

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with **BEMIS - empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities**. It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.*

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Debate

Asylum System

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091207/debtext/91207-0020.htm#0912083000002>

Westminster Debate

Immigration Policy (Language Schools)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091208/halltext/91208h0009.htm#09120858000002>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration

Evan Harris [303647]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what date he expects the target of deciding all applications for a residence card as the spouse of an EEA national within six months to be met.

Reply from Phil Woolas: UKBA has made significant progress to bring European applications within service standards. All new complete applications for residence

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

cards submitted from 29 July 2009 onwards are being dealt with within six months UKBA has significantly reduced the number of outstanding older cases.

Of the remaining cases, a significant proportion are complex or were not submitted with adequate supporting information. To address this issue the agency has written to affected applicants and once the required documentation is provided the cases will be concluded. All such cases should be resolved by early 2010.

Evan Harris [303648]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to ensure that the target of deciding all applications for a residence card as the spouse of an EEA national within six months is met.

Reply from Phil Woolas: UKBA has made significant progress to bring all European applications within service standards. All new complete European applications submitted from 29 July 2009 onwards are being dealt with within service standards with complete EEA1 applications currently decided and dispatched within a matter of working days. UK Border Agency has reduced the number of outstanding cases from approximately 77,000 in April to 38,000 in November. This has been done through a combination of interventions; increased resources, process improvement and performance management focus.

Of the remaining cases, a significant proportion are complex or were not submitted with adequate supporting information. To address this issue the Agency has written to affected applicants and once the required documentation is provided the cases will be concluded. All such cases should be resolved by early 2010.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091208/text/91208w0012.htm#09120870000106>

Immigration

Chris Huhne [302881]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children from each country of origin aged (a) 17, (b) 12 to 16, (c) five to 11 and (d) under five years old have been detained under immigration rules in each of the last 12 years.

Reply from Alan Johnson: The requested information is not available; however, in August 2009 the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical publication was expanded to include information on persons entering detention, total number of persons leaving detention and the number of families with children held in detention. This information is available split by age (to separately identify children), and will be published quarterly in the future; however data for earlier years will remain unavailable. Information on the number of children under the age of 18 entering detention solely under Immigration Act powers in Q1-Q3 2009 by age and country of nationality is available in:

Q1 and Q2 2009

Table 8a and 8b of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom publication <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq209.pdf>

Tables G and H of the supplementary tables

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq209supp.xls>

Q3 2009

Table 9 of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom publication <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq309.pdf>,

Table H of the supplementary tables

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq309supp.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/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091207/text/91207w0016.htm#09120758000038>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Entry Clearances

Angus MacNeil [300921]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) leave to remain, (b) indefinite leave to remain and (c) student visa (tier four) applications have been refused in the last five years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Statistics on leave to remain and indefinite leave to remain (settlement) applications refused for the last five complete years, 2004-08, are provided in the following table.

Provisional calendar year totals for 2009 are due to be published in February 2010. The leave to remain refusals total for 2009 will include in-country applications from non-EEA students that have been considered and refused under tier 4 of the points-based system from 31 March 2009.

Provisional leave to remain and indefinite leave to remain quarterly data for the first three quarters of 2009 were published on 26 November in the "Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom-Third Quarter 2009". Copies are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091207/text/91207w0016.htm#09120758000029>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Adrian Sanders [302084]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will assess the financial effect on language schools teaching English as a foreign language of proposed reforms to Tier 4 of the points-based system.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Prime Minister announced on 17 November 2009 that a review of tier 4, the student tier of the points based system, would be conducted by a joint team from the UK Border Agency and the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. The review team have been asked to assess whether the current tier 4 policy strikes the appropriate balance between facilitating access of genuine students to education in the UK and preventing abuse by economic migrants.

The review is looking at evidence gathered from the early stages of tier 4, which was launched in March this year, to look at the case for or against any policy changes. The review will consider all of the available data and evidence, including the potential financial impact of the proposals on the different parts of the education sector such as the English language sector.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091207/text/91207w0016.htm#09120758000030>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Bill Wiggin [301427]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there are plans to change the student visa process; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas: There are no current plans to change the student visa process introduced on 31 March 2009 with the introduction of tier 4 of the points based system. A review of certain aspects of the system was announced on 12 November.

Jim Cousins [303281]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for entry to the UK under the points-based immigration system had been made by overseas students on the latest date for which figures are available; how many such applications were granted, and in respect of how many such applications the customer service standards set by his Department in relation to such applications were not met.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Phil Woolas: The number of visa applications for entry as a student under tier 4 of the points based system that were (a) received, and (b) refused, since the implementation of tier 4 on 31 March to September 2009 was 245,915 and 36,434, respectively. Processing times for tier 4 applications against UK Border Agency customer service standards are shown in the following table. Information about processing times for the various categories of visa applications at each of our visa application centres overseas is available on the Visa Services website www.ukvisas.gov.uk

<i>PBS tier 4 visa application processing times</i>		
<i>Percentage</i>		
	<i>Customer service standard</i>	<i>Global processing times April to October 20 09</i>
Not more than three weeks	90	79
Not more than six weeks	98	97
Not more than 12 weeks	100	100

Note: These data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.
Source: Central Reference System

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091208/text/91208w0011.htm#09120870000100>

Entry Clearances: Skilled Workers

Frank Field [302155]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) work permits with a length of more than 12 months and (b) highly skilled migrant programme permits were issued in 2008-09.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency issued 60,305 work permits with a length of 12 months or more and 10,775 highly skilled migrant programme permits in the financial year 2008-09. Figures are rounded to nearest five. 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.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091207/text/91207w0016.htm#09120758000031>

Entry Clearances

Frank Field [302154]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many permits have been granted under (a) Tier 1 (general), (b) Tier 1 (post study entry), (c) Tier 2 (shortage occupation), (d) Tier 2 (intra-company transfer), (e) Tier 2 (resident labour market test), (f) Tier 4 (students) and (g) Tier 4 (working holiday makers) scheme in each month since they came into operation.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following tables provide detail of the numbers of in-country grants of leave to remain and out of country visas issued under (a) Tier 1 (General), (b) Tier 1 (Post Study Work), (d) Tier 2 (Intra-Company Transfer), (f) Tier 4 (students) and (g) Tier 5 (Youth Mobility Scheme) in each month since they came into operation. Information relating to approved applications in shortage occupations (c), or for those jobs where a resident labour market test is required (e), is held on the UK Border Agency Sponsor IT System is available only at disproportionate costs. The working holidaymaker scheme ended on 26 November 2008. A similar scheme Youth Mobility Scheme has been introduced within Tier 5 of the Points Based System. Figures for that scheme are as follows:

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091208/text/91208w0010.htm#09120870000099>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Detention Centres

The Lord Bishop of Ripon and Leeds [HL128]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to end the practice of holding children in immigration detention centres.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: We would rather not detain families with children and would prefer that they left the UK voluntarily where the courts have upheld a decision of the UK Border Agency that they must leave the country. However, where they fail to leave after being given every opportunity and incentive to do so, the agency has no other option, other than to separate the family, but to detain in order to enforce their departure. Where detention is prolonged, it is normally because the family has made a last minute application to the court to frustrate the removal. However, we are investigating approaches which would reduce the need to use detention to enforce removal for families with children. We promote the assisted voluntary return scheme with the International Organization for Migration throughout the asylum process to provide assisted voluntary returns which cater for families' needs and allow a return that is dignified and sustainable. The agency is working in partnership with Glasgow City Council and the Scottish Government to pilot an initiative in Glasgow to offer temporary housing and a package of support to a selection of families whom the UK Border Agency and the courts agree do not require international protection.

Unaccompanied children are, exceptionally, detained in very limited circumstances. These are primarily for their safety and only overnight while alternative arrangements with the local children's services are made for their care.

Lord Hylton [HL402]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for releasing Eritrean nationals held in immigration detention centres, in particular those who have claimed asylum.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Detention is an essential component in maintaining an effective immigration control. It is usually appropriate in the following circumstances: initially, while a person's identity or basis of claim is being established; where there are reasonable grounds for believing that a person will fail to comply with the conditions attached to the grant of temporary admission or release; as part of a fast-track asylum process; or to effect removal. The decision to detain, or to maintain detention, including those of Eritrean nationals, is made on a case by case basis taking account of the individual circumstances in each case. Imminence of removal and risk of harm to the public are among the factors considered in reaching a decision. There is no policy precluding the return of Eritrean nationals either to third countries or to Eritrea. Nor are there any plans to move away from a case by case approach to Eritreans who are held in immigration detention centres, whether or not they have claimed asylum. Detention is kept to the minimum period necessary for the purpose for which it was authorised and is not unduly prolonged. Individuals may prolong their own detention by, for example, refusing to co-operate with the redocumentation process or by frustrating lawful attempts at removal. Detention in each individual case is subject to review at increasingly senior levels within the UK Border Agency to ensure that it lasts only as long as it continues to be justified and necessary. We believe that the current policies support a requirement to enforce our immigration laws and we therefore have no intention of changing them at this time.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/91210w0003.htm#09121056000270>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigrants: Detainees

Bob Russell [303633]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make it his policy not to detain asylum seekers and immigrants whose deportation is not imminent and who are not considered to be a serious threat to society; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Detention is an essential component in maintaining an effective immigration control. It is usually appropriate in the following circumstances: initially, while a person's identity or basis of claim is being established; where there are reasonable grounds for believing that a person will fail to comply with the conditions attached to the grant of temporary admission or release; as part of a fast-track asylum process; or to effect removal.

The decision to detain is made on case by case basis taking account of the individual circumstances in each case. Imminence of removal and risk of harm to the public are factors, among others, considered in reaching a decision.

Detention is kept to the minimum period necessary for the purpose for which it was authorised and is not unduly prolonged. Individuals may prolong their own detention by, for example, refusing to cooperate with the redocumentation process or by frustrating lawful attempts at removal. Detention in each individual case is subject to review at increasingly senior levels within the UK Border Agency to ensure that it only lasts as long as it continues to be justified and necessary.

We believe that the current policies support a requirement to enforce our immigration laws and we therefore have no intention of changing them at this time.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091208/text/91208w0012.htm#09120870000105>

Immigration Controls: Foreign Workers

Claire Curtis-Thomas [301223]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what effects changes in the labour market test for obtaining a work permit have had on the number of domestic workers (a) applying for and (b) obtaining jobs in the UK.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The flexibility of the points-based system allows us to support UK workers and at the same time meet the recruitment needs of businesses and support the economy. Since April this year, the RLMT has been strengthened to include a requirement to advertise skilled jobs in Jobcentre Plus, so that resident workers have a single source-their local job centre-to access all skilled vacancies. This strengthening of the resident labour market test was introduced to better support resident workers looking for skilled jobs. I announced on 24 November that, on the Migration Advisory Committee's recommendation the test would be further strengthened by increasing from two weeks to four weeks the minimum period that jobs must be advertised in order to satisfy the test. No formal assessment of the impact of the changes has yet been undertaken.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091207/text/91207w0017.htm#09120758000039>

Asylum

Chris Huhne [302885]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children from each country of origin aged (a) 17, (b) 12 to 16, (c) five to 11 and (d) under five years old have been refused asylum in each year since 1997.

Reply from Alan Johnson: Information on asylum refusals by age group and country of origin is not collated. Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics for 2008 and the latest statistics for Q3 2009 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>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum (cont)

Chris Huhne [302886]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children from each country of origin aged (a) 17, (b) 12 to 16, (c) five to 11 and (d) under five years old have claimed asylum in each year since 1997.

Reply from Alan Johnson: Information on asylum applications from principal applicants (since 2001) and dependants (since 2002) is only available by the published age categories at time of application and nationality. Information prior to these dates is not available.

The figures are available from the annual Statistical Bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom prior to 2008 and the supplementary tables of the Control of Immigration Bulletin 2008 for the year of 2008. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091207/text/91207w0015.htm>

Asylum

Damian Green [301283]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many outstanding asylum appeals there were on 1 November 2009.

Reply from Bridget Prentice: The number of outstanding asylum appeals as of 1 November 2009 is as follows:

	<i>Number of cases</i>
Immigration Judge ⁽¹⁾	3,282
High Court Review (Filter) Applications ⁽²⁾	271
Reconsiderations ⁽³⁾	1,304
Total Asylum Appeal cases outstanding	4,857

⁽¹⁾ Initial appeal of Home Office decision.
⁽²⁾ The application to review whether a reconsideration of the case is appropriate because of an error of law
⁽³⁾ Reconsideration of case because of an error of law.

Chris Huhne [302884]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which countries children seeking asylum aged (a) 17, (b) 12 to 16, (c) five to 11 and (d) under five years old have been deported in each year since 1997.

Reply from Alan Johnson: The requested information is not available prior to 2004; however, the following table shows the number of removals and voluntary departures of children asylum cases under the age of 18, including dependants, from the United Kingdom between 2004 and 2008, by age group and country of destination. The figures provided include children in family groups. Where they have been found by the UK Border Agency and the independent courts to have no basis of stay in the UK they are expected to leave the country or face an enforced removal. Wherever possible they are given the opportunity to make a voluntary departure. The UK Border Agency only consider returning an unaccompanied child with no legal right to remain in the UK to their country of origin if safe and adequate reception arrangements are in place.

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>

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091207/text/91207w0014.htm#09120758000024>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum Seekers

Lord Hylton [HL118]: To ask Her Majesty's Government in each year since the detained fast track was introduced, how many fast tracked asylum applicants subsequently achieved refugee status or humanitarian protection.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The attached table shows information on the number of principal asylum applicants accepted at Oakington, Harmondsworth and Yarl's Wood detained fast-track centres, of which asylum applicants subsequently achieved refugee status or humanitarian protection in each of the years 2000 to 2008.

Information on immigration and asylum is published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics for 2008 and the latest statistics for Q3 2009 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>.

Principal asylum applicants accepted at Oakington, Harmondsworth and Yarl's Wood detained fast-track centres, of which initial decisions made 2000 to 2008 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

						Number of principal applicants
	Oakington ⁽³⁾		Harmondsworth ⁽⁴⁾		Yarl's Wood	
Year	Granted Asylum	Granted HP, DL, ELR ⁽⁵⁾	Granted Asylum	Granted HP, DL, ELR ⁽⁵⁾	Granted Asylum	Granted HP, DL, ELR ⁽⁵⁾
2000 ⁽⁶⁾	25	10	:	:	:	:
2001	65	30	:	:	:	:
2002	65	10	:	:	:	:
2003 ⁽⁷⁾	25	10	-	-	:	:
2004	90	35	*	*	:	:
2005	275	60	10	-	*	-
2006	190	10	10	-	-	*
2007	*	*	5	*	5	*
2008 ^(P)	:	:	10	*	10	*

(1) Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (- = 0, * = 1 or 2).

(2) Information is of initial determination decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

(3) The detained non-suspensive appeal process for males at Oakington has been moved to Harmondsworth alongside the male detained fast-track process already there, which followed an earlier move of the process for females to Yarl's Wood.

(4) May include a small number of cases dealt with at other scheduled sites under the Harmondsworth fast-track procedure.

(5) Humanitarian protection (HP) and discretionary leave replaced exceptional leave to remain (ELR) from 1 April 2003.

(6) Part year March to December 2000 for Oakington as the Oakington fast track started in March 2000.

(7) Part year April to December 2003 for Harmondsworth as the Harmondsworth fast track started in April 2003.

(P) Provisional figures.

: Not applicable / not available.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/91208w0001.htm#091208105000304>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Deportation

Angus MacNeil [300920]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been deported from the UK in the last five years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons who were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

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

Statistics on removals and voluntary departures, by type, in the last 10 years are provided in table 3.1 of the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2008 bulletin at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1409.pdf>

Statistics for the first two quarters of 2009 are provided in table 7a/b/c of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical summary, April to June 2009 at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immig209.pdf>

Figures for the third quarter of 2009 will be published on 26 November 2009.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091207/text/91207w0015.htm#09120758000027>

Westminster Early Day Motions

Bob Spink (394) UK population and immigration – That this House is concerned that net immigration was 163,000 in 2008 and that this level of immigration will result in the UK population exceeding 70 million in 20 years; notes that 70 per cent. of the forecast population increase is due to immigration; recognises that to maintain the UK's population below 70 million, net inward migration would need to be reduced from 237,000 in 2007 to a maximum of 50,000 a year; and calls on the Government to restrict net inward migration to 50,000 a year and to withdraw from European agreements that remove the UK's ability to control immigration.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=39956&SESSION=903>

Damian Green (397) Language schools and the points-based system tier 4 review – That this House is concerned that the proposals in the Home Office consultation regarding limiting Tier 4 student visas to only higher educational institutions would have serious consequences for genuine language schools; recognises the role English language schools play in local communities and economies; is extremely concerned about abuses of the student visa system for immigration purposes; and calls on the Government to crack down on bogus colleges and students, but opposes unnecessary restrictions on the applications of students to legitimate language schools.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=39959&SESSION=903>

Press Releases

Identity cards for foreign nationals will be extended to skilled workers in January

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/december/15-icfn-skilled-workers>

Media reports about Pakistanis visas - UK Border Agency response

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/december/pakistanis-visas-ukba-response>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

Minister points to agency progress in response to Home Affairs Committee

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/december/11-minister-points-to-progress>

Alleged abuse of student visa system - government response

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/december/alleged-abuse-student-visa-syste>

Immigration 'loophole' for IT workers - government response

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/december/%27loophole%27-for-IT-workers>

Asylum decisions in the EU27: EU Member States granted protection to 76 300 asylum seekers in 2008

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/09/175&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Public wants to see more constructive debate on migration issues, argues ippr

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/pressreleases/?id=3809>

UNHCR chief opens international meeting in Geneva on urban refugees

<http://www.unhcr.org/4b1fcb016.html>

New publications

The Work of the UK Border Agency

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmhaff/105/105i.pdf>

Undocumented Immigrants and Rights in the EU: Addressing the Gap between Social Sciences Research and Policy-making

<http://www.ceps.eu/ceps/download/2741>

Migrants in Europe as Development Actors Between hope and vulnerability

http://www.eurostep.org/wcm/dmdocuments/Book_ESW_2009.pdf

News

Border Agency bonuses criticised by MPs

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8400678.stm

Number of foreigners in UK hits record 6.7m

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8402784.stm>

US mother wins fight to remain in Scotland

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/12/09/newsstory14232765t0.asp>

Surprise EU asylum figures

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Surprise-EU-asylum-figures.5894534.jp>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Dear Santa, I'd like Christmas away from a detention centre

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Dear-Santa-I39d-like-Christmas.5899050.jp>

Detention of child migrants 'risks their health'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8403401.stm>

Immigration camps 'harmful for children'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/immigration-camps-harmful-for-children-1837381.html>

Anglican 'Santa' barred from giving gifts to children at detainee centre

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/dec/13/santa-yarls-wood-father-christmas>

Let us hope we have not sunk to the level of mistreating children to deter asylum seekers

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/dec/13/henry-porter-asylum-seekers>

Deportation looms for athlete who won gold for UK

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/deportation-looms-for-athlete-who-won-gold-for-uk-1838759.html>

'Born and bred a Brit – but apparently I know nothing about Britishness'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/columnists/john-walsh/john-walsh-born-and-bred-a-brit-ndash-but-apparently-i-know-nothing-about-britishness-1835985.html>

Immigration: the test case

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/dec/12/immigration-uk-border-agency-english-test>

And all she wanted was a few coppers...

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/dec/13/kevin-mckenna-immigration-asylum-seekers>

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Race Relations

News

Study reveals impact of immigration on UK faiths

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/religion/6799755/Study-reveals-impact-of-immigration-on-UK-faiths.html>

UK Muslims are Europe's most patriotic

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article6954571.ece>

Hollywood puts a festive gloss on racial harmony

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/ruPERT-cornwell/ruPERT-cornwell-hollywood-puts-a-festive-gloss-on-racial-harmony-1839315.html>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Sectarianism

Bill Butler (S3W-29199): To ask the Scottish Executive how many anti-sectarianism events the First Minister has attended in 2009, broken down by (a) date, (b) venue and (c) organisations involved.

Fergus Ewing: The First Minister has hosted anti-sectarian events and has seen the positive outcomes of Sense over Sectarianism twinning schools projects for himself. He regularly has meetings and events with stakeholders which involve tackling sectarianism, such as his address to the Edinburgh Inter Faith Association in St John's Church on 22 January, the meeting he hosted with faith leaders at Bute House on 16 June and his annual meeting with Action of Churches Together in Scotland, which took place in the Scottish Parliament on 4 November.

Lead responsibility for this area of work rests with me, as Minister for Community Safety, and I regularly visit anti-sectarian projects and initiatives to see the positive impact these are having on our communities. I was delighted that some of these projects were featured at the event I hosted, to celebrate the achievements of those who are delivering initiatives to tackle sectarianism at the Scottish Youth Theatre on 23 November, and which I am pleased you were able to attend.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-29199>

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Anti-Semitism

David Amess[303921]: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps he has taken to reduce the incidence of anti-Semitism in (a) football and (b) other sports; what recent representations he has received on that matter; what recent meetings he has had with the Football Association on that matter; and if he will make a statement.

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

(a) Football treats anti-Semitism as it does all forms of racism as an offence under the ground regulations, giving the clubs and Police powers to deal with it should it occur. The Football Association's (FA) close working relationship with the clubs, the Police and the Crown Prosecution Service also ensures that all incidents of discrimination in football are brought to justice. In addition, The FA's anti-Semitism and Islamophobia working group, chaired by my hon. Friend the Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann) and established in July 2008, continues to explore the issues and make recommendations to the FA Board. With the Premier League and the Professional Footballer's Association, the FA also provides funding for the "Kick It Out" campaign, which tackles anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination.

(b) Other sports that receive Government funding through Sport England and UK Sport do so on the basis of their compliance with the Equality Standard for Sport. The standard forbids discrimination on the grounds of gender, marital status, race, colour, religion, disability, age, occupation, religion or political opinion other than that in accordance with legal justification.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091207/text/91207w0021.htm#09120767000008>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) **Press Releases**

High Commissioner: Complacency is discrimination's best friend

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

Human Rights Day

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1901&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

First World Human Rights Moot Court argues against discrimination

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

New tool for asylum seekers and practitioners for dublin ii

http://www.jrseurope.org/news_releases/Information%20sheet%20dublin%20II.htm

New publication

European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/eumidis_mainreport_conference-edition_en_.pdf

News

Racist thugs yet to serve time despite conviction

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/topstories/Racist-thugs-yet-to-serve.5889062.jp>

Revealed: the secret links between the Scottish Defence League and the BNP

<http://www.heraldsotland.com/news/politics/revealed-the-secret-links-between-the-scottish-defence-league-and-the-bnp-1.991834>

Man wins race case against Glasgow City Council

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/8402243.stm

Christian hotelier 'abused' Muslim guest

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/merseyside/8401685.stm>

Christian hoteliers cleared in Muslim woman abuse row

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/merseyside/8404212.stm>

Binman was beaten with shovel in sectarian attack at rubbish tip

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/12/07/binman-was-beaten-with-shovel-in-sectarian-attack-at-rubbish-tip-86908-21878782/>

Right-wing group plans demo during Middle East film festival

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Rightwing-group-plans-demo-during.5894784.jp>

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Other Westminster

Press Releases

Cabinet Office Minister makes history

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_stories/091209-history.aspx

PM's Hanukah message

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page21661>

Hanukkah greeting from John Denham

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/Hanukkah2009>

Foreign Secretary's Chanukah message

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=21418522>

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Other News

Human Rights Day, 10 December 2009

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/HRD10December2009.aspx>

The 10th International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) will take place at the Scottish Parliament from 7 - 10 October 2010.

<http://scottishhumanrights.com/news/latestnews/article/Biennialnews>

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Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill

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

Public Services Reform Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/26-PubSerRef/index.htm>

Bills in Progress Westminster

Equality Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/equality.html>

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Consultations

(closing date)

** new or updated this week

Integrated Reporting (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, 29 December 2009)
<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=ae8a56f1-3abd-4d53-b0c1-0ee5708f4c39>

A Road Less Travelled - A Draft Gypsy Traveller Strategy
(Welsh Assembly Government, 5 January 2010)
<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/housingcommunity/gypsytravellers/?lang=en>

Consultation on Public Sector Equality Duty Specific Duties (15 January 2010)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/286361/0087195.pdf>

1st year Implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (15 January 2010)
http://www.antislavery.org/includes/documents/cm_docs/2009/c/2_call_for_evidence_final.pdf

UK Border Agency Equality Scheme (15 January 2010)
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/Stakeholder-questionnaire.pdf>

Consultation on Revising the OISC's Guidance on Competence (29 January 2010)
<http://www.oisc.gov.uk/servefile.aspx?docid=82>

UNHCR, Canada, Denmark and the UK: A Joint Institutional Strategy Working Together for the World's Displaced Persons (31 January 2010)
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/consultations/jt-org-stgy-unhcr-2007-2009.pdf>

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Implementation: Consultation on Significant Draft Secondary Legislation, Guidance and Regulatory Impact Assessment
(2 February 2010)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/children-families/pvglegislation/Consultation09>

Simplifying Immigration Law - A New Framework for Immigration Rules
(3 February 2010)
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/simplifying-imm-law-new-framewrk/>

Reforming asylum support (4 February 2010)
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/simplifying-imm-law-new-framew1/>

Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005: Consultation on Options for the Implementation of the Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)
(26 February 2010)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/292195/0090094.pdf>

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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!*

Scottish Government Race Equality Conference

15 December 2009 in Glasgow

The Scottish Government recognises that there are still many challenges to overcome before we achieve our shared goal of a Scotland free of discrimination. This conference is an opportunity for minority ethnic communities to explore and debate on how those challenges can be best addressed in the future. For information contact Linda Bruce 0131 474 9228 / Linda@cosla.gov.uk or see

http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09xii_sg_race_equality.pdf

** *this week!*

Has devolution helped to achieve a fairer Scotland?

15 December 2009 in Edinburgh (6.00 – 8.00pm)

Equalities and Human Rights Commission debate on devolution and equality. For information contact scotlandcommunication@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5935 by 2 December or see http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/cgi-bin/generate.pl?page_id=8n3utc84t&save=screen&session=

** *this week!*

Supporting Identity, Diversity and Language in the Early Years

15 December 2009 in Edinburgh

The first six years are crucial for young children in developing their first language and cultural identity. This Children in Scotland seminar explores theory and research in second language acquisition, particularly the relationship between children's identity and self-esteem and positive outcomes for learning. For information see

http://www.childreninScotland.org.uk/html/tra_tshow.php?ref=1354

** *this week!*

BEMIS AGM

16 December 2009 (6.00 – 8.00)

GO Business & Training Centre, Thornwood Suite, Second Floor, George House, 36 North Hanover Street, Glasgow G1 2AD. For information contact Sue Barnes sue.barnes@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047

Scottish Refugee Council AGM and Public Meeting

15 January 2010 (2.00 -)

The theme of the AGM will be that asylum is a human right. Keynote speeches will come from Roland Schilling, UK representative of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Professor Alan Miller, Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission. For more information contact Graeme Corbett on (0141) 223 7930 or graeme.corbett@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

A public appointment – no way? Think again

20 January 2010 in Edinburgh (9.15 – 4.45)

The Equalities and Human Rights Commission, the Commissioner for Public Appointments and Queen Margaret University are working together to increase the diversity of people like who apply for board positions with our public bodies. To attend a seminar contact Karen Elder karen.elder@publicappointments.org / 0131 718 6268 or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09xi_ocpas.pdf

Introduction to Professional Practice in Race Equality

Course starting 3 February 2010 in Paisley (Wed evenings 6.15 – 9.00pm)

Course jointly organised by the University of the West of Scotland, and West of Scotland Race Equality Council to develop a critical understanding of the concepts 'race', racism and ethnicity, develop a working knowledge of the content and impact of the 1976 Race Relations Act and Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, identify key elements of best practice towards race equality in employment and service delivery, and analyse and evaluate current progress and challenges in managing change towards race equality in his/her own workplace. For information see

<http://www.wsrec.co.uk/newsite/images/PaisleyUni/new%20ippire%20leaflet%20print%202009-10.pdf> or contact Duncan Sim duncan.sim@uws.ac.uk, or WSREC 0141 337 6626

Judge a Book by its Cover? Not me!

11 March 2010 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 12.00)

SCVO seminar to discover more about the process of stereotyping, and how misinformed judgements may lead to prejudice and discrimination. For information contact Jane Baillie jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 8019

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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/>
Scotland Helpline 0845 604 5510

Useful Links (continued)

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

BBC Parliament online

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

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*The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charity SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>*



***BEMIS** is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. <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/>*