.htm#09032644000035>

**Anthony Steen [264799]:** If she will take steps to ensure that the UK Human Trafficking Centre provides training courses on human trafficking for all police forces.

**Reply from Vernon Coaker:** The UKHTC, in conjunction with the National Policing Improvement Agency, has developed a training programme on human trafficking for all new police recruits, police community support officers, special constables and community officers as part of their core training. In addition, the UKHTC will provide continuous development for the current single points of contact in each force.

**Anthony Steen:** In view of the number of trafficked women who have been found outside city centres following police raids under Pentameter 2 and the fact that only one police officer out of 3,500 in Devon and Cornwall constabulary has been on a training course and understands anything about trafficking, can the Minister explain why that force was told recently that the UKHTC will no longer do any training? What are the police supposed to do?

**Reply from Vernon Coaker:** Representing the constituency that he does, the hon. Gentleman is right to make the general point that the victims of human trafficking are not concentrated only in city centres. The evidence from Pentameter 2 was that they can be found in any area of the country, urban or rural. The hon. Gentleman says that only one police officer in his local force has been trained, but he might be referring to the single point of contact. Every police force in the country has a single point of contact, but numerous police officers receive training in human trafficking. For example, every police officer in the country has been sent a DVD produced by UKHTC to raise awareness of the issue. Training in human trafficking is given in the initial police learning and development programme, the special constable initial programme and the PCSO programme. That will be fully in place by the end of this month, and by the end of the year it will be extended to initial training for detectives, domestic violence training, public protection officer training, road policing training and the National Policing Improvement Agency trafficking and senior investigating officer training.

**To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090323/debtext/90323-0002.htm#0903235000020>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Dari Taylor** [264817]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to reduce levels of trafficking of women for sexual exploitation.

**Reply from Alan Campbell:** We have in place a comprehensive victim-centred strategy to tackle human trafficking contained within the UK Action Plan, published in March 2008 and updated in July 2008. This contains 85 actions across four key areas of prevention; investigation enforcement and prosecution; assistance and support for adult victims of human trafficking and child trafficking.

Human trafficking is a across-border crime. Internationally, we continue to work with our partners, especially the European Union and the United Nations to increase co-ordination and maintain a robust approach to the trafficking of women. We recognise also the need for more to be done within the UK to tackle the demand for prostitution, and to this end, we have introduced clauses into the Policing and Crime Bill to criminalise the purchase of sex with a woman who has been trafficked or is controlled for gain.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090323/text/90323w0022.htm#09032339000013>

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to use biometric identification of children to identify those trafficked into the UK. [250878]

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** We are issuing identity cards for foreign nationals to children for the same purpose as adults. This is to provide more secure and reliable evidence of children's immigration status and identity. By requiring children to be subject to the biometric registration provisions we are also able to fix their identities. This will help tackle child trafficking, as well as making it harder for those intending to exploit a child's identity, for example, by placing a child into a family they claim to be theirs, for the purposes of fraudulently claiming public funds.

We will request DNA evidence from the guardians or carers who present with unaccompanied asylum seeking children to establish the credibility of claimed relationships in an attempt to stop child trafficking. This evidence or a failure to provide it will form part of the information we send to the police and Children's (social) services where we suspect the child to be a trafficking victim. It can also be used as evidence towards an immigration application.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090323/text/90323w0024.htm#09032339000028>

**Lord Hylton** [HL2256]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how the UK Border Agency will alter its advice and support for victims of trafficking following the requests made by the chief executive of the Immigration Advisory Service.

**Reply from Lord West of Spithead:** We are giving due consideration to the views put forward by the chief executive of the Immigration Advisory Service. A number of them are reflected in the plans we have in place for identifying and supporting victims of trafficking under the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, which will improve significantly our ability to identify and protect victims of trafficking. We are committed to keeping the new arrangements under review as part of our long-term trafficking strategy.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90324w0004.htm#09032440000456>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Anthony Steen** [260377]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding was made available to the Metropolitan Police for its Human Trafficking Unit in 2008-09; how much she plans to allocate in 2009-10; what assessment she has made of the unit's work; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Alan Campbell:** In 2008-09 a total of £600,000 was given by the ACPO lead for Organised Immigration Crime to the Metropolitan Police towards the costs of Operation Maxim, including the dedicated human trafficking team. The work of the team, as part of the wider operation Maxim, is highly regarded. But the grant is time-limited with an expectation that this work will be mainstreamed into existing police budgets as part of core business.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090325/text/90325w0004.htm#09032544000047>

## Press Releases

**Dealing with British citizens coming the UK following planned resettlement from Zimbabwe**

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Entitlementsandcharges/OverseasVisitors/DH\\_096631](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Entitlementsandcharges/OverseasVisitors/DH_096631)

**New immigration applicants to get identity cards for foreign nationals**

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

**Not the Problem, Part of the Solution: Immigration in the Recession**

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/newsandcomment/speeches/Pages/CalibratingMigrationForaGlobalWorld-openingremarks.aspx>

## New publications

**Recent Migration into Scotland: The Evidence Base**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/261996/0078342.pdf>

**House of Lords European Union Committee**

**The United Kingdom opt-in: problems with amendment and codification**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldselect/ldeucom/55/55.pdf>

**15 Principles for framing a positive approach to migration**

[http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/MigrationPublication\\_EN\\_Lowres.pdf](http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/MigrationPublication_EN_Lowres.pdf)

**Undocumented Children in Europe: Invisible Victims of Immigration Restrictions**

<http://www.picum.org/data/Undocumented%20Children%20in%20Europe%20EN.pdf>

## News

**Asylum seekers up for second year**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7961157.stm>



## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

#### **Migrants' qualifications 'must be recognised to boost economy'**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Migrants39-qualifications-39must-be-recognised.5100854.jp>

#### **'Lost generation' of Poles could lose out back home**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/39Lost-generation39-of-Poles-could.5109977.jp>

#### **Immigrant population rose by 21% in just four years, official figures show**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/greenpolitics/immigration/5055705/Immigrant-population-rose-by-21-in-just-four-years-official-figures-show.html>

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## Race Relations

### Press Release

#### **England to have first-ever 'Inter Faith Week'**

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1183635>

### News

#### **Time for cultural Muslims to come out**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2009/mar/25/religion-muslims-community-identity>

#### **Archbishop of Canterbury praises Britain's Muslims**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/religion/5057602/Archbishop-of-Canterbury-praises-Britains-Muslims.html>

#### **Muslim leaders offer to guard synagogue**

<http://news.scotsman.com/scotland/Muslim-leaders--offer-to.5086658.jp>

#### **Edinburgh imams condemn synagogue attack**

<http://scottishislamic.wordpress.com/2009/03/20/edinburgh-imams-condemn-synagogue-attack/>

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## Equality

### Westminster Parliamentary Question

**Stephen Crabb:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many people the Government Equalities Office estimates are subject to intersectional multiple discrimination in the workplace without a remedy in law. [265609]

**Reply from the Solicitor-General:** I have been asked to reply.

Data on the number of people in the UK who are subject to intersectional multiple discrimination in the workplace but are without a remedy in law are not collected because it is not currently possible for people to bring such claims.

In estimating the number of people subject to intersectional multiple discrimination, but who are without a remedy in law, GEO has drawn on international comparisons. Over the last three years, an average of 7.5 per cent. of the number of cases per year brought to the Irish Equality Tribunals included claims on multiple (additive) grounds. This figure could include intersectional claims but these are not separately identified.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090323/text/90323w0009.htm#09032318000005>

### New publications

**Muslim Women Survey – Executive Summary**

[http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/newsandcomment/Documents/Muslim Women Survey %20Executive Summary.pdf](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/newsandcomment/Documents/Muslim_Women_Survey_%20Executive_Summary.pdf)

**Evaluation of the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All**

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=2144&langId=en>

### News

**Race obsession harms those it is meant to help**

[http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest\\_contributors/article5992989.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest_contributors/article5992989.ece)

**Trevor Phillips under pressure after equality watchdog audit**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/mar/29/trevor-phillips-equality>

**Equalities watchdog in crisis**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/mar/27/equalities-watchdog-trevor-philips>

**New survey reveals a third of working Muslim women see themselves as future chief executives**

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

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# Racism and Religious Hatred

## Westminster Parliamentary Questions

**David Amess** [264676]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Minister signed the Final Declaration of the London conference on combating anti-Semitism; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Gillian Merron:** My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary signed the London Declaration on combating anti-Semitism in their capacity as parliamentarians.

The London Declaration was signed by 125 parliamentarians from 40 countries.

The Government are committed to combating anti-Semitism wherever and whenever it occurs.

**David Amess** [264677]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 41W, on anti-Semitism, what steps the Government plans to take to monitor and tackle anti-Semitism overseas; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Gillian Merron:** The recent London Conference on combating anti-Semitism, organised by the Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism and co-hosted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, called for the establishment of an international task-force of internet specialists to measure racism and anti-Semitism online and propose international responses.

It also called for the exposure and isolation of governments and politicians engaging in hate against Jews, and urged the EU to address the issue of combating anti-Semitism.

We will work with the Inter-parliamentary Coalition and other partners on follow-up to the London Conference.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090320/text/90320w0009.htm#09032041000084>

**David Amess** [259047]: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to tackle anti-Semitism in (a) football and (b) other sports; what recent representations he has received on the issue; what recent meetings he has had with the Football Association on the issue; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Gerry Sutcliffe:** While I have received no recent representations or held any recent meetings on the issue of tackling anti-Semitism in sport, I remain fully committed to a sporting landscape free from all forms of discrimination. To this end:

(a) Football treats anti-Semitism as an offence under the ground regulations, thereby empowering the clubs and police to take action if abuse occurs. The Football Association also provides funding for the Kick It Out campaign, which tackles anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination through the Equality Standard for professional clubs. In addition, the Football Association also jointly hosted a seminar on Tackling Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in April 2008, and the subsequently convened working group will report its findings to the FA board in April 2009.

(b) Other sports receiving Government funding through Sport England and UK Sport for the 2009-13 period will do so on the basis of their compliance with the Equality Standard for Sport. The standard forbids discrimination on the grounds of gender, marital status, race, colour, religion, disability, age, occupation, religion or political opinion.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090320/text/90320w0002.htm#09032041000033>

## Racism and Religious Hatred

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**David Amess** [264610]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department plans to take to monitor and tackle offences related to anti-Semitism; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Alan Campbell:** From April this year the Home Office will receive data within the annual data requirement which will cover all hate crime. This new system will enable us to identify the number of crimes reported due to an individual being targeted because of their race, religion, sexual orientation or disability, although it is currently not possible to break down the data by the specific ethnicity or religion of the victim. The Association of Chief Police Officers will be publishing shortly a refreshed version of their "Hate Crime: Delivering a Quality Service" which provides good practice examples and tactical guidance to officers dealing with these crimes at the front line.

**David Amess** [264611]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent reports she has received on levels of anti-Semitism in each police force area in England and Wales; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Alan Campbell:** Separate data on levels of anti-Semitism are not centrally collated, although Home Office Ministers have discussed the issue on a regular basis with chief constables and key interest groups.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090323/text/90323w0022.htm#09032339000017>

**David Amess** [263262]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to withdraw from the UN Durban 2 anti-racism conference; what recent discussions he has had with (a) EU member states, (b) the US administration and (c) the government of Israel on this issue; what recent representations he has received (i) supporting and (ii) opposing a withdrawal from the conference; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Bill Rammell:** The UK is still engaged in the Durban Review process and we will keep our position under review. We hope that there is still time to return the focus of preparations to reviewing work undertaken to combat racism and implement the 2001 Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, thus enhancing the prospect of a consensus outcome. But a change in this direction will be required for any outcome document to gain our support.

We have, on several occasions, expressed our view on the Durban Review Conference: we want the conference to forge a collective will to fight against racism in all its forms, in all countries in the world. The Government remain deeply concerned about the draft outcome document.

Ministers and officials have had regular discussions with EU partners and the US administration on the Durban Review Conference. I discussed it with the Israeli ambassador when he called on me on 11 March 2009.

We have received numerous representations both urging us to remain engaged in the process to strengthen the concluding document, and also expressing concern about the direction it has taken.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090323/text/90323w0008.htm#09032312000097>

## Racism and Religious Hatred

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**David Amess** [264674]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 41W, on anti-Semitism, on what recent occasions (a) he and (b) other Ministers in his Department have condemned anti-Semitism; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Gillian Merron:** The Government condemn all acts of racism, anti-Semitism and religious intolerance. My hon. Friend, the Minister of State, (Bill Rammell) specifically re-iterated this in the House of Commons on 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 132, and my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, during the Gaza debate in the House of Lords on 6 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 931.

The London Declaration of the recent conference held by the Inter-parliamentary Coalition Combating anti-Semitism, co-hosted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, called on legislators to “expose, challenge and isolate political actors who engage in hate against Jews and target the state of Israel as a Jewish collectivity.” It also calls on governments to “challenge any foreign leader, politician or public figure who denies, denigrates or trivializes the Holocaust and must encourage civil society to be vigilant to this phenomenon and to openly condemn it.” My noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown addressed the conference and condemned anti-Semitism in unequivocal terms.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090326/text/90326w0008.htm#09032637000076>

## Westminster Early Day Motions

**Virendra Sharma** (1156) **Arson Attack on Sikh Sangat Gurdwara** – That this House condemns the arson attack on the Sikh Sangat Gurdwara in east London on 15 March 2009 that left 75 per cent. of the building and roof damaged by fire; notes the reports of an unknown intruder running down from the top floor of the building just prior to flames being discovered in that part of the building; expresses its sincere regret that seven of eight holy Sikh scriptures in the Gurdwara were destroyed in the fire; further condemns the targeting by the perpetrator of this Sikh place of worship, a key centre in the local community and an important historic building which was built in 1854 and had formerly been a place of worship and a synagogue; calls for the Metropolitan Police to do all it can to catch the perpetrator of this attack; and urges the community to respond peacefully and calmly to the attack and maintain the exemplary peaceful community relations and cohesion that currently exist.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=38274&SESSION=899>

**Neil Gerrard** (1198) **World Conference against Racism (no.2)** – That this House recognises the importance of the forthcoming Durban Review Conference to be held in Geneva in April 2009; recalls the declaration of the World Conference Against Racism held in Durban in 2001 which emphasised the importance of the provision of effective remedies, recourse, redress, and compensatory and other measures at the national, regional and international levels, aimed at countering the continued impact of slavery and the slave trade; and urges the Government to support proposals at the Review to ensure that the recommendations of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action are put into practice.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=38319&SESSION=899>

## Racism and Religious Hatred (continued)

### New publications

#### On combating racism and racial discrimination in the field of sport

[http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/GPR/EN/Recommendation\\_N12/e-RPG%2012%20-%20A4.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/GPR/EN/Recommendation_N12/e-RPG%2012%20-%20A4.pdf)

#### Explanatory memorandum to ECRI general policy recommendation no.12 on combating racism and racial discrimination in the field of sport

[http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/GPR/EN/Recommendation\\_N12/Recommendation\\_12\\_en.asp#P213\\_9948](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/GPR/EN/Recommendation_N12/Recommendation_12_en.asp#P213_9948)

#### Thematic Report on Racial and Ethnic Origin

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=2146&langId=en>

### News

#### Students line up to show racism the red card

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/03/24/newsstory12819218t0.asp>

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## Other Holyrood

### Parliamentary Question

**George Foulkes** (S3W-21845): To ask the Scottish Executive what plans it has to include a question on nationality in the 2011 census; what options will be available to respondents, and whether respondents will be allowed to identify themselves separately as both Scottish and British.

**Reply from John Swinney:** A new question on national identity is proposed for Scotland's 2011 Census. This will complement the question on ethnic group and allow people to express their sense of being (for example) "Scottish", "Indian" or "Polish" (or any combination of national identity, for example both "Scottish" and "British"). Testing of the question has not yet been completed and the exact wording and response options which will be proposed for use in 2011 have therefore not been finalised.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-21845>

### Press Release

#### Police force priorities

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/03/24140852>

### New publication

#### HMICS Thematic Inspection: Strategic priority setting in Scottish forces: Consulting the public

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/265222/0079453.pdf>

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## Other Westminster

### Debate

#### **Hajj Pilgrims (UK Tour Operators)**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090325/halltext/90325h0004.htm#09032539000002>

### Parliamentary Questions

**Lord Laird** [HL2139]: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Baroness Andrews on 10 March (WA 228—29), how they define minority ethnic people.

**Reply from Baroness Andrews:** In our discussion paper Tackling Race Inequalities, to which I referred in my reply to the noble Lord Ouseley on 10 March (Official Report, col. WA 229), we use the term “Black, Asian and minority ethnic” to mean people from “visible” ethnic groups such as Black, South Asian and Chinese people and also Gypsies and Travellers. However, the Government are not prescriptive in their wider use of the term “minority ethnic” and use the terms “Black and minority ethnic”, “Black, Asian and minority ethnic”, “ethnic minority” and “minority ethnic” interchangeably.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90324w0001.htm#09032440000431>

**Baroness Whitaker** [HL2188]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the results for the health of Gypsies and Travellers from the Pacesetters programme.

**Reply from Lord Darzi of Denham:** Through the Pacesetters programme, the department is working with 18 National Health Service organisations and local communities in different parts of England to improve the health status of Gypsies and Travellers. The work is based on a range of projects aimed at raising the awareness of NHS staff to the needs and circumstances of these communities, improving access to primary and secondary care, and ensuring that individual health records for community members are up-to-date. The projects are being evaluated by the University of Sheffield and results will become available in 2010-11. Evidenced good practice and learning will be disseminated widely throughout the NHS.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90323w0002.htm#09032390000574>

### Press Releases

#### **Rights and responsibilities**

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease230309a.htm>

#### **Taking a new approach to counter-terrorism**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/taking-new-approach-ct>

#### **Young Muslim Advisory Group's first national youth conference**

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1182023>

## Other Westminster (continued)

### New publications

**Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Annual Report on Human Rights 2008**

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/pdf15/human-rights-2008>

**Rights and Responsibilities: developing our constitutional framework**

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/rights-responsibilities.pdf>

### News

**Hazel Blears: Our shunning of the MCB is not grandstanding**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/mar/25/islam-terrorism>

**Letter from Hazel Blears to the Muslim Council of Britain**

[http://image.guardian.co.uk/sys-files/Guardian/documents/2009/03/23/blears\\_letter.pdf](http://image.guardian.co.uk/sys-files/Guardian/documents/2009/03/23/blears_letter.pdf)

**Daud Abdullah: My reply to Hazel Blears**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/mar/26/hazelblears-islam>

**Ministers urged to reconsider Muslim sanctions**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Ministers-urged-to-reconsider-Muslim.5118391.jp>

**Hazel Blears must back down**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/mar/25/hazel-blears-daud-abdullah>

**Hazel Blears must back down**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/mar/25/hazel-blears-daud-abdullah>

**Muslim Council accuses government of undermining independence**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2009/mar/26/muslim-council-britain-hazel-blears>

**Anger after government scuppers royal reform bill to end 'prejudice'**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Anger-after-government-scuppers-royal.5118340.jp>

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### New Publications

**Office of the Scottish charity Regulator: Fact File**

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=8f38f3a3-0c20-4f8e-8d98-02e2ce6c55a9>

**FOI and Voluntary Organisations**

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/home/SICResources/ResourcesCivilQandA.asp>

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## Other News

### **Funeral pyre fight reaches court**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7960489.stm>

### **Human rights appeal for Hindu funeral**

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2497634.0.Human\\_rights\\_appeal\\_for\\_Hindu\\_funeral.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2497634.0.Human_rights_appeal_for_Hindu_funeral.php)

### **Hindu in legal fight for open-air cremation**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Hindu-in-legal-fight-for.5104848.jp>

### **Police guide for 'honour crimes'**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/highlands\\_and\\_islands/7963904.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/highlands_and_islands/7963904.stm)

### **Archbishop voices concerns to BBC**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7970393.stm>

### **Rowan Williams accuses BBC of ignoring faithful**

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article5993867.ece>

### **Archbishop confronts BBC Director General over its treatment of religion**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/religion/5067420/Archbishop-confronts-BBC-Director-General-over-its-treatment-of-religion.html>

### **Travellers may be given new deal**

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1136524>

### **Britain's most powerful Muslim woman named**

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

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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>

Subordinate Legislation Committee Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/subleg/reports-09/sur09-ArbitrationScotlandBill.htm>

#### **\*\* Education (Additional Support for Learning) Bill**

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/16-EdAddSup/b16s3-stage2-ml1.pdf>

#### **Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill**

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

## Bills in Progress

### Holyrood (continued)

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

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

Justice Committee Stage 2 consideration of amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/or-09/ju09-1002.htm#Col1662>

proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/11-sexualOffences/b11s3-stage2-ml3.pdf>

## Bills in Progress

### 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/029/amend/ml029-ir.htm>

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## Consultations

(closing date)

\*\* new or updated this week

#### **\*\* closes this week!**

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

#### **\*\*closes this week!**

#### **Scottish Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan (31 March 2009)**

[http://scottishhumanrights.com/documents/SHRC\\_StrategicPlan.pdf](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>

#### **\*\* Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator Corporate Plan 2009-11 (20 May 2009)**

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=a98d0e42-1f22-456f-94f9-2478749f650e>

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## Job Opportunities

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

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## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* New or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=73>

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **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](mailto: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](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](http://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](http://www.acas.org.uk)

**SCVO** <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Home/Home.aspx>

**Volunteer Development Scotland** [www.vds.org.uk](http://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](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/>