

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.*

Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Race Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)

[Other Holyrood](#)

[Other Westminster](#)

[New Publications](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[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 Motions

S3M-5839 Christina McKelvie: 25th Anniversary of the Scottish Refugee Council— That the Parliament congratulates the Scottish Refugee Council on 25 years of providing practical help and moral support to people who have come to Scotland to escape persecution and human rights abuses in their own countries; notes that, since its inception in 1985, the Scottish Refugee Council has co-ordinated protection programmes for refugees from Vietnam, Chile, Bosnia and Kosovo and now assists independent asylum seekers from countries across the world; further notes that in 2008 almost 3,000 people were supported through the asylum process in Scotland; believes that in 2010 the work done by the Scottish Refugee Council to assist and support people seeking asylum, promote public understanding of refugee issues and promote dialogue and integration within and between Scotland's diverse communities is more vital than ever, and fully supports the Scottish Refugee Council's aim of securing for Scotland and the UK a humane asylum policy that respects and protects individual and collective social welfare and human rights.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=18449>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) Westminster Motions to Approve

Immigration (Leave to Enter and Remain) (Amendment) Order 2010
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100304-0013.htm#10030447000159>

Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2010
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100304-0015.htm#10030448000064>

Westminster Ministerial Statements

Access to the NHS (Foreign Nationals)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Mike O'Brien): On 20 July 2009, my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health, the Member for Brentford and Isleworth (Ann Keen) announced the outcome of the joint Department of Health and UK Border Agency review of the rules on overseas visitors' access to the national health service in England, and the Government's intention to consult publicly on the change proposals. Today, on her behalf, I am fulfilling that commitment by launching the consultation.

The proposals in the consultation strike a balance between public health needs, managing migration and upholding humanitarian principles, ensuring that we continue to deliver high quality care to all those with a legal right to it while protecting our NHS from those who would take advantage of it.

The consultation includes proposals to increase the time that UK residents can regularly stay outside the UK before losing automatic entitlement to free NHS hospital care, and to protect unaccompanied children who arrive in the UK. We propose to exempt from charges failed asylum seekers who are co-operating with, and are supported by, the UK Border Agency prior to returning to their own country, but to charge all other failed asylum seekers.

In my hon. Friend's earlier statement, *Official Report*, column 97WS, he said that the Government were attracted to the principle that some visitors should be required to pay for their NHS treatment through personal health insurance, as is already the case in some other countries. Although developing a scheme that is fair and effective will be challenging, we are determined to take this forward. We will now seek views on the merits and feasibility of key principles and mechanisms for making this work, which have the potential to both increase the income that the NHS receives from overseas visitors, and to act as a deterrent to those seeking to abuse the NHS.

We have also taken the opportunity to consolidate the current regulations that underpin the policy on the charging of visitors, and to improve the supporting guidance that we provide for the NHS. Neither of these updates reflects any change in entitlements or operating practices, but they are provided in draft form for people to examine and comment on prior to them being launched.

The Minister of State for Borders and Immigration is today also launching a consultation on the proposal to refuse entry to the UK to those who have significant outstanding debts for NHS treatment. This will help the NHS to recover debts and discourage further those visitors who travel to the UK to seek treatment without paying.

The period for responding to the consultation will run until 30 June 2010. I have placed the consultation document in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote office.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100226/wmstext/100226m0001.htm#10022631000011>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

NHS Debtors (Immigration Rules)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): On 20 July 2009, my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health, the Member for Brentford and Isleworth (Ann Keen) announced the outcome of the joint Department of Health and UK Border Agency review of the rules on migrants' access to the national health service in England. As part of a balanced package of measures to rationalise and reform the present NHS charging arrangements, my hon. Friend signalled our intention to consult publicly on significant proposals for change emerging from the review, including action to protect the NHS from misuse by a minority of foreign nationals who are charged for using our public health services but default on their debts. Proposals to tackle the problem of "health tourism" sit alongside a broader range of measures to protect the interests of vulnerable individuals. In taking forward this commitment, I have today published a public consultation on a proposal to change the immigration rules to provide for the first time that debt to the NHS above a prescribed amount will constitute grounds for refusal of permission to enter and stay in the United Kingdom for those subject to immigration control. The Government believe that those who take advantage of our hospitality should respect that hospitality or face consequences. The consultation sets out how the UK Border Agency would work in partnership with NHS to administer these new arrangements. The new immigration rule would supplement existing work by UK Border Agency officers at ports of entry to identify and remove visitors seeking to conceal an intention to enter the UK for the purpose of accessing NHS services. The period for responding to the consultation will run until 28 May 2010, and I have placed copies of the consultation documentation, together with regulatory and equality impact assessments, in the Vote Office and in the Library of the House.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100226/wmstext/100226m0001.htm#10022631000012>

"International Challenges, International Solutions: Managing the movement of people and goods"

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): I am pleased to announce the joint publication by the UK Border Agency and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of "International Challenges, International Solutions: Managing the movement of people and goods". The document represents the close partnership that exists between our Departments and our close co-operation on the international stage to secure our border and control migration for the benefit of our country.

Today's publication updates on progress since our 2007 international strategy and sets out how the UK Border Agency and the FCO will strengthen existing partnerships and develop new ones to continue to deliver our objectives overseas. It also shows how the Government plan to do more to help developing countries to maximise the development benefits of migration and to mitigate the negative effects where they occur.

We have made impressive progress towards the goals we set out in 2007. Our overseas border controls have been strengthened through the increased use of risk and intelligence tools. The introduction of the points-based system has delivered a transparent system which allows us to adapt entry criteria based on economic or labour market conditions in the UK. We have also worked closely with international partners to improve co-operation on the return of migrants who are not entitled to be in the UK.

While our priority is to pursue the interests of the UK, the impacts of migration on other countries cannot be ignored. We are determined to keep improving our migration policies so that we do more to facilitate overseas development. We are considering policies that aim to contribute towards this goal. Today's publication sets out proposals to use our overseas networks better to manage migration and to protect Britain's borders.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100301/wmstext/100301m0001.htm#10030110000013>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Entry Clearances: Skilled Workers

Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 221-22W, on entry clearances, how many permits under Tier 2 general were issued in each month of 2009. [318670]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table provides detail of the numbers of in-country grants of leave to remain and out of country visas issued under Tier 2 (General) of the Points Based System in each month of 2009.

	<i>Tier 2 (General)</i>	
	<i>In country</i>	<i>Out of country</i>
January	168	147
February	566	305
March	772	453
April	687	557
May	1,032	756
June	1,356	883
July	1,636	886
August	1,561	1,078
September	1,191	977
October	1,201	856
November	1,136	821
December	1,275	839
Total	12,581	8,558

The table above is based on approved main applications only. This data is not provided under National Statistics protocols. It has been derived from local management information and is therefore provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100304/text/100304w0016.htm#10030475000037>

Entry Clearances

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the cost to businesses of the removal from eligibility for the visa waiver scheme of those who have previously been arrested. [318227]

Reply from Phil Woolas: An estimate of cost to the business will be achieved only at disproportional cost.

Diane Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of entry clearance applications for settlement in the United Kingdom submitted to the British consulate in Tel Aviv were granted prior to the transfer of the processing of such applications to the British embassy in Istanbul; what percentage of applicants were of (a) a Jewish and (b) a non-Jewish background; and if he will make a statement. [318460]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Prior to the transfer of processing entry clearance applications to the British embassy in Istanbul on 7 April 2008, 98 per cent. of entry clearance applications for settlement made at the British consulate in Tel Aviv were granted in the financial year of 2007-08.

A breakdown of this figure to show comparisons for applicants with Jewish and non-Jewish backgrounds is not captured in our database.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Diane Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of applications for entry clearance to the United Kingdom submitted to the British consulate in Tel Aviv between June 2008 and May 2009 and processed by the British embassy in Istanbul was granted; how many such applications there were; what percentage of applicants were of (a) a Jewish and (b) a non-Jewish background; and if he will make a statement. [318461]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Between June 2008 and May 2009, 1,559 applications for entry clearance were submitted to the British consulate in Tel Aviv and processed by the British embassy in Istanbul. 84 per cent. of these applications were granted.

A breakdown of this figure to show comparisons for applicants with Jewish and non-Jewish backgrounds is not captured in our database.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100301/text/100301w0011.htm#1003013600027>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of current Tier 4 sponsors in each category who will be accepted onto the new Highly Trusted Sponsor List. [317154]

Reply from Phil Woolas: It is not possible to estimate of the number of current Tier 4 sponsors in each category who will be accepted onto the Highly Trusted Sponsor List as the criteria is still being finalised. The criteria will be published in advance of 6 April implementation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100301/text/100301w0011.htm#1003013600028>

Immigration

Lord Foulkes of Cumnock: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they offer to European Union migrants who are unemployed but have not paid 12 months of national insurance contributions. [HL1755]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they offer European Union migrants who are homeless but have not paid 12 months of national insurance contributions. [HL1756]

Reply from Lord McKenzie of Luton: European Union nationals who are unemployed but seeking work may be eligible for income-based jobseeker's allowance. They may also be eligible for housing benefit and council tax benefit in respect of any housing costs.

European Union accession country nationals are subject to particular rules. They are eligible for income-based jobseeker's allowance but only if they have been working and registered on the worker registration scheme or worker authorisation scheme for at least 12 months, and are seeking work. They may also be eligible for housing benefit and council tax benefit in respect of any housing costs.

Jobcentre Plus personalised services, such as personal advisers, are available to European Union nationals claiming benefits. European Union nationals who are not claiming benefit may access the universal Jobcentre Plus services for job seekers, such as job points and Jobseeker Direct.

In addition, the Government provide funding to support local authorities and homelessness charities in helping homeless EU nationals to find work, or in some instances, to pay for travel back to their own countries.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100301w0002.htm#10030111000384>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people of each country of origin were (a) granted and (b) refused asylum in each quarter of (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009; and if he will make a statement. [317198]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Due to the quantity of data requested, the full response has been placed in the Library.

The data have previously been published on the Home Office website as provisional data in the following publications:

Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary (Q2 2008 to Q3 2009)

Quarterly Asylum Statistics (Q1 2007 to Q1 2008).

Data for Q1 2007 to Q4 2008, in the tables placed in the Library, have been updated from the provisional data contained in the above publications to reflect the latest available figures, as a result of data cleansing and updating of the administrative database. Data for 2008 remains provisional.

Provisional data for quarter four 2009 will be available in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary Q4 2009, due to be published on 25 February 2010. These will be available on the Home Office website at:

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100301/text/100301w0010.htm#1003013600017>

Deportation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deportations have not been completed in the last five years. [317582]

Reply from Alan Johnson: Since 2007, approximately 3,500 removal directions have been initially unsuccessful (incomplete). The reason for this will vary but will include for example the late lodging of a judicial review or a claim for asylum or the receipt of further representations requiring consideration prior to removal. Where such an initial direction has not been completed, the UKBA has, in over 95 per cent. of cases, already reset the removal direction and removed the person.

Accurate figures relating to before 2007 are not available electronically and could only be obtained by investigating individual case-files. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

This information is taken from internal management information systems and is subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100301/text/100301w0011.htm#1003013600026>

Human Trafficking: Victims

Anthony Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place to ensure that first responder agencies in human trafficking cases have access to the assistance for victims as required under Article 12 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. [318970]

Reply from Claire Ward: Article 12 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings requires that the assistance measures detailed in its sections (1) and (2) are provided to individuals identified as victims to a 'reasonable grounds' standard of proof. Access to this type of assistance is therefore provided to identified victims of trafficking through support providers.

From 2003 to 2009 the Government invested £5.8 million in the POPPY Project to provide specialist accommodation and support to victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. A further investment of £3.9 million over the current and next financial year funds specialist accommodation and support for victims of all forms of human trafficking.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

To assist in the identification of potential victims of human trafficking and to ensure that they receive the best possible treatment from the outset, the Office for Criminal Justice Reform has published a new toolkit, which provides advice and support to frontline practitioners who may come into contact with victims.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100301/text/100301w0023.htm#10030152000034>

Human Trafficking

Anthony Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals waited between their first application to the National Referral Mechanism and receiving their conclusive grounds decisions for (a) up to seven days, (b) eight to 45 days, (c) 46 days to three months, (d) three to six months and (e) over six months in the latest period for which figures are available. [318963]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009, 132 decisions have been made at the conclusive grounds stage. From the date of referral (a) no conclusive grounds decision were released in the first seven days, (b) 24 were released in eight to 45 days, (c) 65 in 46 days to three months, (d) 39 in three to six months and (e) four took over six months.

Anthony Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the (a) average and (b) maximum number of case owners is in respect of each potential human trafficking case that has been referred through the National Referral Mechanism since 1 April 2009. [318972]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The majority of National Referral Mechanism cases are assessed by two officers. Upon referral, a case will be allocated to a competent authority case owner who will decide if someone is a victim of trafficking. Before the decision is released it will then be considered by a second person, normally a senior competent authority, to quality assure the decision.

In cases where a referral has been made by an external agency such as the police or local authority, and where there is an immigration issue but the person is not yet known to UKBA, the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) will make the reasonable grounds decision and then pass the case to the UKBA Competent Authority for the conclusive grounds decision. In these circumstances cases will be considered by four officers at various stages of the NRM process.

There will be instances where a case is assigned to a competent authority who becomes unavailable part way through consideration due to illness or a change in role. These circumstances are rare but where they occur they will result in the case being reallocated to another case owner.

Anthony Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much time elapsed between the asylum interview and a conclusive grounds decision in respect of the case of each potential victim of human trafficking referred to the National Referral Mechanism on the latest date for which figures are available. [319835]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for identifying victims of human trafficking includes a decision on whether a person is conclusively found to be a victim of trafficking. This is separate from the asylum system, which involves an assessment of whether someone has a well founded fear of persecution under the 1951 Geneva Convention.

It will be under a particular set of circumstances where there has been an asylum application leading to an asylum interview as well as a conclusive grounds trafficking decision for the same individual. Moreover the timing of the separate processes is not directly linked. Where an asylum application is made, it can be before, during or after a referral and conclusive grounds decision under the NRM.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100304/text/100304w0016.htm#10030475000038>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Petition

Destitution Among Asylum Seekers

The Petition of Members of Churches Together in Roundhay, declares that we are deeply concerned about the high levels of destitution among asylum seekers, especially refused asylum seekers, and in particular that many people have been left in this dire situation for prolonged periods.

Research in Leeds in 2009, indicates that since the Report in 2007, the situation has deteriorated. It demonstrates that destitution happens at all stages of the asylum process, administrative delays worsen destitution, destitution is serious and prolonged, the number of people being made newly destitute is increasing even with the 'New Asylum Model'-it is not just a 'legacy' problem and entitlement to apply for support does not mean entitlement to receive support. Destitute people may be single or families with children; they are being forced into street homelessness and they have worsening health and mental health problems.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons to ensure its legislation is designed and implemented so as to end the destitution of asylum seekers at all stages of the asylum process. Furthermore that asylum seekers have the right to work at all stages of the asylum process so they can contribute to the United Kingdom and provide for themselves.

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

The UK's asylum support policy is properly balanced and sufficient to meet essential living needs. No person who has sought our protection need be destitute while waiting for an application to be decided.

We have transformed the asylum system by streamlining the process and introducing end-to-end case management by a single case owner. The UK Border Agency provides support to asylum seekers from the time they arrive in the UK until their claim is finally determined if they would otherwise be destitute. As part of this process we have systems in place to measure the eligibility of the asylum seeker's rights to access support at all stages of the asylum process. This includes an assessment of destitution and a consideration of their rights under the European convention of human rights.

Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are entitled to accommodation or subsistence or both until their claim is fully determined. Extra money is provided to those who are pregnant or have children under the age of three.

If the asylum seeker's application is successful they will have full access to public funds on a no less favourable basis than UK citizens. However, when it has been determined that an asylum seeker does not need international protection it is the Government's policy to discontinue providing support. The Government do not consider that it is right to continue to fund those who choose to remain here when they have no grounds to stay and it is open to them to return to a home country that has been found safe for them to live in.

To continue reading the lengthy response see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100302/petntext/100302p0001.htm#10030285000039>

Press Releases

Quarterly updates to the codes of practice for sponsored skilled workers

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/255022/quarterly-updates-cops>

Changes to Tier 4 student visa applications from 3 March 2010

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/255022/tier4-visa-applications>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **New publications**

Asylum: Getting the Balance Right?

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/pub/Getting_Balance_2010

What system of burden-sharing between Member States for the reception of asylum seekers?

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/studies/download.do?language=en&file=29912>

The Exploitation of Undocumented Migrant Women in the Workplace

<http://www.picum.org/sites/default/files/data/Publications/FinalPICUMandUMWreport.pdf>

Development: Do points mean prizes? How the UK's migration policies could benefit the world's poor

http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=/ecomm/files/Development_Do%20points%20mean%20prizes.pdf&a=skip

News

Big rise in Afghan child migrants

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/8542761.stm?ls

Twins aged five taken to Dungavel

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/8552626.stm>

Boys, 6, seized in their school uniforms and locked up at Dungavel

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Boys-6-seized-in-their.6129418.jp>

Millions of migrants face health risks

<http://www.december18.net/article/millions-migrants-face-health-risks>

Report on 'abuse' of asylum seekers to be published

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/report-on-abuse-of-asylum-seekers-to-be-published-1917437.html>

British taxpayers to fork out millions more in benefits for EU migrants

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1256108/British-taxpayers-fork-millions-benefits-EU-migrants.html>

Labour's migrant policy has damaged my son's education, says Minister

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1256086/Labours-migrant-policy-damaged-sons-education-says-Minister-Phil-Woolas.html>

Migrant children face ordeal after lone journey to Britain

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/mar/07/migrant-children-ordeal-britain>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-5869 Pauline McNeill: BBC Asian Network and BBC 6 Music—That the Parliament notes that the BBC's first public purpose is to "represent the different nations, regions and communities to the rest of the UK"; believes that the BBC Asian Network plays an important role in fostering cross-community cohesion; further believes that BBC 6 Music plays an important role in the development of Scotland's contemporary cultural output and provides a platform for new and innovative artists, and calls on the BBC Trust to review its proposals to close down the BBC Asian Network and BBC 6 Music.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=18480>

[TOP](#)

Equality

New publication

House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts: Report on the Equality and Human Rights Commission

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmpubacc/124/124.pdf>

News

'Serious errors' in setting up equalities watchdog

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8548374.stm

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-5838 Christine Grahame: No to Fascism in Lockerbie—That the Parliament condemns the decision of what is considered to be the ultra-right-wing fascist group, the so-called Scottish Defence League (SDL), to hold an event in the town of Lockerbie on 27 March 2010 connected to the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103; considers that the SDL and its parent organisation, the English Defence League, have a track record of instigating violence at events that they hold, requiring huge additional police resources and associated costs to the public purse, and condemns as insensitive and highly inappropriate the choice and focus of this event by the SDL, which it believes to be acting in the pursuit of narrow, extremist political objectives that have nothing to do with remembering the 270 victims of the PA flight 103 disaster and which is likely to face overwhelming objection from local Lockerbie residents.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=18448>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) New publication

European Commission against Racism and Intolerance: Report on the United Kingdom (fourth monitoring cycle)

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Country-by-country/United_Kingdom/GBR-CbC-IV-2010-004-ENG.pdf

News

Anti-fascist campaigners call for Scottish Defence League to cancel Lockerbie vigil

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2010/03/01/anti-fascist-campaigners-call-for-scottish-defence-league-to-cancel-lockerbie-vigil-86908-22078238/>

Sectarianism is ugly aside to Old Firm rivalry, says Celtic fan Jordan

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/sectarianism-is-ugly-aside-to-old-firm-rivalry-says-celtic-fan-jordan-1.1011250>

[TOP](#)

Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Motion

S3M-5854 Bill Kidd: Anti-terrorism Fatwa—That the Parliament notes the issuing, on 2 March 2010, of a comprehensive fatwa (religious ruling) by the renowned mainstream scholar, Shaikh Dr Tahir ul-Qadri, prohibiting terrorism and suicide bombings; believes that this comprehensive theological refutation of Islamist terrorism sets an important precedent that will allow other scholars to also condemn the ideas behind terrorism and thus end the religious justification for acts of terrorism, and hopes that this ruling will be promoted by the press and other media as evidence of the true belief system of Muslims across Scotland who are opposed to terrorism and indeed reportedly the most likely to be victims of Islamic extremism.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=18464>

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Food: Halal Products

Lord Sheikh: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that halal products meet food safety requirements. [HL2129]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to prevent retailers from falsely claiming to stock halal products. [HL2130]

Reply from Baroness Thornton: Halal food products are subject to the same requirements and official controls as non-Halal foodstuffs and, as such, would be inspected by authorised officers at all stages of the food chain to ensure compliance with food safety and food labelling requirements.

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

There is no requirement in United Kingdom law to provide the method of slaughter on food labelling. Therefore, Halal labelling is voluntary. However, there are general legal provisions outlawing false or misleading labelling and if a Halal claim is made then manufacturers must make sure they do not use it misleadingly. Authorised officers are asked to consider action, where appropriate, against food business operators who sell and misdescribe Halal foods, in the same way as they would for any contravention of food law in food premises generally.

The Government take incidents of food fraud seriously and have put resources in place to help authorised officers effectively target and address illegal activity, including any incidents of this type.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100304w0003.htm#10030455000523>

Muslim Communities: Burials

Lord Sheikh: To ask Her Majesty's Government what provisions are in place to ensure that Muslim communities are able to bury their deceased at weekends. [HL2127]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that Muslim communities are able to bury their deceased immediately after death. [HL2128]

Reply from Lord Bach: Guidance published in 2006 encouraged burial ground managers to explore the local demand for out-of-hours working, especially where required for religious reasons, and to ensure that every effort was made to deal with individual applications. When deaths need to be reported to coroners—because the cause of death is violent, unnatural or of unknown cause—similar efforts are made to ensure, wherever possible, that the body of the person who has died is released as promptly as possible for burial.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100304w0004.htm#10030455000535>

[TOP](#)

New Publication

Forthcoming changes to the charity accounting regime for Scottish charities

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=f5f48470-039f-4e12-a692-80bd56eb4f4a>

[TOP](#)

Other News

Scottish Charity Awards

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/NewsAndEvents/ScottishCharityAwards.aspx>

Scots lawyers lead way with sharia advice

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/scots-lawyers-lead-way-with-sharia-advice-1.1011640>

[TOP](#)

Holyrood

**** End of Life Assistance Bill**

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

Parliamentary Motion

S3M-5846 Christine Grahame: Why Ad Hoc?—That the Parliament notes with concern the establishment of an ad hoc committee to consider the End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill; notes that the first paper on this issue submitted to the Parliamentary Bureau was unequivocal in advising that the Bill was within the remit of the Health and Sport Committee; further notes that a second and subsequent undisclosed paper resulted in the decision to establish an ad hoc committee; notes, however, that, of the six members of the ad hoc committee, four are serving members of the Health and Sport Committee, including the Convener, who is Deputy Convener of Health and Sport Committee; requires the bureau to produce that second paper to clarify for what reason the ad hoc committee is fit for purpose and the existing Health and Sport Committee is not, and further requires the bureau to state the number of occasions when clear advice to the bureau has been rejected and the number of occasions when, and in what form, further advice has been requested.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=18456>

**** Public Services Reform Bill**

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

Stage 2 consideration of amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/finance/or-10/fi10-0602.htm#Col1974>

Bill as amended at Stage 2

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/26-PubSerRef/b26as3-stage2-amend.pdf>

**** Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc. Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/39-SPCC/index.htm>

Consideration of Financial Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/finance/or-10/fi10-0602.htm#Col1996>

Bills in Progress Westminster

**** Equality Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/035/amend/ml035-i.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/035/amend/ml035-ir.htm>

Report Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100302-0002.htm#10030266000746>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100302-0014.htm#100302106000548>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

(closing date)

** new or updated this week

Equality Bill: Draft Codes of Conduct (2 April 2010)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legislative-framework/equality-bill/equality-bill-codes-of-practice-consultation/#1>

Options for future charity appeals route in Scotland (5 April 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/48453/0093191.pdf>

Inquiry into Migration and Trafficking (9 April 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/inquiries/migration/mtcallforev.htm>

Inquiry into the Budget Strategy and Equality Groups (9 April 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/Budget%20process%202011-12/BSPcallforev.htm>

Equality Bill: Draft Guidance (16 April 2010)

<http://ehrc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>

Death Certification, Burial, and Cremation (Scotland) (21 April 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/300112/0093686.pdf>

Scotland's Future: Draft Referendum (Scotland) Bill (30 April 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/303348/0095138.pdf>

Publication of monthly asylum application statistical data (30 April 2010)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-asylum-stat-data/asylum-consultation2835.pdf?view=Binary>

** **Call for Evidence on the End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill** (12 May 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/endLifeAsstBill/currentInquiries.htm>

2011 Census Statistical Outputs (14 May 2010)

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/census/censushm2011/preparations/consultation-and-research/formal-consultations/spring-10-consultation.html>

** **Refusing entry or stay to NHS debtors** (28 May 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/nhs-debtors/>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities advertised in MEMO+ Recruitment

[TOP](#)

**** this week!**

Scottish Refugee Council Women's Morning

8 March 2010 in Glasgow (10.00 – 12.30)

All asylum-seeking and refugee women are invited to receive advice and support in a female-only environment. Female interpreters are available. For information contact info@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9749.

**** this week!**

Domestic Abuse and BME Women and their Children

10 March 2010 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30)

Shakti seminars to explore the link between domestic abuse and culture, community and faith, and barriers that minority ethnic women face in accessing services. For information contact Thilini or Mirdul info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk / 0131 475 2399

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

Domestic Abuse and BME Children & Young People

11 March 2010 in Midlothian (9.30 – 12.30)

25 March 2010 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 12.30)

Shakti training providing an opportunity for staff working with children and young people to gain greater understanding of how domestic and culture-based abuse affects black minority ethnic (BME) children and young people. For information contact info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk / 0131 475 2399.

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>

Human Trafficking and the Criminal Process

18 March 2010 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.30)

Legal Services Agency conference about working with Victims of Trafficking and the Criminal Justice System. For information contact 0141 353 3354 or see http://www.lsa.org.uk/humantraffickingandthecriminalprocess_1.aspx

Sustaining and Reinventing Community Regeneration

24 - 25 March 2010 in Edinburgh

SURF annual conference to explore the realities of delivering regeneration in Scotland's most disadvantaged communities. In doing so, we will showcase the assets and resources that are at hand to support and sustain regeneration. For information see <http://www.scotregen.co.uk/events/default.asp?ItemID=1099> or contact Derek Rankine derek@scotregen.co.uk / 0141 585 6879.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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>

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

23 April 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>

[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/>
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>

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

Useful Links (continued)

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 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/>