

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Shirley-Anne Somerville (S3M-3866): Destitution of Asylum Seekers—That the Parliament welcomes the report, *21 Days Later*, by the Refugee Survival Trust and British Red Cross that explores the causes and extent of destitution among refugees and asylum claimants living in Scotland; notes that the Refugee Survival Trust is a charity that provides small grants to alleviate the destitution of asylum claimants and refugees who have no access to any other form of support; welcomes the report's identification of operational issues that could be improved upon by the UK Border Agency to prevent the destitution of hundreds of people living in Scotland; notes the finding that devolving responsibilities to local teams, including to the UK Border Agency in Glasgow, has helped reduce problems with asylum support by improving communication and partnership working; expresses concern that since 2003 single adults and childless couples who have arrived in Scotland are unable to submit a claim for asylum in Scotland but have to make their own way to the Asylum Screening Unit in Liverpool; recognises that new arrivals often arrive with no money or support, are likely to be confused, disorientated and unfamiliar with the language and the system and are therefore particularly vulnerable to destitution, and supports the call for the UK Border Agency's current limited screening facilities to be expanded to enable all new arrivals in Scotland to be able to submit their asylum claim both at port and in country.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=16269>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **Press Releases**

Changes to the Certificate of Approval Scheme

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/changes-to-the-certificate-of>

Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill 2009: Joint Parliamentary Briefing from the British Refugee Council, the Scottish Refugee Council and the Welsh Refugee Council:

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/pub/Joint_Briefing

New publications

Projections of migration inflows under alternative scenarios for the UK and world economies

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1204238.pdf>

Highly skilled migrant programme (HSMP) Forum Judicial Review - Judgement of 6 April 2009

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

Government keeps work restrictions for eastern Europeans

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/Government-keeps-work-restrict>

Migration Advisory Committee advice on worker registration scheme accepted

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/mac-advice-on-worker-reg>

Moving Europe: EU research on migration and policy needs

<http://www.statewatch.org/news/2009/apr/eu-com-res-policy-review-migration.pdf>

Migrants Rights News

<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/enews/2009/april.htm>

News

Tougher visa rules raise entry hurdle

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/04/11/newsstory12935205t0.asp>

The student visa warning signs

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article6078475.ece>

Electronic vetting 'main weapon' in terror threat

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2501335.0.Electronic_vetting_main_weapon_in_terror_threat.php

American expelled from UK 'like a criminal'

<http://news.scotsman.com/scotland/American--expelled-from-UK.5164294.jp>

Homeless migrants prompt call

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1164509>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Action call on migrant offenders

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7995020.stm>

Anger over £78 deportation ruling

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside_and_central/7996900.stm

Bus tycoon defends father of three facing deportation for £80 oversight

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2501774.0.Bus_tycoon_defends_father_of_three_facing_deportation_for_80_oversight.php

Fury at 'ridiculous' deportation of family

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Fury-at-39ridiculous39-deportation-of.5166548.jp>

Our kids were born in Scotland, but we're being kicked out of Britain for sake of £78

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/04/13/exclusive-kicked-out-of-britain-for-the-sake-of-s78-86908-21275195/>

Deportation ruling sparks huge outcry

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/04/14/newsstory12950869t0.asp>

Indian man may have to leave Perth home – over £78

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1169312>

Confused state of immigration policy

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1168641>

Public back deportation threat family

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/04/17/newsstory12967969t0.asp>

Support for deportation order doctor

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/04/18/newsstory12974105t0.asp>

Alex Salmond backs Indian's case

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article6122438.ece>

Appeal against Perth deportation lodged

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1176149>

Funding threat to school teaching students Chinese culture

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2502499.0.Funding_threat_to_school_teaching_students_Chinese_culture.php

College faces losing £1m funding in row over Chinese courses

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/scotland/College-faces-losing--1m.5179538.jp>

Chinese School saved by funding lifeline

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2502743.0.Chinese_School_saved_by_funding_lifeline.php

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Ministers renege on Dungavel child pledge

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2502891.0.ministers_renege_on_dungavel_child_pledge.php

Appalling treatment of Heathrow detainees laid bare in damning report

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/appalling-treatment-of-heathrow-detainees-laid-bare-in-damning-report-1668853.html>

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Race Relations

Ministerial Speech

Sadiq Khan: Community Cohesion and migration in a an economic downturn

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/economicdownturn>

New publications

Summary Report: Understanding Muslim Ethnic Communities

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1203896.pdf>

Technical Report: Understanding Muslim Ethnic Communities

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1203881.pdf>

The Afghan Muslim Community in England

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1203127.pdf>

The Algerian Muslim Community in England

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1202966.pdf>

The Bangladeshi Muslim Community in England

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1203189.pdf>

The Egyptian Muslim Community in England

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1203752.pdf>

The Indian Muslim Community in England

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1203727.pdf>

The Iranian Muslim Community in England

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1203765.pdf>

The Moroccan Muslim Community in England

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1203593.pdf>

The Nigerian Muslim Community in England

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1203232.pdf>

The Pakistani Muslim Community in England

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1170952.pdf>

The Saudi Arabian Muslim Community in England

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1203741.pdf>

Race Relations

New publications (continued)

The Somali Muslim Community in England

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/doc/1202162.doc>

The Turkish and Turkish Cypriot Muslim Community in England

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1203710.pdf>

The Securitisation of Islam in Europe

http://shop.ceps.be/downfree.php?item_id=1826

News

Let's be honest and tackle murderous idiocy of militant Islam

<http://news.scotsman.com/opinion/Jim-Sillars-Let39s-be-honest.5164278.jp>

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Equality

Press Release

Dragon calls for missing ethnic minority business leaders to step up and make their ideas happen

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=398722&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=True>

News

Trevor Phillips gives evidence to Metropolitan Police Association Race and Faith Inquiry

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

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Racism and Religious Hatred

New publication

Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland, 2004/05 to 2007/08

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/267632/0079895.pdf>

News

Religions of Larkhall unite in opposition to the bigots

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2500072.0.Religions_of_Larkhall_unite_in_opposition_to_the_bigots.php

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Larkhall unites to prove image wrong

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2500189.0.larkhall_unites_to_prove_image_wrong.php

Racist attacker walks free after shattering Englishman's eye socket

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/edinburgh/Racist-attacker-walks-free-after.5147800.jp>

Sharp decline in racist incidents

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/04/11/newsstory12935041t0.asp>

Alleged race row at boys match

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/04/10/newsstory12930647t0.asp>

Rise in racism incidents after influx of eastern Europeans

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1167243>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Motion

Frank McAveety (S3M-3856): Glasgow Central Mosque Terrorist Threat—That the Parliament condemns any threat to personal liberty or a person's place of worship; recognises that it is a duty of the free press and media in Scotland to be even-handed when reporting issues of terrorism and threats; expresses disappointment that recent threats to Glasgow Central Mosque and threats to behead one Muslim a week have been under-reported, and calls for the media to ensure that abhorrent acts of terrorism are covered regardless of the perpetrators.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=16258>

News

The Relative Impact of Devolution in Key Policy Areas – Results for Scotland and England

http://extras.timesonline.co.uk/pdfs/sunday_times/sundaytimes190409.pdf

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Other Westminster

Press Releases

Ministers and industry to tackle skills shortage in asian and oriental cuisine

http://www.dius.gov.uk/news_and_speeches/press_releases/catering_skills_shortage

Other Westminster Press Releases (continued)

PM's message for Vaisakhi

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page18995>

Happy Easter from the PM

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page18950>

PM sends Passover message

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page18949>

Sadiq Khan: Vasaikhi greeting

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/vasaikhigreeting2009>

Sadiq Khan: Easter greeting

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/eastergreeting2009>

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Other News

A new heartland for the far right

http://www.sundayherald.com/oped/opinion/display.var.2502841.0.a_new_heartland_for_the_far_right.php

BNP hides its skinheads to woo voters

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6122544.ece>

Europe's Largest Ethnic Minority Calls for Tolerance and Inclusion

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/ERPC%20statement%202009%200April%208.pdf>

More with learning disabilities forced to wed

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/lancashire/7986821.stm>

Church 'must fund NHS chaplains'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7988476.stm>

EU directive could open up faith schools to non-believers

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/religion/5140959/EU-directive-could-open-up-faith-schools-to-non-believers.html>

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Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Arbitration Bill

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

Bills in Progress

Holyrood (continued)

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>

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>

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/036/amend/am036-b.htm>

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Consultations

(closing date)

** new or updated this week

**** Equality and Human Rights Commission Legal Grants Programme 2009**

(no closing date given)

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/Documents/Corporate_info/grant_forms/Legal_Grants_consultation_S.doc

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

<http://tandis.odihr.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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Funding Opportunities

Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund

Closing date for applications: 30 April 2009

Grants of up to £15,000 over three years for locally based faith groups in Scotland wishing to undertake practical action in response to community need, particularly in the economically poorest urban and rural communities. For information see

<http://www.fiscaf.org/index.htm>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

Equality and Diversity

23 April 2009 in Inverness (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

**** Consultation on the Equality and Human Rights Commission Legal Grants Programme 2009**

6 May 2009 in Glasgow

EHRC consultation on the definition and scope of casework, measuring outcomes, priorities, yearly funding and funding criteria. For information contact Julia Evans 0141 228 5914 / julia.evans@equalityhumanrights.com

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>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Protecting Vulnerable Groups: Check to Protect**

2 June 2009 in Edinburgh (9.30-1.30)

10 June 2009 in Glasgow (9.30-1.30)

16 June 2009 in Aberdeen (9.30-1.30)

17 June 2009 in Dundee (9.30-1.30)

24 June 2009 in Inverness (9.30-1.30)

25 June 2009 in Perth (9.30-1.30)

Scottish Government events to inform organisations about the new Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme. This new membership scheme for people who work with children and protected adults will replace current disclosure arrangements for people whose post requires an enhanced disclosure. For information see <http://www.protectingvulnerablegroups.com/> or contact Holyrood Events 0131 272 2136

Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

9 June 2009 in Glasgow

20 August 2009 in Glasgow

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

UKBA (formerly NASS) Asylum Support - The Essentials

3 September 2009 in Glasgow

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

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Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Useful Links (continued)

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/>