

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-5591 Christina McKelvie: Stop the Traffik—That the Parliament supports the work of Stop the Traffik, the international campaign against people trafficking; notes that people trafficking is a growing concern, with up to an estimated four million men, women and children being trafficked across borders and within their own countries every year; joins Stop the Traffik's 1,000 member organisations in 50 countries worldwide in condemning the outrage of this ongoing enslavement of human beings; further notes the reported success that Stop the Traffik has had in forcing Cadbury, Mars and Nestlé to reduce the amount of chocolate that they use from Côte d'Ivoire, where thousands of children whom have been trafficked are used to harvest the cocoa beans that make over a third of the world's chocolate; endorses the campaigns at www.stophettraffik.org to encourage confectionary manufacturers to increase their use of certified fairly traded cocoa beans, to encourage business travellers to learn how to recognise and report incidences of trafficking and to raise awareness of the dangers of the 2012 Olympic Games being used as an opportunity by people traffickers, and congratulates the Rev John Carswell and his colleagues at Cadzow Parish Church in Hamilton on organising a fundraising and awareness-raising concert in aid of Stop the Traffik, which will take place on the evening of 20 February 2010.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=18170>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) Westminster Debate

UK Human Trafficking Centre

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100120/halltext/100120h0006.htm#10012062000003>

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Immigration and Nationality Services (Charges)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department is today laying regulations for the fees for immigration and nationality services that are set at levels above the normal administrative costs of the service. The Government review the fees on a regular basis and makes appropriate changes as necessary. We have continued with our strategic approach to charging; setting certain fees above cost on the basis of the value of the service.

These fees must be set out in regulations before both Houses of Parliament and are subject to the affirmative procedure. The fees for these applications allow us to generate revenue which is used to fund the UK immigration system and to set certain fees below cost recovery to support wider Government objectives. The revenue generated will contribute towards the development and delivery of the new points based system, the rollout of ID cards for foreign nationals and investment in IT capability both overseas and in the UK. This coming year we will continue to strengthen that capability in underpinning technology and process improvement. For transparency, I have included the estimated unit cost for each route, so that it is clear the degree to which certain routes are set above cost.

We have succeeded in limiting the extent of our general increases, by taking a more targeted approach to fees adjustment which is consistent with both the UK Border Agency's strategic charging principles, and also with broader Government objectives. We have made several amendments to the UK settlement fees and we have proposed a nominal 10 per cent. fee for all applications for UK-based dependants to reflect the fact that each individual brings a processing cost to us. Full details of all fees changes are outlined in the explanatory memorandum accompanying these regulations.

Finally we will continue to generate revenue to fund the transitional impacts of migration. The migration impacts fund has played a vital role in helping ease the pressures on certain communities.

I am publishing today the fees for immigration and nationality services that are set at levels above the normal administrative costs of the service alongside these regulations. I will announce our proposals for the fees for immigration and nationality fees that are set below the administrative costs of the service when we lay negative regulations in February 2010.

Full details on how to apply for all of these services will be provided on our website, www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk.

To read the table of fees for 2010-11 for immigration and nationality services that are set at levels above the normal administrative costs of the service see:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100120/wmstext/100120m0001.htm#10012084000003>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100120/wmstext/100120m0002.htm>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) Westminster Parliamentary Questions

UK: EU Resident Citizens

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many citizens of each other European Union state are resident in the United Kingdom. [HL1090]

Reply from Baroness Crawley: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, Director-General for Office for National Statistics, to Lord Wallace of Saltaire, dated January 2010.

The Office for National Statistics collects data on nationality on the Annual Population Survey which covers residents of the UK. The latest estimates available are for the 12 month period of April 2008 to March 2009. The estimates of the number of UK residents for each other EU member state are given in Table 1.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100119w0009.htm#10011981001652>

Entry Clearances

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many time-limited visas of each type have been issued in each year since 1997; [307632]

(2) how many time-limited visas of each type have been issued in each year since 1997. [306002]

Reply from Alan Johnson: The following table shows the number of time limited visas issued to applicants from 2004. Data prior to 2004 is not considered accurate and reliable; therefore it has not been included in the table.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100118/text/100118w0008.htm#10011822000052>

Entry Clearances

Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of appeals against visa refusal decisions at all overseas posts were allowed in (a) January 2009, (b) April 2009, (c) July 2009 and (d) October 2009. [312089]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The information requested is given in the following table. Immigration statistics for October 2009 will be published on 25 February.

UKBA monitors closely the reasons why appeals were overturned and uses the information to improve decision-making quality.

Worldwide	
Report year 2009	Allowed rate (percentage)
January	44
April	38
July	41

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20100121/writtenanswers/part015.html#heading003>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mark Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications have been made to enable attendance at courses at each National Qualification Framework level in the UK since March 2009. [311736]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The United Kingdom Border Agency does not keep a central record of the level of courses proposed by student visa applicants. The information requested could therefore be obtained from individual records only at disproportionate cost.

Between April and September 2009, 264,205 applications were received and 180,773 visas issued under Tier 4 of the Points Based System (Students).

Mark Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many colleges which have had tier 4 sponsor licences revoked are registered with Companies House. [311359]

Reply from Phil Woolas: As at 14 January, 13 education providers have had their Tier 4 sponsorship licence revoked, of which 11 are registered with Companies House.

Mark Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications have been made to study in (a) higher education institutions, (b) further education colleges, (c) sixth form colleges and (d) schools in the UK since March 2009. [311737]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The United Kingdom Border Agency does not keep a central record of the types of educational establishments proposed by student visa applicants. The information requested could therefore be obtained from individual records only at disproportionate cost.

Between April and September 2009, 264,205 applications were received and 180,773 visas issued under Tier 4 of the Points Based System (Students).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100119/text/100119w0015.htm#10011962000034>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many colleges approved by the UK Border Agency between December 2008 and December 2009 were subsequently suspended and their licence either not issued or cancelled. [311858]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Of the colleges admitted to the Register of Sponsors for Tiers 2, 4 and 5 during the period 1 December 2008 and 31 December 2009 as of 18 January 2010 the UK Border Agency has revoked the licences of 13 sponsors and suspended a further 85. The figure quoted is not provided under National Statistics protocols and has been derived from local management information and is therefore provisional and subject to change.

Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students who failed to attend college or to pay their fees were returned to their country of origin between December 2008 and December 2009. [311859]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The information requested is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student spouse visas were issued from the beginning of December 2008 to December 2009. [311860]

Reply from Phil Woolas: With the introduction of tier 4 of the points based system (students) on 31 March 2009, the UK Border Agency kept a separate record of visas issued to partners of students. Hitherto, both partners and children of students were recorded in the same category, "Student Dependent".

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The number of visas issued in these categories in the period December 2008 to September 2009 are shown in the following table. Visa statistics for the last quarter of 2009 will be published on 25 February.

Visas issued: student dependents: December 2008 to September 2009	
Visa category	Visas issued
Student dependent (spouses + children) December 2008 to March 2009	10,961
Tier four (general) dependent-partners April 2008 to September 2009	6,566

Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) husbands and (b) wives of persons studying in the UK from (i) India, (ii) Pakistan and (iii) Bangladesh were issued with visas for the purpose of entering the UK to join their spouses between January 2007 and December 2009. [311863]

Reply from Phil Woolas:

Visas issued: student dependents: January 2007 to September 2009				
Visa Category	India	Pakistan	Bangladesh	Total
Student Dependent(spouses + children January 2007 - March 2009)	5331	3822	2129	1,1282
Tier four (General) Dependent -Partners April 2008 - September 2009	1869	89	54	2,012

With the introduction of Tier 4 of the Points Based System (Students) on 31 March 2009, the UK Border Agency kept a separate record of visas issued to partners of students. Hitherto, both partners and children of students were recorded in the same category, Student Dependent. It is not therefore possible to provide the information requested except at disproportionate cost.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20100121/writtenanswers/part015.html#heading004>

Detention Centres: Children

Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his assessment is of progress made in improving provision for families with children at immigration removal centres; and how much has been spent on making such improvements in the last 12 months. [310109]

Reply from Phil Woolas: We take the welfare of children in our care very seriously and are proud of the investment made to improve services at Yarl's Wood over the last couple of years, the main centre for holding families with children. These include:

- A dedicated Ofsted inspected school delivering 30 hours per week of tuition by qualified teachers for children aged five-16 years.
- A crèche staffed seven days a week from nine-five by appropriately qualified child care professionals for children under school age.
- Professional supervision and support for teaching staff, in the form of oversight from the head teacher of another establishment.
- Establishment of a softer and more child-focused reception area and further provision of age-appropriate activities such as a bouncy castle, and a library of games and toys for use in the children's rooms.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

- Relocation of the youth club to a larger room with access to grassed outside play area.
- The introduction of a fortnightly children's forum and development of dedicated children's complaints forms.
- The provision of a midwife, healthcare visitor, paediatric nurse and child counselling services.

The improvements we have made have been considered and acknowledged by the likes of the Children's Commissioner for England, the Independent Monitoring Board and HM Chief Inspector of Prisons.

At the same time, we have recently conducted an internal review of the services provided at other centres where children may be detained. This highlighted a number of areas where improvements need to be made at Tinsley House. A programme of improvement has commenced, and while this is being undertaken, we have taken the decision to reduce the maximum period of stay for families with children from 72 hours to 24 hours.

Services provided for children are funded within the operating contracts for centres, the value of which is commercially confidential. It is therefore not possible to provide a figure on how much has been spent on improvements in the last 12 months.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100118/text/100118w0008.htm#10011822000051>

Detention Centres: Children

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with the UK Border Agency on policy on detention of children in immigration removal centres. [311098]

Reply from Meg Hillier: I recently assumed responsibility for overseeing the policy surrounding the detention of children for the purposes of immigration control and held discussions with UK Border Agency officials about the main policy issues in December. Families with children are detained only where they have failed to leave the UK voluntarily despite the courts having upheld a decision of the UK Border Agency that they have no legal basis of stay in the country. Detention is necessary to effect removal in these circumstances. We aim to keep such detention to the minimum period necessary and, to this end, it is subject to frequent and rigorous review, including ministerial scrutiny in those minority of cases where detention lasts for 28 days or more.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100119/text/100119w0015.htm#10011962000033>

Repatriation: Expenditure

Dominic Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on the reintegration scheme in 2008-09. [311017]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Reintegration assistance to support enforced and voluntary removals is provided by Assisted Voluntary Returns programmes and the Facilitated Returns Scheme.

The cost of the 2008-09 Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration programmes is currently not available as it is subject to audit, which will be made available in spring 2011.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency will provide information to the Home Affairs Committee on FRS expenditure when she writes in January 2010.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20100121/writtenanswers/part015.html#heading011>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

People Trafficking

Anthony Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much financial assistance his Department has provided to overseas non-governmental organisations to reduce numbers of people already trafficked to and then deported from the UK from being re-trafficked to the UK. [311682]

Reply from Michael Foster: DFID does not provide assistance to overseas non-governmental organisations to prevent people from being re-trafficked to the UK. However, we do support projects which are tackling human trafficking, forced labour and child labour.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100120/text/100120w0021.htm#10012097000062>

Westminster Early Day Motion

David Lepper (647) Review of student visas – That this House welcomes the Prime Minister's assurance in his speech on Education as a global growth industry on 14 January 2010 that all students who came to the UK legitimately would be made welcome, because the Government was not prepared to put legitimate colleges out of business or set back efforts to expand educational trade; and calls on the Secretaries of State for the Home Department and for Business, Innovation and Skills to ensure that any recommendations for change to the student visa system made following the review which began in November 2009 support rather than damage existing legitimate courses and the properly accredited and registered schools and colleges offering them.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=40232&SESSION=903>

European Parliament

Summary of the hearing of Cecilia Malmström

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/008-67404-015-01-03-901-20100115IPR67403-15-01-2010-2010-false/default_en.htm

Press Releases

Charging for immigration and nationality services 2010-11

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/January/chargin-for-immigration-services>

Call for Papers – Civic, Political and Cultural Engagement among Migrants, Minorities and National Populations: Multidisciplinary Perspectives

A call for papers on the following themes has been issued for a conference on Migrants and Civic Engagement being organised by Runnymede Trust and the Centre for Research on Nationalism, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism at the University of Surrey.

- Active engagement, interaction, expression and dissension at civic, political or cultural levels
- The participation of young people, women, migrants and minorities
- Different forms of engagement among adult national majority populations
- The role of public policy in civic, political or cultural participation

For more information and to submit an abstract via the online form (deadline 15 February) see <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/105/30/Living-Together-CRONEM-Conference-on-Migrants-and-Civic-Engagement.html>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

New publications

The UK's new Europeans: Progress and challenges five years after accession
http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/new_europeans.pdf

Public want immigration control, not a cap
<http://www.ippr.org.uk/articles/?id=3849>

Migrants Rights News – January
http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/downloads/newsletters/MRN_Newsletter_Jan_2010.pdf

News

A Scotland-only policy for migrants
<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/a-scotland-only-policy-for-migrants-1.999436>

Claims over Polish immigrants' return 'not true'
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8473869.stm>

'Vast profits' in exploiting trafficked women
<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/39Vast-profits39-in-exploiting-.6007927.jp>

Prostitution linked to trafficking gangs
<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/prostitution-linked-to-trafficking-gangs-1.1000743>

Out of detention, but for how long?
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article6999681.ece>

Bill of rights 'ignores' Northern Ireland's immigrants
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jan/24/immigration-human-rights-northern-ireland>

Clampdown on student visa scams
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/7062400/Clampdown-on-student-visa-scams.html>

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Race Relations

Press Release

Call for Abstracts: European Diversity and Autonomy Papers
http://www.romadecade.org/call_for_abstracts_european_diversity_and_autonomy_papers

News

'Deep ethnic segregation' mapped in England's schools
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8470890.stm>

Race Relations

News (continued)

Festival to celebrate city's varied cultures

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1569931>

One in 10 schools shun 'Britishness' lessons

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/7045353/One-in-10-schools-shun-Britishness-lessons.html>

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Equality

News

Recession leaves almost half young black people unemployed

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/pressreleases/?id=3846>

Half of young black people out of work

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/half-of-young-black-people-out-of-work-1873165.html>

Treasures make pilgrimage for Hajj exhibition

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/this-britain/treasures-make-pilgrimage-for-hajj-exhibition-1876400.html>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Press Release

Anti-sectarianism project

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/01/18083430>

News

Prisoners to get anti-sectarian course

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Prisoners-to-get-antisectarian-course.5989448.jp>

Student makes vow over race case at university

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Student-makes-vow-over-race.6000036.jp>

Mosque fire 'not race hate crime'

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/8476002.stm

City leader: Anti-Muslim march plans 'offensive and ill-informed'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/City-leader-AntiMuslim-march-plans.6007984.jp>

Freedom must apply to all faiths and none

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest_contributors/article6992931.ece

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

BA worker appeals over cross ruling

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ba-worker-appeals-over-cross-ruling-1872290.html>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Question

Gypsies/Travellers

Marlyn Glen (S3W-30164): To ask the Scottish Executive what steps it is taking to ensure that the needs of Gypsies/Travellers are taken into account in policy development.

Reply from Alex Neil: The Scottish Government Race Equality Statement, published in December 2008, highlights the needs of Gypsies/Travellers as a priority in race equality work.

We are working to make sure that the policies we develop and the activities we undertake can be of benefit across all our communities. To achieve this we are committed to mainstreaming equality across all that we do “ by integrating equality considerations into our everyday work. Tools such as Equality Impact Assessment ensure that the impact on different groups - including Gypsies/Travellers - is considered.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-30164>

Press Release

The Walker Report: potential impact of the UK Supreme Court on the Scottish legal system

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/01/22120430>

New publication

Final Appellate Jurisdiction in the Scottish Legal System

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/299388/0093334.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Legal Systems: Islam

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the number of marriages and divorces registered by sharia courts in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [311454]

Reply from Bridget Prentice: Sharia councils do not describe themselves as 'courts' as they do not have powers to enforce their decisions. Sharia councils are

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

not part of the court system in England and Wales, and are not unified under one system. Marriages conducted under sharia law are not legally recognised in England and Wales unless they also comply with the provisions of the Marriage Act 1949. The English and Welsh courts do not legally recognise divorces granted by any faith groups. The Government do not maintain statistics on either marriages or divorces conducted by sharia councils.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100118/text/100118w0005.htm#10011822000037>

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Caroline Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations the Planning Inspectorate has received from Green Planning Solutions in relation to planning appeals for Travellers in the last two years. [308254]

Reply from Ian Austin: Since January 2008, Green Planning Solutions have lodged 75 planning and enforcement appeals in relation to Gypsy and Traveller issues for determination by The Planning Inspectorate. A full list has been deposited in the Library.

Further representations were made by Green Planning Solutions, which led to Matthew Green meeting with Enforcement Procedural staff on 24 February 2009 to discuss general planning and programming matters as well as changes arising from the Planning Act 2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100119/text/100119w0021.htm#10011968000048>

Ministerial Speech

Islamic Finance

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/speech_xst_200110.htm

Press Release

Government moves to support UK Islamic finance industry

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_04_10.htm

Government launches one-stop shop for data

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2010/100121-data.aspx

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New Publication

Information in BSL about Forced Marriage

<http://www.deafconnections.co.uk/lshara/information-about-forced-marriage.html>

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Other News

Churches sign up to unique partnership

http://www.scotland.anglican.org/index.php/news/entry/churches_sign_up_to_unique_partnership/

Race issues 'delaying adoption process'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/race-issues-delaying-adoption-process-1873918.html>

Court ponders Hindu man's funeral pyre plea

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/court-ponders-hindu-mans-funeral-pyre-plea-1871387.html>

Burns award honours fundraiser

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/8475702.stm>

'I have to be an ambassador for the orphans and absorb their pain'

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article6998725.ece>

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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>

**** End of Life Assistance Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/38-EndLifeAssist/index.htm>

Bill as introduced

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/38-EndLifeAssist/b38s3-introd.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/38-EndLifeAssist/b38s3-introd-en.pdf>

Policy Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/38-EndLifeAssist/b38s3-introd-pm.pdf>

**** Public Services Reform Bill**

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-10/bb-01-20g.htm>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-10/bb-01-22g.htm>

Bills in Progress Westminster

**** Equality Bill**

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

Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee: Legislative Consent Motion Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/reports-10/eor10-01.htm>

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

Equality Bill (continued)

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100119-0002.htm#10011960000549>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100119-0014.htm#10011994000269>

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Consultations

(closing date)

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Consultation on Revising the OISC's Guidance on Competence (29 January 2010)

<http://www.oisc.gov.uk/servefile.aspx?docid=82>

**** closes this week!**

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-framework/>

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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**** this week!**

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

29 January 2010 in Glasgow

2 March 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course is for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland. It is particularly relevant to people working in social work, housing, welfare, education, employment, health, community development or the justice system. For information contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=82>

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

**** E-conference on Pupil Exclusion and Race**

8-9 February 2010

Discussion streams will allow e-conference 'attendees' to respond to comment pieces by leading figures in education and politics, including Diane Abbott MP. To participate register from early February at www.runnymedetrust.org or contact debbie@runnymedetrust.org

UKBA (formerly NASS) Asylum Support - The Essentials

11 February 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore the support arrangements available to asylum seekers from the beginning to the end of the asylum process. For information contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=83>

The Housing Rights of Refugees: Supporting those with Leave To Remain into appropriate housing

18 February 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for people working with refugees who need a comprehensive knowledge of their rights to housing in Scotland. It is particularly relevant to professionals assisting refugees to access services or to organisations providing these services directly. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=66>

**** E-conference on Ethnic Profiling**

23-24 February 2010

Runnymede e-conference to mark the publication of a paper on ethnic profiling. To participate register from early February at www.runnymedetrust.org or contact kjartan@runnymedetrust.org

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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

Working with Interpreters

18 March 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work with non-English speaking service users, including asylum seekers and refugees, who need a comprehensive understanding of how to work with interpreters. For information contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=80>

An Introduction to the Needs and Experiences of Refugee Women

9 April 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting women seeking sanctuary in Scotland. For information contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=77>

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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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Useful Links (continued)

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/>