

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.*

Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)
[Race Relations](#)
[Equality](#)
[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)
[Other Westminster](#)
[New Publications](#)

[Other News](#)
[Bills in Progress](#)
[Consultations](#)
[Events/Conferences/Training](#)
[Useful Links](#)

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

Ian McKee (S3M-4189): Migration and Scotland—That the Parliament acknowledges the Equality and Human Rights Commission conference that took place in Edinburgh on 13 May 2009, which highlighted the importance of migration to Scotland and called for potential consideration and research into adapting immigration control to a Scottish context; notes that Scotland's long-term GDP growth performance is closely affected by population trends and that, in comparison to the rest of the United Kingdom, Scotland has seen a population decline between 1995 and 2001, with considerably fewer people aged 14 and under and an increased number over the age of 65; further notes that the UK as a whole does not suffer from a population shortfall and benefits from a considerably larger migrant population; observes that the UK Minister of State for Borders and Immigration announced that Labour will not allow the UK's population to rise above 70 million; believes that both the UK Government and the Conservative party immigration policies are in stark contrast with Scotland's economic and demographic needs and that these policies could damage Scotland's long-term economy, and considers that devolving certain aspects of immigration control to the Scottish Parliament would address the distinct immigration needs of Scotland in order to achieve a long-term economically viable and sustainable country.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=16626>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) Westminster Ministerial Statement

Gurkhas

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): As the House knows, all Gurkhas who retired after July 1997, when the Brigade was relocated to the UK from Hong Kong, are already eligible to settle here under current immigration rules. Since 2004, more than 6,000 Gurkhas and their families have done so.

On 29th April, hon. Members of all parties made clear their view that the Government should reconsider plans to increase by 10,000 the number of Gurkhas and family members who could come to the UK to live. As my hon. Friend the Minister for Borders and Immigration set out in his statement to the House that evening, we undertook to respect the will of the House and introduce revised proposals. I am most grateful to my hon. Friend for the work that he has led to deliver that commitment. I am also grateful to the members of the Home Affairs Committee and the Gurkhas' representatives, who have helped us to establish the basis for the proposals. Our policy will be put into effect through guidance, which we will publish shortly, having first shared it in advance with the Select Committee and Gurkha representatives to seek their views. Our new guidance will reflect the will of the House, while remaining affordable and consistent with our broader immigration policy. All former Gurkhas who retired before 1997 and who have served more than four years will now be eligible to apply for settlement in the UK.

Gurkha representatives have indicated that it will take time for former Gurkhas and their families to make their applications. I welcome the willingness of the representatives to set up a form of resettlement board to assist the process of their integration into British life.

On the basis of the figure of 10,000 to 15,000 main applicants that Gurkha representatives have suggested, I expect to be able to welcome them and their families over the course of the next two years. I am making resources available in the UK Border Agency to do that, and I am making it clear that there should be no time limit on those applications. The Select Committee has recommended that former Gurkhas should be entitled to bring with them their spouses and dependent children under the age of 18. I am pleased to accept that recommendation.

The 1,400 or so outstanding applications for settlement that are now being considered by the UK Border Agency will be processed on the basis of the policy I am announcing today. I have instructed the UK Border Agency to process all those cases, as a matter of urgency, by 11 June, but I expect to complete the work earlier. The guidance recognises the unique nature of the service given to the UK by the Brigade of Gurkhas. It is offered to them on an exceptional basis. I hope that the House will understand the importance of maintaining the distinction, upheld by the High Court, between Gurkhas who served before and after 1997. That is why I welcome the agreement of all parties to our discussions that there is no direct read-across between settlement and pension rights. As the Chairman of the Select Committee wrote in his letter to the Prime Minister on Tuesday, the question of equalising Gurkha pensions should not and need not be conflated with the debate about settlement”.

On the basis of the measures I have set out today, I am proud now to be able to offer this country's welcome to all who have served in the Brigade of Gurkhas and who wish to apply to settle here. I am sure that all who come here will make the most of the opportunities of living and working in the UK. I am delighted that we have now been able to agree—across Government, across the House and with the Gurkhas' representatives—new settlement rights, which all those who have served us so well so highly deserve. I commend the statement to the House.

To read the statement and subsequent debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090521/debtext/90521-0005.htm#09052147000003>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090521/debtext/90521-0006.htm>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Illegal Immigrants

Andrew Selous [275714]: What recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of measures to remove illegal immigrants from the UK.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The immigration system is undergoing the biggest shake-up in a generation. We have strengthened our borders, started the roll-out of local immigration teams, introduced civil penalties for rogue employers who knowingly hire illegal workers, and introduced tier 4 of the points-based system for students. We are committed to removing those with no right to be here, targeting the most harmful first. Last year, more than 66,000 people were removed from the UK or left voluntarily, including a record number of foreign criminals.

Andrew Selous: Many of my constituents want to know the reason for the huge delays in the Home Office, which lead to the failure to remove illegal immigrants, who then acquire the right to stay in this country. The figures show that the number of removals fell in the last quarter of 2008 and was lower than in 2007. Why was that?

Reply from Phil Woolas: I do not accept the hon. Gentleman's point. The trend of our removals is significantly up. Of course, we have difficulties with some countries that refuse to issue documents, and that must be taken into account. However, there is steady improvement, as the report that the chief executive of the UK Border Agency gives regularly to the Home Affairs Committee—I see its Chairman in his place—shows.

Gwyn Prosser: We would have far fewer illegal immigrants to remove if we were even more effective in reducing the flow of illegals from northern France to Dover. What progress has the Minister made in setting up a secure holding centre in Calais? What benefits will flow from that?

Reply from Phil Woolas: I thank my hon. Friend for the question. Given his constituency, he knows more than most, if not all, about the issue. Let me reassure the House that the people trying to get into our country from Calais are not queuing up; they are locked out. Our bilateral conversations with the French have produced good progress. We will have a high-level bilateral meeting next month, when we hope to finalise the next stage of our reform to put in place what is already one of the most effective border controls in the world.

John Mason: Can the Minister tell us why a four-year-old boy with medical problems has been imprisoned in Dungavel in Lanarkshire?

Reply from Phil Woolas: It would not be right to comment on individual cases. If the hon. Gentleman wants to take up the matter with me, I will respond in due course. On the general policy of detaining children, it is, of course, a last resort, and we have programmes to consider alternatives. However, regrettably, on some occasions, people who have not co-operated with the decisions of the independent tribunals and courts and would, in their view, otherwise abscond, face detention.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090518/debtext/90518-0001.htm#090518600016>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090518/debtext/90518-0002.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum

Greg Mulholland [275719]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to increase the speed with which asylum applications are handled.

Reply from Phil Woolas: We are succeeding in our goal of handling applications faster than ever before. 60 per cent. of new cases were concluded within six months by the end of last year. We are committed to conclude 90 per cent. of new asylum cases within six months by 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090518/text/90518w0010.htm#09051825000037>

Asylum

Sandra Gidley [276161]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications within the Legacy Directorate programme have yet to be processed; and what her latest assessment is of performance under the programme.

Reply from Phil Woolas: As of 9 January the UK Border Agency had concluded 155,500 older asylum cases. The previous Home Secretary informed Parliament in July 2006 of "the Immigration and Nationality Directorate's case load of around 400,000 to 450,000 electronic and paper records". These documents are riddled with duplication and errors, and include cases of individuals who have since died or left the country, or are now EU citizens. It is, therefore, not possible to provide an accurate assessment of how many cases are yet to be processed. The Chief Executive of the Agency will update the Home Affairs Select Committee on case conclusion performance in the summer.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090520/text/90520w0018.htm#09052058000016>

Asylum: Finance

Neil Gerrard [271649]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 19 March 2009, Official Report, column 69WS, on asylum support, what estimate she has made of the initial cost of transferring the provision of section 4 support for asylum seekers to a plastic payment card system.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The costs for the initial implementation and running costs for the first year are estimated at £350,000. There are no immediate financial benefits following the transfer to a card based system but the new system will deliver improved management information which will provide better control over support costs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090519/text/90519w0007.htm#09051969000085>

Asylum: Offenders

Dominic Grieve [275683]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners applied for asylum (a) before their conviction and (b) following their imprisonment in each of the last 12 months.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The information requested can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual case files and cross-referencing these details with records held by the Prison Service which would incur a disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Select Committee with all of the most robust and accurate information on the deportation of foreign national prisoners. Copies of her letters are available in the Library of the House.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090519/text/90519w0007.htm#09051969000086>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Sangatte

Lord Naseby: To ask Her Majesty's Government what action is being taken in Sangatte, France, to stop non-European Union immigrants, particularly young people under 18, from entering the United Kingdom illegally.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, since the closure of Sangatte camp in 2003, the United Kingdom and France have worked together to create one of the most secure border crossings in the world at Calais. This is achieved through the rigorous searching and screening of lorries, exchanging information on the changing nature of the threat and by sharing high levels of border-control expertise. Last year, we detected and prevented more than 28,000 individual attempts to cross the channel illegally.

Lord Naseby: My Lords, while those figures undoubtedly sound very impressive, why are so many people under 18 getting into the United Kingdom? Apparently, we do not deport them with the adults who also get in. Secondly, is not the whole thing made even worse by the fact that Her Majesty's Government have not paid back to Eurotunnel the amount, which runs into several millions, that it has spent on security? Even today, I am told—I inquired yesterday—about 10 Afghans a day attempt to get into the United Kingdom. Does that not suggest that Her Majesty's Government's policy on Afghanistan is somewhat lacking?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, that was really a series of rolling questions. I do not accept that very large numbers of people under 18 are coming into the country. There is no doubt that some are, and it is quite difficult almost by definition to know exactly how many get in illegally, but we have been very successful at picking up the ones who manage to get through the very strict border controls. We deal with the under-18s very specifically and carefully to ensure that we comply with all the safeguards that are there for people of that sort of age. I will look at the question about Eurotunnel and get back to the noble Lord in writing.

Lord Avebury: My Lords, under Clause 57 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill, the UKBA and the contractors who work for it have to safeguard the welfare of children under their control, but only in the United Kingdom and not at the juxtaposed controls that are referred to in the Question. Will the Minister say what the logic is of applying different standards to the treatment of children according to whether they are in Yarl's Wood or Sangatte? Will he also say why such a duty would prevent the authorities handing over a child to the French or the Belgians, where the child is refused leave to enter or is found to be at risk, as they do at present? What will be contained in this duty that will stop them doing that?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, the noble Lord is well aware that we had a long debate on these issues during the passage of the BCI Bill through this House, and I do not intend to go into the detail of that again. We liaise very closely with the French and with the International Organisation for Migration in dealing with people who we think might be under 18. France signed the convention in May 2006. The cases of unaccompanied children who seek asylum are considered by the French authorities. We co-operate daily with the French authorities. Clandestines under the age of 18 are handed into their care and control, and we are content that they deal with them appropriately.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90518-0001.htm#0905182000412>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Childbirth: Migration

Frank Field [276294]: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, Official Report, columns 956-7W, on child birth, what forecast he has made of the number of births there would be if (a) net migration were six per cent lower than the principal projection, (b) migration equalled emigration and (c) net migration were 60,000 in each year to 2031.

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 May 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question, pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009 (Official Report, columns 956-7W) on child birth, regarding what forecast the Office for National Statistics has made of the number of births there would be if (a) net migration were six per cent lower than the principal projection (b) migration equalled emigration and (c) if net migration was 60,000 in each of the years to 2031.

Migration assumptions for national population projections are conventionally expressed in terms of net migration (immigration less emigration). The 2006-based principal (or central) projection assumed a long-term annual net inflow to the UK of +190,000 persons a year. The attached table shows the projected number of births in the UK for each year from mid-2008 to mid-2031 according to this 2006-based principal national population projection which is included for the sake of completeness.

The 2006-based 'zero migration' variant projection makes the same assumptions about future fertility and mortality as the principal projection, but assumes that immigration will equal emigration, and thus net migration will be zero, at all ages from mid-2006 to the end of the projection period. The projected numbers of births in the UK for each year from mid-2008 to mid-2031 according to this variant projection are also shown in the table.

To fully answer your question, further population projections have been produced by reducing the nominal immigration totals applied in the 2006-based principal projection, but leaving the

18 May 2009 : Column 1252W

fertility, mortality and emigration assumptions unchanged. It should be noted that, in practice, this may not be a realistic scenario: if immigration fell permanently to levels well below those experienced in recent years, it is likely that this would, in time, lead to a reduction in the level of emigration as well.

Using this method, two further projections have been produced; one assumes annual net migration inflows to the UK six per cent lower than those assumed for the principal projection, whilst the other assumes annual net migration inflows of +60,000 persons a year. The table therefore also shows the projected number of births in the UK for these two additional projections.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090518/text/90518w0029.htm#09051845000042>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Foreign Workers: Health Services

David Drew [275060]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of the implementation of the points-based immigration system on the employment of foreign nationals as nurses in the NHS.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency has worked closely with the Department of Health and external stakeholders in the sector, including NHS Employers, throughout the development of the Points Based System (PBS). Where vacancies for nurses exist which cannot be filled by workers from within the European economic area (EEA), NHS trusts that are licensed sponsors under Tier 2 of the PBS are able to bring nurses to the UK to fill these posts. Some specialist nursing posts have been included on the Government's shortage occupation list.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090520/text/90520w0018.htm#09052058000025>

Foreign Workers

Sarah Teather [268452]: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many (a) non-UK and (b) non-EU citizens applied for a national insurance number in each region in each of the last five years.

Reply from Tony McNulty: The available information is in the tables.

The statistics show the total number of national insurance numbers allocated—not the number of migrants living in the UK. We know that many people come to work for a short period and then return—the national insurance number statistics do not measure people leaving the UK. They should not be used to make estimates about the number of foreign nationals living in the UK at a particular time.

To read the lengthy tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090518/text/90518w0018.htm#09051836000007>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090518/text/90518w0019.htm>

Immigration Controls

Pete Wishart [272237]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals were made by applicants under the Highly-Skilled Migrants programme where applications were refused because their savings fell below the required level; and how many such appeals were successful in each year that the scheme has operated.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The information requested is not available for either in country appeals or out of country administrative reviews. This is because the UK Border Agency's Case Information Database is unable to extract data on the specific reasons why an application is initially refused. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by the examination of a large number of individual case files.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090520/text/90520w0019.htm#09052058000029>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

National Insurance

Sarah Teather [268389]: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications from (a) British citizens, (b) EU citizens and (c) citizens from countries outside the EU for a national insurance number were received by each office issuing national insurance numbers in London in each of the last five years; how many staff were employed at each such office in each such year; and what the cost was of operating each office in each such year.

Reply from Tony McNulty: The available information on national insurance number (NINo) registrations in London Government office region is in the table.

NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK, in London Government office region by EU/Non-EU status

Thousands

<i>Financial year</i>	<i>EU nationals</i>	<i>Non-EU nationals</i>
2003-04	49.49	107.63
2004-05	69.06	100.36
2005-06	106.12	129.09
2006-07	116.43	124.31
2007-08	140.05	132.49

Notes: 1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten and displayed in thousands. Some additional disclosure control has been applied. 2. Registration date is derived from the date at which a NINo is maintained on the National Insurance Recording System. 3. Government office region improvements have been made to the allocation of migrants whose residential address is incomplete. Figures reflect the best estimate of an overseas national's locality at the time of registering for a NINo. 4. The mapping for "world areas" is based on the present day. Bulgaria and Romania are listed as EU accession states for the entire Back Series. European Union excludes the accession states. 5. Financial year of registration date years are financial based (1 April to 31 March). 6. The latest year that full year data is available is 2007-08. In the first two quarters from April to September 2008, there have been some 69.74 thousand national insurance numbers allocated to EU nationals and 66.4 thousand allocated to non-EU nationals. *Source:* 100 per cent. extract from National Insurance Recording System.

The statistics show the number of adult overseas nationals (by Government office region) entering the UK and registering for a NINo in order to work or to claim benefits and tax credits. As such they are one measure of in-migration to the UK. However, they do not represent the number of migrants living in the UK at a point in time, nor are they consistent with estimates of Government office region migrant populations. Nor do they represent the distribution of employment of migrants—as they provide information on where the individual lived at the time they registered for a NINo; they may have since moved.

Information on full-time equivalent staff numbers and operating costs is not collated for each individual office and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090518/text/90518w0019.htm#09051836000012>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090518/text/90518w0020.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Foreign Workers: EU Nationals

Nicholas Soames [263737]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many nationals of the A8 states have completed a year on the Worker Registration Scheme and are entitled to full access to benefits.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Data on the number of nationals of the A8 states that have completed 12 months continuous employment in the UK and have consequently ceased to be subject to the registration requirement is not available. The effect of the registration requirement is to restrict access to tax-funded, income related benefits subject to a habitual residence test, including income support and income-based jobseeker's allowance.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090519/text/90519w0008.htm#09051969000102>

Deportation

Damian Green [269749]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department seeks advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with regard to the safety of specific countries in respect of deportation cases.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency obtains information about specific countries from a wide range of publicly accessible sources including governmental, non-governmental, international organisations and reliable media sources. The UK Border Agency works closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to ensure that the picture obtained from these sources is an accurate one.

Country plans/information, which are the Government's official assessment of the circumstances in specific countries, are public documents and can be found on the Home Office website.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090519/text/90519w0007.htm#09051969000093>

Entry Clearances: Married People

Cheryl Gillan [267692]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what differences exist between her Department's methods of treatment of visa applications from spouses of British passport holders who hold dual nationality with Pakistan and spouses of those who hold only a British passport; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas: There is no difference in treatment of visa applications from spouses of British passport holders who hold dual nationality with Pakistan and spouses of those who only hold a British passport. The requirements for entry as a spouse are set out in Paragraph 281 of the Immigration Rules.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090519/text/90519w0008.htm#09051969000098>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mark Oaten [274164]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1355W, on immigration controls: overseas students, whether students who pay for their accommodation, including bills, before attending the academic institution will be required to demonstrate they have the required monthly maintenance funds set under the new Tier 4 rules on immigration.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Where students have paid for accommodation in advance of applying for a visa, this amount will be deducted from the total amount of funds they will need to demonstrate in order to meet Tier 4 maintenance requirement. For accommodation, this only applies if the student is staying in university or college arranged accommodation. This information is set out in paragraph 96 of the Tier 4 policy guidance, which is available in the House of Commons Library and has also been published on the UK Border Agency website.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Mark Oaten [274329]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 856, on immigration controls: educational institutions, what criteria the objective test includes; and how many times an academic institution is required to assess students according to this test during an academic year.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The points test, integral to all parts of the Points Based System, is the objective test used by the UK Border Agency to assess applications for leave to enter or remain. The specific criteria that must be met are detailed in the Immigration Rules, following changes contained in the Statement of Changes to the Immigration Rules (HC 314) laid before the House on 9 March 2009, and which came into force on 31 March 2009.

It is the responsibility of the education provider, as licensed sponsor, to assess their students' progress throughout the duration of their studies. The UK Border Agency does not define the method nor the frequency of such assessments throughout an academic year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090519/text/90519w0008.htm#09051969000099>

Entry Clearances: Zimbabwe

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review her policy on determining visa applications from Zimbabwean nationals to take account of changes in the political situation in Zimbabwe. [257758]

Reply from Phil Woolas: All applications for UK visas are determined in accordance with the UK's Immigration Rules, regardless of an applicant's nationality. When assessing an application, it is normal to take account of an applicant's individual circumstances and, where relevant, the prevailing economic, political or security situation in their country.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090519/text/90519w0008.htm#09051969000100>

Trafficking (Children)

Stephen Crabb [275717]: What her most recent estimate is of the level of trafficking of children into the UK.

Reply from Alan Campbell: The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre's "Strategic Threat Assessment" published last month, is the most recent study into child trafficking. It found that 325 children were identified as being potential victims of trafficking or exploitation from data supplied covering the period 1 March 2007 to 29 February 2008.

Stephen Crabb: I am grateful for that reply, but the Minister will have seen the report from the Home Affairs Committee last week, which painted a grim picture of a growing modern slave industry here within the UK, where abused children are some of the principal victims. What practical steps is he, along with other ministerial colleagues, taking to ensure that all relevant agencies coming into contact with trafficked children are aware of the issues, to end the culture of disbelief that unquestionably still exists among some professionals, and, most of all, to put a stop to our care homes effectively becoming holding pens for trafficked children?

Reply from Alan Campbell: We are concerned about children who are suspected of being trafficked, particularly if they go missing from care. The national referral mechanism is an important part of identifying those who may be victims of child trafficking.

To read the lengthy question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090518/debtext/90518-0002.htm#0905186000019>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking

Anthony Steen [276602]: What assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Crown Prosecution Service in bringing prosecutions in cases of alleged human trafficking offences.

Peter Bone [276605]: What her most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of the Crown Prosecution Service in prosecuting cases of alleged human trafficking.

Reply from Vera Baird: The provisions of the Council of Europe convention improve training and guidance to front-line law enforcement officers and increase our ability to identify victims and bring more cases to justice. As more cases are investigated by the police, the CPS can improve the numbers of cases that are prosecuted. The figures for trafficking prosecutions over the past three years are as follows: 40 in 2006-07, 87 in 2007-08, and 114 in 2008-09.

Anthony Steen: In spite of the wholly unjustifiable attack on me by *The Daily Telegraph* that has resulted in me standing down at the next election, I want to reassure the House that I will continue to fight against the evils of human trafficking as long as I am here.

Is the Solicitor-General aware of the sentences given recently to two traffickers in Devon convicted of trafficking a 19-year-old girl from the Czech Republic? The judge gave one of them one year for running a brothel, and the other a year for trafficking and a year for running a brothel, even though the brothel had been running the trade with the Czech Republic for many years and in spite of the fact that the maximum sentence for trafficking is 14 years. Will the Solicitor-General therefore increase the training offered to judges—including Crown Court judges—as many have little experience of human trafficking cases or of the horrors of human trafficking for the young people concerned? The effect on victims is devastating, so can she ensure that traffickers are punished appropriately? One year is not enough.

Reply from Vera Baird: We shall miss the hon. Gentleman enormously when he stands down. He has taken a powerful interest in this issue, and he has a lot to be proud of in the work that he has done in driving our agenda forward. I think that he may have raised the case to which he refers with other Ministers, and we have treated his inquiry as a request for me to consider whether the sentence may have been unduly lenient. I have sent for the papers, because the time expires very soon, and they should be with me today. If the case is referred, the Court of Appeal is likely to give some general guidance about the right approach for judges.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090521/debtext/90521-0003.htm#0905214700024>

People Trafficking

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL3706]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what happens to individuals trafficked to the United Kingdom following the conviction of those responsible for their trafficking.

Reply from Lord Bach: Victims of human trafficking are provided with comprehensive support services irrespective of whether there has been a conviction.

The Government have introduced a 45-day minimum recovery and reflection period where non-UK national victims can remain in the country and receive support. Victims of human trafficking may also be eligible for one-year renewable residence permits on two grounds: participation in a criminal investigation or personal circumstance. Victims that choose to return home can receive support with resettlement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90521w0005.htm#09052143000668>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking

Anthony Steen [275296]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the airline industry on responsibility for the cost of returning to their country of origin persons trafficked by air into the UK.

Reply from Phil Woolas: There are no specific arrangements for assigning responsibility of the costs of returning trafficking victims to their country of origin. I am not aware that this has been raised as an issue by the airline industry. It is our policy to encourage voluntary returns wherever possible, which in most cases would not result in a cost being incurred by a carrier.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090520/text/90520w0018.htm#09052058000026>

Downing Street e-petitions

“We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to give all Ex Gurkha soldiers and their families who have served our country British citizenship on leaving the service.”

and

“We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to give Ghurkas fighting or who have fought in the british army full British citizenship and pension.”

Government response: *(both petitions received the same response)*

For many years, the Brigade of Gurkhas have shown bravery, commitment and dedication in serving this country, and continue to do so on operations today.

This Government has done more for Gurkhas than any other. It was the first Government to grant settlement to Gurkhas and the first to equalise pay and pensions, with over 6,000 former Gurkhas and their families already given the right to live in the UK. In April we took steps to increase the number of Gurkhas eligible to come to this country by 4,000 or, including families, 10,000 people.

The House of Commons has now expressed a clear view that all Gurkhas should be entitled to settle in the United Kingdom if that is what they wish.

This Government respects the will of the House of Commons and recognises the strong feeling and public support for this cause. Consequently, we have announced today that all former Gurkhas who served for longer than four years will be eligible to apply for settlement in the United Kingdom. They will also be entitled to bring their spouses and dependent minor children. There will be no time limit on applications.

This scheme recognises the unique nature of the service given to the UK by the Brigade of Gurkhas and is offered to them on an exceptional basis.

We believe that in announcing the new policy today, we have met their concerns and those of Parliament.

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19389>

and

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19391>

Press Releases

Fewer workers coming from Eastern Europe

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/fewer-workers-eastern-europe>

Immigration and asylum statistics released

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/immigration-asylum-stats-release>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

Gurkhas given right to settle in the UK

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/gurkhas-to-settle>

Gurkhas given right to settle in the United Kingdom

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/gurkhas-right-to-settle>

New residency rules for Gurkhas

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19381>

Media claims over sham colleges - UK Border Agency response

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/sham-colleges-response>

New publications

Control of immigration: quarterly statistical summary, United Kingdom January – March 2009

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq109.pdf>

British Citizenship Statistics United Kingdom, 2008

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0909.pdf>

Accession Monitoring Report May 2004 – March 2009

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report/report-19/may04-mar09?view=Binary

News

Boy's detention raised in Commons

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/8056234.stm

Justice & Peace Commission protest against 'Dawn Raids'

<http://scmo.org/articles/546/1/Justice-amp-Peace-Commission-protest-against-Dawn-Raids/Page1.html>

Polish children get taught Polish – in Scotland

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/otherfeatures/display.var.2508921.0.Polish_children_get_taught_Polish_in_Scotland.php

Migrants twice as likely to die at work

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Migrants-twice-as-likely-to.5278833.jp>

Second day of 'labour row' action

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/8058811.stm>

Anger as asylum girl sent south despite Scottish legal challenge

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2509230.0.Anger_as_asylum_girl_sent_south_despite_Scottish_legal_challenge.php

1,000 Poles quit the UK every week in bid to escape the recession

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/1000-Poles-quit-the-UK.5288332.jp>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Discontent on number of migrants

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2509306.0.discontent_on_number_of_migrants.php

Sharp rise in the number of applications for UK asylum

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2509453.0.Sharp_rise_in_the_number_of_applications_for_UK_asylum.php

Brown signals policy shift on Gurkha settlement

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2509463.0.Brown_signals_policy_shift_on_Gurkha_settlement.php

Gurkhas will be told they have won right to live in Britain

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/uk/Gurkhas-will-be-told-they.5288370.jp>

Gurkhas win right to settle in UK

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8060607.stm

Justice for Gurkhas

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/editorial/display.var.2509625.0.Justice_for_Gurkhas.php

Asylum airlines - your one-way flight to deportation

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/5374109/Asylum-airlines---your-one-way-flight-to-deportation.html>

Ippr comments on latest migration figures

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/pressreleases/?id=3504>

'Top Forces' Tackling Human Trafficking

http://www.policeoracle.com/news/Top-Forces-Tackling-Human-Trafficking_19236.html

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

Press Release

Statement by Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis on the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1447697&Site=DC&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Lembit Öpik [273630]: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many completed cases originating in (a) Wales, (b) Scotland and (c) England the Equality and Human Rights Commission has taken up on behalf of individuals since its inception; and how many such cases concerned (i) disability discrimination, (ii) sexual discrimination and (iii) racial discrimination.

Reply from Maria Eagle: Between October 2007 and 31 March 2009, the Equality and Human Rights Commission undertook 203 completed cases on behalf of individuals:

- (a) 191 cases originated from England;
 - (b) Eight cases originated from Scotland; and
 - (c) Four cases originated from Wales.
- (i) 179 completed cases concerned disability discrimination;
 - (ii) 10 concerned sexual discrimination; and
 - (iii) 14 concerned racial discrimination.

Three cases concerned more than one strand of equality.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090520/text/90520w0005.htm#09052042000037>

New publications

The Race Equality Duty - Who is covered by the duty on public authorities in Scotland?

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Documents/Race/Race%20Equality%20Guide%20Scotland.pdf>

Responding to Discrimination: The Geography and Geometry of Advice Provision in England, Scotland and Wales

<http://edit.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Documents/Equalities/2G/2Gs%20Final%20Report.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

News

New Guidelines On Discrimination Allegations

http://www.policeoracle.com/news/New-Guidelines-On-Discrimination-Allegations_19233.html

[TOP](#)

Parliamentary Questions

Prisoners: Ethnic Minorities

Lord Laird [HL3743]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the proportions of white and ethnic minority prisoners in England and Wales; and how that compares with the figures in the general population.

Reply from Lord Bach: The proportions of white and ethnic minority prisoners in England and Wales; and how that compares with the figures in the general population can be found in this table.

	Self-identified ethnicity				
	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other
Prison Population ⁽¹⁾	80.1%	3.2%	5.3%	11.1%	0.3%
England and Wales Population ⁽²⁾	91.3%	1.3%	4.4%	2.2%	0.9%

(1) British nationals of known ethnicity aged 15 and above, as of 30 June 2008.

(2) The percentages are from the Census key tables (KS06) figures released by ONS in February 2003 and are estimates for those aged 10 and over.

Note: These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system, and so is not necessarily accurate to the last number as shown here.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90521w0005.htm#09052143000669>

Female Genital Mutilation

Baroness Rendell of Babergh: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the decision by the National Health Service to advertise surgical reversal of female genital mutilations on Somali television in April.

Reply from Lord Darzi of Denham: My Lords, female genital mutilation is a cruel and brutal practice that the Government are determined to tackle. An advertisement from an NHS trust appeared on a Somali satellite TV station featuring a midwife giving advice about surgical reversal of female genital mutilation. Although a local initiative, the Department of Health is supportive of raising awareness in practising communities to improve access to health services. Since it was aired, 10 women have undergone surgical reversal at the well woman centre.

Baroness Rendell of Babergh: My Lords, I thank my noble friend for his Answer. Seeing that the group which produced this advertisement is receiving at least 15 phone calls per week applying for reversals, which incidentally would be done in doctors' surgeries rather than hospitals, does he think it would be a good idea to put out this advertisement or a similar one in other languages, because female genital mutilation is carried out in many African countries, not just in the east of Africa?

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90518-0001.htm#0905182000413>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90518-0002.htm>

[TOP](#)

New Publications

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: 2008 Report Activities and Results

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Press/OHCHR_Report_2008.pdf

Conservative Party Manifesto

<http://www.conservatives.com/~media/Files/Downloadable%20Files/Euro%20Election%202009/euro-manifesto.ashx?dl=true>

[TOP](#)

Other News

Prioritising Human Rights

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

Row as BNP leader to be guest at royal garden party

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2509462.0.Row_as_BNP_leader_to_be_guest_at_royal_garden_party.php

Lords refuse to hear Travellers' appeal, whilst UN pledges support

<http://www.irr.org.uk/2009/may/bw000038.html>

When is halal meat not halal meat?

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/8059218.stm>

Pilgrims warned to be wary of dodgy tour operators

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=401812&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=True>

Charity Commission drive to register mosques makes slow progress

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/GovernanceBulletin/907053/Charity-Commission-drive-register-mosques-makes-slow-progress/A015BE55990666CD03B2EA2B02CDC6A0/?DCMP=EMC-GovernanceBulletin>

Islam's young faithful

<http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/the-faith-column/2009/05/young-muslims-islam-britain>

[TOP](#)

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>

proposed amendments

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

Stage 3 consideration of amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor0520-02.htm#Col17576>

Stage 3 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor0520-02.htm#Col17634>

Bill as passed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/16-EdAddSup/b16bs3-aspassed.pdf>

**** Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill**

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

Stage 1 evidence from the Scottish Government

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/or-09/ju09-1502.htm#Col1815>

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>

Supplementary Delegated Powers Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/11-sexualOffences/b11as3-introd-dpm.pdf>

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>

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/085/amend/psc0850515a.9-10.html>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

(closing date)

** new or updated this week

**** Legislative Consent Motion to the Equality Bill** (2 June 2009)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/legConMem/LCM-2008-2009/pdf/EqualityBill-LCM.pdf>

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>

UK Consultation on the European Commission Proposal for an Equal Treatment Directive (28 July 2009)

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/international/eu_directive.aspx

Oversight of the Immigration Advice Sector consultation (6 August 2009)

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/oversight_of_the_immigration_adv/oversight_immigration_advice/immigration_advice_consultation?view=Binary

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** this week!**

Equality and Human Rights Commission Funding Surgeries

28 May 2009 in Glasgow (10.30-2.30)

1 June 2009 in Dundee (10.30-2.30)

For information contact Douglas Guest or Fiona McLeod

scotland@equalityhumanrights.com

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** A Europe for Everyone?**

2 June 2009 in Edinburgh (5.30-7.00)

European elections hustings organised by Poverty Alliance and Scottish Voluntary Sector European Policy Group in conjunction with SCVO. For information contact Fiona Talcott fiona.talcott@scvo.org.uk / 0131 556 3882.

****Representing Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children**

5 June 2009 in Glasgow (1.00–5.00)

Glasgow Immigration Practitioners' Group/Scottish Refugee Council training for practitioners of asylum law in Scotland. This event, the first of an ongoing programme, is aimed at those who wish

to improve their knowledge of the case law, legal process and welfare provision for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASCs). For more information see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/Child_Asylum_Flyer or contact Sheila Coutts sheila.coutts@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799.

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

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>

[TOP](#)

Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

Equality and Human Rights Commission

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

Scotland Helpline 0845 604 5510

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

BBC Parliament online

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm

[TOP](#)



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/>