

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Jim Tolson: Settlement for Former Gurkha Soldiers (S3M-401) —That the Parliament expresses its deep concern at the UK Government's announcement of new guidelines for the settlement for former Gurkha soldiers, which limits applications for settlement to former soldiers who have served for 20 years or more or who have been awarded the highest military honours; acknowledges the support for the settlement of former Gurkha soldiers by former Gurkha officer, Major Bill MacKay of Dunfermline; further acknowledges over 70 years continuous service given by Sergeant Sunar Gurung, who served with Major Bill MacKay, and his six sons who all served with the Gurkha regiment, and believes that the UK Government's decision fails to recognise the long history of dedicated service to this country by Gurkha soldiers.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=16456>

Westminster Debate

Gurkhas

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090429/debtext/90429-0023.htm#09042966000002>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Fiona Mactaggart [270207]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are made to provide childcare for women with children seeking asylum at the time of their first interview with the authorities.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Each UKBA Region has its own arrangements in place to ensure that every effort is made to ensure that children are not present when parents are interviewed about their reasons for seeking asylum. Arrangements can include rescheduling the asylum interview date to accommodate childcare arrangements, or provide childcare provision at or near UKBA premises where this is safe and sensible.

Where suitable alternative arrangements have proved impossible the asylum interview will go ahead with the child present. In these cases, the case owner will offer sufficient breaks and will fully note any disruptions on the interview record.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090424/text/90424w0011.htm#09042426000089>

Karen Buck [261862]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been registered as British citizens in each English local authority area since 2005.

Reply from Woolas: The available information is shown in Annex A.

The data shows the number of registrations as a British citizen. This is broken down by the local authority which was responsible for performing the Citizenship Ceremony for those applicants over 18, who were successful in their application for British citizenship.

We are unable to provide a similar analysis for applicants under 18 years of age and these applications are shown as "Unknown". This total relates to all areas of the UK and not just England. These are applications from minors who apply direct to the Home Office, not in conjunction with a parental application. Minors are not required to attend Citizenship Ceremonies and consequently the information is not collated by local authority and 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 table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090424/text/90424w0011.htm#09042426000090>

Claire Curtis-Thomas [269155]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has she made of the effects on the economy of migrant labour; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas: We know that migration has made a huge contribution to the economy and the Treasury estimated that in 2006, new migrants added around £6 billion to the economy. Even during the recession migration continues to play an important role in the UK but there needs to be a balance and we are giving greater support to domestic workers so that we can all come through the recession stronger.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090424/text/90424w0012.htm#09042426000094>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Tebbit [HL2953]: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 30 March (WA 191) concerning the average cost of deporting an illegal immigrant, what is the cost of not deporting illegal immigrants.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: While research into the costs of illegal migration has been undertaken, this has been conducted with the aim of making general assessments on the impact of such migration, rather than producing definitive financial figures.

The two most relevant recent studies are the report of the House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs regarding the economic and fiscal impact of migration which was published in October 2007 and a Home Office research paper entitled *Migration: an Economic and Social Analysis* which was published in 2001 and is available on the Home Office website.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90427w0006.htm#09042736001393>

Ian Davidson [265820]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the worker registration scheme for nationals of Eastern European EU member states is due to expire; what options to extend it there are; whether the Government have taken a decision on an extension; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas: On 8 April I announced that the UK Government would retain the worker registration scheme for a further two years, subject to a review in 12 months' time. This decision was taken following receipt of advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee. Their report can be found at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/workingwithus/indbodies/mac/>

A copy will be placed in the House Library. Retaining WRS will help protect our labour market at this difficult time. It will also mean that the UK can continue to collect A8 data to determine whether further steps may be needed over the next two years to prevent disruption of the UK labour market.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090427/text/90427w0008.htm#09042735000045>

Andrew Rosindell [269485]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Zimbabwean citizens were repatriated to Zimbabwe from the UK in 2008.

Reply from Phil Woolas: In 2008, 375 Zimbabwean nationals were removed or voluntarily departed from the UK to Zimbabwe.

National Statistics on removals and voluntary departures in 2008 from the UK, by country of nationality and destination are published in the supplementary Excel Table I of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom Q4 2008 bulletin. Copies of this publication are available from the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immig408.pdf>

supplementary tables: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immig408supp.xls>)

Published statistics on immigration and asylum 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>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090427/text/90427w0008.htm#09042735000050>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

John Mann [271777]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provision she has made in her Department's budget for the integration of migrants for the next six financial years.

Reply from Sadiq Khan: The Department for Communities and Local Government has budgeted £50 million in the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 to support integration and community cohesion and to assist local authorities in preventing and managing community tensions. This includes £7.5 million to develop inter-faith activity and £4.5 million to help schools and others offer positive activities for young people. CLG has also contributed £50,000 in start-up funding to help the East of England Development Agency develop an information portal to help migrants find out more about living and working in the UK.

Communities and Local Government is also co-ordinating the allocation of the new cross-government Migration Impacts Fund. This will provide £35 million in 2009-10 to local services managing the transitional pressures of migration. It will be paid for through increases to migrant fees. Subject to a review in the autumn of the economic position and the migrant fees being received, a similar amount will be made available in 2010-11.

Provision for 2011-12 and beyond will be determined by future Spending Reviews.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090428/text/90428w0004.htm#09042852000005>

Viscount Waverley [HL2867]: To ask Her Majesty's Government (a) how many individuals wishing to enter the United Kingdom via the Eurostar service from Paris have been refused entry by United Kingdom immigration officials over the last four years due to falsified or invalid documents; and (b) following such refusals, on how many occasions have the same individuals reappeared with identical documents on a subsequent occasion.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: (a) The total number of passengers that were refused leave to enter the United Kingdom at the juxtaposed controls in Paris from 2005 to 2008 was 9,069. 1,475 of these refusals were due to inadequate, falsified or fraudulent documents.

(b) All travel documents that are presented to UK Border Agency officers at the juxtaposed controls that are deemed to be falsified or fraudulently obtained are immediately seized by UK Border Agency officers and subsequently passed on to the French Police Authorities. The only exception is in the case of a British falsified or fraudulently obtained document; these would be seized and passed to the National Document Fraud Unit or Identity and Passport Service in the UK. In all cases, the presented documents are not returned to any individuals. We have no record of any individuals reappearing with the same documents being re-presented for entry into the UK.

(These figures have been sourced from locally collated management information held within locally accessed computer systems and do not represent National Statistics. They have not been the subject of National Statistics protocols and verification and should therefore be treated as provisional and subject to change.)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90429w0001.htm#09042950000094>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Mark Oaten [271292]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the (a) resources required by the UK Border Agency (UKBA) to implement the requirements of Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system and (b) cost to UKBA of administering the requirements of Tier 4 in each of the next three years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: While the UK Border Agency continues to work with its supplier, the information requested is, at present, commercially sensitive.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090428/text/90428w0010.htm#09042852000031>

Mark Oaten [271293]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which nominated stakeholders have been selected to participate in the trial of the Sponsorship Management System under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system; and what criteria were used to select those stakeholders.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The sponsorship management system (SMS) will be available from autumn 2009 for all sponsors to trial the gradual roll-out of issuing confirmations of acceptance for studies (CAS) and the associated reporting duties across migrant application types.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090428/text/90428w0010.htm#09042852000031>

Mark Oaten [271295]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 636-7, on immigration controls: educational institutions, what criteria were applied in respect of the decision to require overseas students applying for courses to demonstrate that they have maintenance of £800 for each month of the course if studying in London, or £600 for each month of the course if studying outside London; and what assessment she has made of the appropriateness of this figure as a reflection of student spending.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The maintenance requirement set for students studying in or outside London under Tier 4 uses the figures contained in the British Council's report "Welcome to the UK—Studying and living in the United Kingdom 2007-08". These figures were based on 2004 prices, and include the cost of accommodation, heating, lighting, food, clothing, books and daily travel for one person for a nine month academic year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090429/text/90429w0017.htm#09042971000019>

Fiona Mactaggart [258465]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time to decide on applications for asylum received has been since 2006.

Reply from Woolas: The latest available figures show the average time to initial decisions for asylum cases decided in 2006 was eight months and in 2007 was seven months. The average length of time (in months) is calculated from date application is lodged to the date of initial decision, and relates to the year in which the decisions were made. The average figure for 2008 will be available at the same time as the annual publication in August 2009.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. The latest quarterly statistics were published on 24 February 2009 and 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>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090429/text/90429w0015.htm#09042971000005>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Philip Davies [270818]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the likely effect on the number of claims for asylum of permitting asylum seekers to work whilst their cases are being determined.

Reply from Phil Woolas: It is not our policy to allow asylum seekers to work. The Government believe that managed migration is a valuable source of skills and labour to the British economy and there are recognised routes into the UK for those seeking to work. However, entering the country for economic reasons is not the same as seeking asylum and it is important to maintain the distinction between the two.

We believe giving asylum seekers or failed asylum seekers permission to work would be likely to act as a pull factor and encourage asylum applications from those without a well founded fear of persecution, hence slowing down the processing of applications made by genuine refugees and undermining the integrity of the managed migration system.

The only exception is asylum seekers who have been waiting 12 months for a decision where this delay cannot be attributed to them.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090429/text/90429w0015.htm#09042971000006>

Keith Vaz [252404]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department takes to prevent members of the British National Party (BNP) from holding posts in the UK Border Agency (UKBA); and what steps the UKBA takes in circumstances when an employee is found to be a member of the BNP.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Recruitment applicants for permanent posts in UKBA are not required to provide any information about their political allegiance. However, every civil servant is expected to uphold the standards of conduct set out in the civil service management code and the civil service's anti-discrimination rules and a robust line will be taken with anyone who fails to do so.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090429/text/90429w0017.htm#09042971000026>

Keith Vaz [250177]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps have been taken to restrict members of the British National Party from undertaking roles in (a) her Department and (b) the UK Border Agency.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Every civil servant is expected to uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Civil Service Management Code and the Civil Service's anti-discrimination rules and a robust line will be taken with anyone who fails to do so.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090429/text/90429w0015.htm#09042971000008>

Keith Vaz [250179]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the UK Border Agency takes in circumstances when employees are found to be members of the British National Party; and what the payband is of the official responsible for dealing with this matter.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Membership of the British National Party is not banned in the UK Border Agency. Any behaviour related to the aims and values of that organisation, which contravenes either the Civil Service Management Code or Home Office policy, will be dealt with appropriately. Any manager in grades Executive Office or equivalent and above may instigate disciplinary action.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090429/text/90429w0015.htm#09042971000008>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Keith Vaz [250178]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many post holders in the UK Border Agency are known to be members of the British National Party.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Staff are not required to provide information about this and no data are available.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090429/text/90429w0015.htm#09042971000008>

Damian Green [269166]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which countries are on the Fast Track Processes Suitability List for asylum applications.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Section 94 (4) of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 makes provision for a list of countries from which asylum or human rights claims must be certified as clearly unfounded unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that they are not.

The countries currently on the list are as follows: Albania, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Ecuador, India, Jamaica, Macedonia, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Peru, South Africa, Serbia and Ukraine.

Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria and Sierra Leone are on the list in respect of applications from men only.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090429/text/90429w0015.htm#09042971000005>

Ashok Kumar [271083]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the merits of an amnesty for illegal immigrants.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Government have ruled out an amnesty and this remains our position. An amnesty would be unfair to those who are here legally; it would act as a pull factor for even more attempts at illegal immigration; and it would counter the achievements of the UK Border Agency in toughening up our border and immigration system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090429/text/90429w0017.htm#09042971000016>

Louise Ellman [268711]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unaccompanied child passengers intending to travel on Eurostar services to the UK have been denied boarding at the terminals in (a) Paris and (b) Brussels by UK immigration officials since the introduction of juxtaposed controls.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The number of unaccompanied child passengers who have been refused entry at the juxtaposed controls, since their introduction in 2004 are as follows:

(a) Paris—a total of 75 unaccompanied child passengers were formally refused entry.

(b) Brussels—a total of 29 unaccompanied child passengers were formally refused entry.

These figures have been sourced from locally collated management information and do not represent National Statistics.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090429/text/90429w0017.htm#09042971000018>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Warsi [HL2960]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have (a) applied for, and (b) been granted, indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom under immigration rule 276B(i)(a) and rule 276B(i)(b).

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The attached table below shows the number of in-country applications for indefinite leave to remain on the grounds of 10 years and 14 years long residency since April 2003. It also shows how many of those applications were subsequently granted indefinite leave to remain on this basis. The figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. The individual figures and have been rounded to the nearest five.

10 Years Long Residency	
Applications	Granted
22,635	13,625

14 Years Long Residency	
Applications	Granted
19,495	3,530

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90429w0001.htm#09042950000094>

Lord Hylton [HL2975]: To ask Her Majesty's Government in what ways the Gateway Programme and the Mandate Refugee Programme assist the re-settlement in the United Kingdom of refugees from Iraq, particularly those who have worked for United Kingdom armed and diplomatic services; and whether they are providing details of these programmes to other European Union member states.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The UK operates the Gateway Protection Programme and Mandate scheme to provide settlement to refugees from around the world, including Iraqi refugees. To date, the Gateway Programme has assisted more than 430 Iraqi refugees to resettle in the UK, of whom more than half worked for the United Kingdom armed and diplomatic services or are their dependants. We regularly share information about our resettlement programmes with other European Union member states within the auspices of the global UNHCR annual tripartite consultations on resettlement and more informal information-sharing networks.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90429w0001.htm#09042950000094>

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2921]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what are their intentions regarding the future of the Workers Registration Scheme for migrant workers from the European Union.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: On 8 April the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration announced that the UK Government would retain the Worker Registration Scheme for a further two years. This decision was taken following receipt of advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee. A copy of their report has been placed in the House Library.

Retaining WRS will help protect our labour market at this difficult time. It will also mean that the UK can continue to collect A8 data to determine whether further steps may be needed over the next two years to prevent disruption of the UK labour market. The Government will review this decision in 12 months' time.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90429w0001.htm#09042950000100>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Gardner of Parkes: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Gurkhas will qualify to live in the United Kingdom in consequence of the recent Home Office announcement.

Reply from Lord Brett: My Lords, this Government recognise the courage, commitment and sacrifice that the Gurkhas have given this country; indeed, they brought in rules for the first time giving ex-Gurkhas the right to settle in the United Kingdom. Based on the revised guidance published on 24 April 2009, the Government provisionally estimate that over 4,000 Gurkhas and 6,000 of their dependants will meet the new qualifying criteria for settlement.

Baroness Gardner of Parkes: My Lords, I thank the Minister for that Answer, but did not the Government fail to appreciate how extremely divisive the announced criteria would be? I am thinking of the requirement to have served for 20 years, when only officers are allowed to do so, with 15 years being the maximum for others. In view of the Government's defeat yesterday, will the Statement later give all the information necessary? Will the changes that will be proposed as a result of yesterday's defeat become effective immediately or will we have a date for when they will come into force?

Reply from Lord Brett: My Lords, the Government take seriously the role and views of Parliament. Therefore, a Statement was made in the other place yesterday evening, which I will repeat later today. On numbers, one of the major difficulties seems to be the estimate from those who are supporting the Gurkhas that only 100 people would benefit from the new government proposals, whereas the Government's estimate, which was based on Ministry of Defence figures, was 10,000, as I have just outlined. The test of this will be the examination of the 1,500 outstanding cases, which my colleague in the House of Commons, the Minister responsible for this, said would now be completed by the end of May. That will give us a much closer estimate and enable us to see who is correct—those who are very pessimistic about the number who will enter or those in the Government's ranks who believe that the number will be in the area that I mentioned. Any new policy has to await the urgent examination of these cases and take account of the debate in the other place yesterday.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90430-0002.htm#09043029000671>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Jim Sheridan (1344) Swarthick Salins That this House welcomes the decision of the UK Border Agency to grant Swarthick Salins leave to remain in the UK after he submitted a fresh application; welcomes the intervention of the right hon. Member for East Renfrewshire; recognises the importance of a responsible migration system which is flexible enough to re-examine cases when new information is supplied; and wishes Mr Salins and his family well for their continued stay in Scotland.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=38499&SESSION=899>

Press Releases

Latest recommended shortage occupation lists published

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/1st-review-shortage-occup-lists>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

Yarl's Wood report - UK Border Agency response

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/yarl%27s-wood-report-ukba-response>

Government statement following Commons vote on Ghurkhas

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/Government-statement-Ghurkhas>

A new Guide on strengthening legal protection of migrants' rights is now available

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

EP Civil Liberties Committee approves "asylum package"

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/018-54481-117-04-18-902-20090427IPR54480-27-04-2009-2009-false/default_en.htm

New publications

Guide on Ratification of the migrants rights convention

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Press/HandbookFINAL.PDF>

The equality implications of being a migrant in Britain

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Documents/Equalities/The%20equality%20implications%20of%20being%20a%20migrant%20in%20Britain.pdf.pdf>

Irregular Migration in the UK

http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=/ecomm/files/irregular_migration_update.pdf&a=skip

Social Networks and Polish Immigration to the UK

http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=/ecomm/files/social_networks_polish_immigration.pdf&a=skip

Refugee Week Scottish Media Awards

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/Mediacall>

News

MPs urged to change Gurkha rules

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8023882.stm

Pressure mounts for U-turn on 'betrayal' of Gurkhas

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Pressure-mounts-for-Uturn-on-5214933.jp>

Pressure on PM to give all Gurkhas right to stay in UK

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2505103.0.Pressure_on_PM_to_give_all_Gurkhas_right_to_stay_in_UK.php

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Reward their loyalty

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/editorial/display.var.2505076.0.Reward_their_loyalty.php

Reform promise absolutely fabulous for Gurkhas

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Reform-promise-absolutely-fabulous-for.5220229.jp>

All Gurkhas are welcome in the UK ... they fought for us

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/opinion/All-Gurkhas-are-welcome-in.5220226.jp>

Rules on Gurkhas 'need re-think'

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8031470.stm

Vaz calls for Gurkha row rethink

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Vaz-calls-for-Gurkha-row.5230505.jp>

Hush, Miss Lumley, the Gurkhas knew the deal

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/dominic_lawson/article6211395.ece

Gurkha row 'not going to go away', Gordon Brown told

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/politics/5268099/Gurkha-row-not-going-to-go-away-Gordon-Brown-told.html>

The right kind of foreigner

http://www.sundayherald.com/oped/opinion/display.var.2505668.0.the_right_kind_of_foreigner.php

Detention of children 'must stop'

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8019667.stm

Child asylum detention 'must end'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Child-asylum-detention-39must-end39.5207410.jp>

Magazine for Fife's Polish community

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/04/30/newsstory13050929t0.asp>

Tighter immigration controls could enable an amnesty for illegal immigrants say ippr

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/pressreleases/?id=3483>

Strangers into Citizens

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/articles/?id=3477>

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Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Question

John Bercow [271643]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the outcomes of her Department's consultation on a framework for inter-faith dialogue and social action within local communities.

Reply from Sadiq Khan: Following an extensive consultation process, my Department published "Face to Face and Side by Side—a Framework for Partnership in our Multi Faith Society" in July 2008. The aims of the document were to create more local opportunities both for 'face to face' dialogue between people from different religious backgrounds, and for 'side by side' collaborative social action.

We are making very good progress in implementing the framework. For instance, we will shortly be announcing the innovative local inter-faith projects around England which will be receiving funding under round 1 of the £4 million Faiths in Action scheme. We have invested £3.5 million to support the capacity of regional faith forums. We are working with the Inter Faith Network for the UK to deliver inter-faith week, a week of activities in November which will celebrate and promote inter-faith activity at local, regional and national level. A number of other commitments on the framework are also being taken forward.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090428/text/90428w0004.htm#09042852000003>

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Equality

Westminster Ministerial Statements

Equality Bill

Maria Eagle (Parliamentary Secretary, Government Equalities Office): Some people experience discrimination because they have a combination of protected characteristics. For example, black women can face discrimination because of stereotyped attitudes or prejudice, which white women and black men in the same circumstances would not encounter. This type of discrimination is known as multiple discrimination. Currently discrimination claims can only be brought in respect of a single protected characteristic. This means that for some people who experience multiple discrimination it is difficult, complicated and sometimes impossible to get a legal remedy.

In the Government response to the consultation "Discrimination Law Review: A Framework for Fairness Proposals for a Single Equality Bill for Great Britain", published on 21 July 2008, we committed to exploring whether provisions for multiple discrimination could be included in the Equality Bill.

Following this consultation, we have developed a proposal, enabling claims combining two protected characteristics. We are now seeking views from industry, business and all interested organisations on the impact of our proposals through the publication of our discussion document, "Equality Bill: Assessing the impact of a multiple discrimination provision—A discussion document".

This document outlines our proposals in detail. It will form the basis for discussions seeking broad views, particularly from business and organisations, on the impact of a multiple discrimination provision. In particular, we are asking specific questions on the burdens the provisions may impose, particularly on employers, and the steps we can take to minimise those burdens.

The discussion will take place over the next six weeks. In the light of the discussions, we will decide whether protection from multiple discrimination should be introduced and if so how, taking into account progress on the Equality Bill which we have published today.

I am placing copies of this document in the Vote Office and the Libraries of both Houses. Copies will also be available on the Government Equalities Office website at:

www.equalities.gov.uk

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090427/wmstext/90427m0002.htm#0904273000018>

Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity

Jack Straw (Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor): The challenge of forming a diverse judiciary is substantial. The work of the Judicial Appointments Commission's (JAC's) Judicial Diversity Forum and proactive trilateral work between the Ministry of Justice, the judiciary and the JAC has made this clear. While the JAC has encouraged more diverse applications to the judiciary and the efforts of the trilateral work have meant that we are now seeing increasing numbers of women and black and minority ethnic applicants for judicial office, progress has been slower than we would like. Given the personal commitment of the Lord Chief Justice and the chairman of the JAC to this cause, we need a better understanding of the factors behind this relative lack of progress and a clear agenda for how we move forward.

I have therefore decided to establish an advisory panel on judicial diversity to be chaired by Baroness Julia Neuberger with the following terms of reference:

To identify the barriers to progress on judicial diversity and to make recommendations to the Lord Chancellor on how to make speedier and sustained progress to a more diverse judiciary at every level and in all courts in England & Wales.

In considering this question the panel will:

- Examine the nature of the problem.
- Consider research undertaken on the UK system as well as considering international comparators.
- Draw on the lessons learned from current initiatives, including the JAC Judicial Diversity Forum and the follow up work from the Lord Chief Justice's conference on "A Judiciary for the 21st century".
- Draw up a list of practical measures that could be taken, identifying those that could happen quickly and those that would require legislation.

The panel is asked to report to the Lord Chancellor no later than November 2009.

The other members of the panel are Lord Justice Goldring, Professor Dame Hazel Genn, Andrew Holroyd CBE, Winston Hunter QC, Dr Nicola Brewer.

This will be work that must bring together and make the best use of the combined expertise of the senior judiciary, the JAC, the legal professions and diversity and equality advisors to identify how we can make swifter progress to a judiciary more reflective of the communities it serves.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090428/wmstext/90428m0001.htm#09042841000011>

Equality (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

John Bercow [271640]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress her Department has made in improving the visibility of Black male role models since December 2007.

Reply from Sadiq Khan: The REACH report recommended that the Government should take action to improve the visibility of positive black male role models. The panel who wrote the REACH report envisioned a network of 20 national champions who would be used to challenge negative stereotyping, and support a network of black male role models in local communities. We have been working very closely with members of the REACH panel to ensure that their vision is realised.

On 3 December 2008 Communities and Local Government launched the National Black Role Model Programme, and announced the names of the 20 National Role Models. These individuals are now working as champions of the programme, engaging at a national level and spearheading the work. The Role Models are being supported by the Windsor Fellowship, an organisation with very strong links to the black community at a grass roots level whom we are now funding to deliver the Role Models Programme.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090428/text/90428w0004.htm#09042852000007>

Press Releases

Equality Bill will Build a Fairer and Stronger Britain

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/media/press_releases/equality_bill.aspx

Commission Chair welcomes new Equality Bill

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

UK Government Equalities Bill to ensure Scotland is a fairer place

<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/11885.html>

Moving faster to a more diverse judiciary

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/newsrelease280409b.htm>

Ministry of Justice publishes equality report

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/newsrelease290409b.htm>

New publications

A Fairer Future: the Equality Bill and other action to make equality a reality

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/A%20Fairer%20Future-%20The%20Equality%20Bill%20and%20other%20action%20to%20make%20equality%20a%20reality.pdf>

Equality and Human Rights Commission briefing on the Equality Bill

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/projects/newequalityact/Pages/EqualityBillBriefing.aspx>

Equality

New Publications (continued)

Promoting Equality in Prisons and Probation: The National Offender Management Service Single Equality Scheme 2009–2012

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/noms-single-equality-scheme.pdf>

Race equality impact assessment guidance

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Documents/Race/Race%20equality%20impact%20assessment%20guidance.pdf>

Making Practice Happen: Practitioners' views on the most effective specific equality duties.

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Documents/Equalities/Making%20Practice%20happen.pdf>

News

Bill set to expose gender pay gap

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8019605.stm

Positive discrimination 'might prompt some to sue'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/scotland/Positive-discrimination-39might-prompt-some.5207247.jp>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Early Day Motion

Keith Vaz (1399) Racist Bullying in Schools – That this House notes with concern the Teachers TV survey of education employees which found that 55.1 per cent. of respondents are aware of racist bullying in their school; further notes with alarm that 68.3 per cent. of respondents commented that their school does not have a strategy to help combat racist bullying; commends the work of the Anti-Bullying Alliance in attempting to counter bullying of all kinds; applauds the makers of Channel 4 soap opera Hollyoaks for drawing public attention to this important issue; and calls on the Government to provide sufficient resources to help ensure that schools successfully implement comprehensive strategies against racist bullying.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=38560&SESSION=899>

Press Releases

Promoting racial equality in schools

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/05/01121047>

Commission supports global call to end discrimination at UN anti-racism conference

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/policyresearch/hgsubmissions/Pages/UNantiracismconference.aspx>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) News

Yobs smash chef's head on road in race attack

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/topstories/Yobs-smash-chef39s-head-on.5211784.jp>

Scottish Government to tackle Islamophobia in schools

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2505502.0.scottish_government_to_tackle_islamophobia_in_schools.php

'Racist' made mosque bomb threat

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/8029023.stm

Racist looked at beheading video before threat to blow up mosque

<http://thescoatsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Racist-looked-at--beheading.5229027.jp>

Lifeboat crewman sparks race hate row following rescue of Asian woman

<http://www.sundaymail.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/05/03/exclusive-lifeboat-crewman-at-centre-of-race-hate-row-following-rescue-of-asian-woman-78057-21328446/>

Racism row as BNP deputy calls Archbishop of York an 'ambitious African'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1176865/Racism-row-BNP-deputy-calls-Archbishop-York-ambitious-African.html>

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Other Holyrood

Freedom of Information release

Request for information on translation services

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Corporate/FOI/FOIDisclosureFiles/14943/2009-014943%20Reply%2030.4.pdf>

Press Release

Moving Stories – 10 people, 10 experiences, 10 years of the Scottish Parliament

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-09/pa09-011.htm>

News

Petitions are giving power to the people of Scotland

<http://thescoatsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Petitions-are-giving-power-to.5219868.jp>

10 years of devolution

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2505714.0.10_years_of_devolution.php

Scottish parliament: evolution of devolution

http://www.sundayherald.com/oped/opinion/display.var.2505673.0.scottish_parliament_evolution_of_devolution.php

Other Holyrood News (continued)

Holyrood proves its lasting worth

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/comment/Murray-Ritchie-Holyrood-proves-its.5230262.jp>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

David Davies [269318]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those detained in (a) young offender institutions and (b) prisons changed their declaration of religious faith to Muslim in each year since 2003.

Reply from David Hanson: Information on how many prisoners had changed their declared religion to Muslim is not held centrally.

The Prison Service Order on Religion (4550) sets out the process for change of religious affiliation by prisoners, which is managed locally by establishments. A copy of the Prison Service Order is in the Libraries of the House.

Information on population in prison establishments by religion is published annually in Offender Management Caseload Statistics (most recently for 2007), copies of which can be found in the Libraries of the House, and also on the Ministry of Justice website at:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090424/text/90424w0017.htm#09042426000122>

Baroness Warsi [HL3009]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in the development and implementation of a standards and recruitment framework for all chaplains engaged in public service.

Reply from Baroness Andrews: The Experience Corps were contracted in February 2008 to produce a report based on assessment, collation and analysis of data to establish an evidence base on the existing provision of Muslim chaplaincy including standards and recruitment processes, and to develop a draft framework of voluntary standards and recruitment process for institutions to consider when engaging Muslim chaplains in public service.

Following a tendering process in August 2008, the contract to pilot the draft framework of standards and recruitment process for institutions engaging Muslim chaplains in public service has been awarded to Faith Matters. Faith Matters will carry out a number of pilots in different institutions across the country over the coming months. The evaluation of the pilots will incorporate the views of relevant officers within participating institutions, as well as wider stakeholder consultation with imams, other faith leaders, chaplains, and officials from other government departments and relevant associated agencies. We expect the pilots to be completed by autumn 2009.

Using key findings from evaluation of the pilots and stakeholder consultation, Faith Matters will produce updated versions of the voluntary standards framework and recruitment process, with accompanying notes and a report listing key actions that need to be taken when implementing the documents.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90430w0001.htm#09043035001721>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Tebbit [HL2952]: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is their policy that the western Judeo-Christian concept of human rights should be adopted by sovereign states in which the majority religions are not Christian.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: The Government do not consider that international human rights standards reflect any particular religious tradition. The ideas and values underpinning the notion of human rights come from a wide range of religious, philosophical, ideological and cultural traditions. Human rights, by definition, are universal. They have also been elaborated collectively by states, particularly through the organs of the UN in such documents as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the various UN human rights treaties; and at a regional level in Europe, Africa and in the Americas. All UN member states, regardless of their populations' religious make-up, are bound under the UN charter to promote respect for human rights. All have also become bound voluntarily by international human rights treaties. The Government consider that all states must fulfil their international human rights obligations.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90428w0002.htm>

Lord Hylton [HL2974]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what action is being taken by the Commonwealth to uphold freedom of religion and the conscientious right to change one's religion, in the legislation and practice of all member states.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: The Harare Commonwealth declaration of 1991 enshrines the Commonwealth's commitment to the liberty of the individual under law and equal rights for all Commonwealth citizens regardless of gender, race, colour creed, or political belief. The Commonwealth actively supports the adoption and ratification of international and regional human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, across its 53 country membership and helps to enhance the capacity of institutions in member states to promote, monitor, and protect human rights.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90428w0002.htm#09042866000142>

Baroness Whitaker [HL3066]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the report of the Equality and Human Rights Commission on Gypsies and Travellers' accommodation?
Baroness Andrews: The Government welcome the report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. It highlights the continuing need for local authorities to press forward on work to identify appropriate locations for authorised sites for Gypsies and Travellers. The delivery of authorised sites in appropriate locations will help to reduce the number of unauthorised sites and the tensions that these can cause with the settled community, as well as reduce the need for, and cost of, enforcement action.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90430w0003.htm#09043035001730>

Baroness Warsi [HL3121]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they have provided to the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board.

Reply from Baroness Andrews: The Department for Communities and Local Government has provided funding to the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB) to enable the development of a consistent set of standards for mosques across the country in order to improve their services and work with communities. This funding is as follows: £75,600 in 2007-08; £116,000 in 2008-09; and £58,000 in 2009-10.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90430w0006.htm#09043035001741>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Warsi: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their position on polygamous marriage in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord Bach: My Lords, the Government do not support or approve of polygamous marriage. It is not possible to enter into a polygamous marriage in the United Kingdom under UK law. A person who is domiciled in the United Kingdom cannot enter into a valid polygamous marriage abroad.

Baroness Warsi: My Lords, I thank the Minister for his reply, but is he aware that Chapter 13.20 of the entry clearance guidance issued by the UK Border Agency to entry clearance officers states:

“Even where it is suspected that a divorce of convenience has taken place and that a man ... is continuing to live with a previous wife, entry clearance cannot be withheld from a second wife, even if a polygamous household will be created as a result”?

Does he accept that this guidance effectively means that the Government are turning a blind eye to polygamy and that it does exist?

Reply from Lord Bach: No, my Lords, I would not accept that for a moment. I have set out the Government's policy as clearly as I can. This country recognises, and has done for many years, a marriage that has taken place abroad as being valid in England and Wales provided that it has been created in accordance with English private international law. To be recognised as valid, it must have been contracted between parties of full capacity and the marriage ceremony must have accorded with the formal requirements of the law of celebration in the country where it took place. If these conditions are satisfied, the marriage in question is normally recognised as being compliant with English private international law. This includes polygamous marriages but is not government approval of such marriages.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90428-0001.htm#09042836000530>

Press Release

Message from the PM on the Occasion of Wesak
<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19195>

New publication

Faith Communities and Pandemic Flu: Guidance for faith communities and local influenza pandemic committees
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1219379>

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Other News

EU judges want Sharia law applied in British courts
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1173779/EU-judges-want-Sharia-law-applied-British-courts.html>

Other News (continued)

Shop raid prompts Muslim veil ban

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/8021627.stm

Veils banned after masked raiders strike at jewellers

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2504867.0.Veils_banned_after_masked_raiders_strike_at_jewellers.php

Show us your faces, store tells customers after raid by men wearing Muslim veils

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Show-us-your-faces-store.5214922.jp>

A question of safety — or culture?

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article6210548.ece>

Muslims hit by trebling in stop and search

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/muslims-hit-by-trebling-in-stop-and-search-1677107.html>

Blacks bear brunt of rise in stop and search

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article6202149.ece>

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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>

** 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-ml2.pdf>

Bill as amended at Stage 2

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/16-EdAddSup/b16As3-stage3-amend.pdf>

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>

Justice Committee: Stage 2 consideration of amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/mop-09/jumop09-0428.htm>

Scottish Local Government (Elections) Bill

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

Bills in Progress Holyrood (continued)

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>

** Equality Bill

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

Equality Bill published in trial format

<http://news.parliament.uk/2009/04/equality-bill-published-in-trial-format/>

Bill as introduced

Vol 1 <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/085/voli/2009085i.pdf>

vol 2 <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/085/volii/2009085ii.pdf>

Impact Assessment

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/Equality%20Bill%20Impact%20As.pdf>

Equality Impact Assessment

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/Equality%20Bill%20Eq%20Impact%20As.pdf>

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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.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>

** Community planning for tackling poverty and deprivation (BEMIS consultation) (23 May 2009)

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ltofvE2_2fMrorgWbMuRbXrw_3d_3d

Consultations (continued)

** Equality Bill: Assessing the impact of a multiple discrimination provision

(5 June 2009)

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/090422%20Multiple%20Discrimination%20Discussion%20Document%20Final%20Text.pdf>

Working together to protect crowded places (10 July 2009)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-crowded-places/working-together-crowded-places?view=Binary>

and

Safer Places: a counter-terrorism supplement

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-crowded-places/safer-places?view=Binary>

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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!*

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

** Scottish Government South Asian Development Programme: consultation meeting

11 May 2009 in Glasgow (11.30-2.30)

Scottish Government International Development Team meeting in co-operation with BEMIS to consult local communities in Scotland that have links with the South Asian subcontinent on the geographic and thematic focus, and funding arrangements for a new international development programme for South Asia. For information contact Ashay Ghai ashay.ghai@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 804.

** European Parliament Roadshow

13 May 2009 in Edinburgh (11.00-3.00)

European Parliament Office in Scotland information about the forthcoming European Parliament elections. For information see <http://www.europarl.org.uk/section/european-elections/european-elections>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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>

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>

**** New Scrutiny Bodies 2011**

26 June 2009 in Glasgow (9.30-2.00)

(Applications must be received by 5 June)

Scottish Government Conference for equality groups and people who use services on how health, care and social work services will be inspected from April 2011. For information see <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Scrutiny/PublicEvent>

Hate crime and community safety (event for Muslim Women)

1 July 2009 in Falkirk (10.00-1.30)

Event organised by AMINA women's resource centre, and Central Police with speakers from the Crown Office, Police, Victim Support, and AMINA, and including round table discussions on issues affecting Muslim Women in relation to policing. For information contact Samina or Gabrielle 0141 585 8026 / info@mwrc.org.uk or Fiach 01786826012 / fiach.obroin-molloy@centralscotland.pnn.police.uk

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 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=60>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

Equality and Human Rights Commission

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

Scotland Helpline 0845 604 5510

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

Social Economy Scotland <http://www.socialeconomyscotland.info/content/index.asp>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <http://www.oscr.org.uk/Index.stm>

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) <http://www.crbs.org.uk/>

Disclosure Scotland <http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/>

BBC News24 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/default.stm>

Useful Links (continued)

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/>