

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

Ministerial Statement

Visa Waiver Test

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): Today my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I are announcing the final stage of the UK's first global review of visa regimes in relation to the seven countries of the Eastern Caribbean-Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

A visa regime is a very effective immigration, crime and security control measure. As part of our overseas defences our visa waiver test helps us determine whether our visa regimes are in the right places. Travellers from every country beyond the European economic area and Switzerland were measured against a range of criteria including illegal immigration, crime and security concerns. The test has been taken forward in close collaboration with other Departments across Whitehall. New full visa regimes were introduced on Bolivia, Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland, along with a partial regime on Venezuela, in 2009.

Having initially considered the Eastern Caribbean states on a regional basis, we decided to examine them individually to ensure any potential regimes would be aligned correctly. Our evaluation highlighted a number of concerns with two countries, Dominica and St. Lucia.

Immigration and Asylum Ministerial Statement (continued)

We recognise that we have close historic, economic and political ties with Dominica and St. Lucia and are aware that the introduction of a visa regime would be a significant step. It is a decision we do not take lightly. As a result we will now enter a six-month period of detailed dialogue with the Governments concerned to examine what actions will be taken to address our concerns and mitigate the need for a visa regime to be introduced. During this period, Dominica and St. Lucia will need to demonstrate a genuine commitment to put into effect credible and realistic plans, with clear timetables, to reduce the risks to the UK, and begin implementing these plans by the end of the dialogue period.

Additionally we have written to the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to advise that, while they will maintain their visa-free status for the time being, the decision will be subject to a further review.

The UK Government remain committed to operating a firm but fair immigration policy. It gives a high priority to treating all foreign nationals coming to or present in the UK with dignity and respect, and the highest legal standards. However, it expects all visitors to the UK to play by the rules. The UK will always welcome genuine visitors, whether business, tourist, student or family, but will continue to take all steps necessary to protect the security of the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100330/wmstext/100330m0004.htm#10033090000007>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

British Nationality

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will reinstate the telephone line for people to request British nationality application forms. [322992]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The contract for despatching applications forms in response to telephone requests expires on 31 March 2010. There are no plans to renew it. Forms and guides are available from the UK Border Agency website.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100406/text/100406w0021.htm#10040638000004>

British Nationality: Assessments

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people of each (a) age group and (b) nationality passed the British citizenship test in each month of 2009. [303820]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Knowledge of Life (KOL) requirement was introduced in November 2005 for citizenship applications. In April 2007, the Home Office extended the KOL test to those applying for settlement in the UK. In 2009, 193,645 applications for British citizenship were made.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100406/text/100406w0021.htm#10040638000005>

Entry Clearances

Adam Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the operation of the hub and spoke model for the issue of visas to enter the UK. [325080]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Hub and Spoke system has been rolled out gradually since June 2007. This model, which separates the collection of applications from the place where the decision is made, has enabled the UK Border Agency to improve the efficiency and consistency of its visa operation,

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

building on its network of visa application centres as well as increasing the security and integrity of our staff and delivering customer service benefits.

Management reviews of the impact of Hub and Spoke are undertaken at regular intervals, and assessments of Hub and Spoke arrangements have also been made by the independent chief inspector of UKBA. A recent internal evaluation has confirmed that hub and spoke has delivered a number of key benefits, including improvements in quality and consistence of decision making, efficiency and productivity, resilience and flexibility, and customer service.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100406/text/100406w0028.htm#10040638000025>

Immigration

Lord Marlesford: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many travellers arriving in the United Kingdom in each of the last 12 months have been refused entry at the border; and how many of those have claimed asylum. [HL2957]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Our records show almost 22,000 incidents of persons being refused entry to the UK at the border between 1 March 2009 and 28 February 2010. Of these, 425 claimed asylum. This is in addition to 29,000 incidents of persons who attempted to enter the UK illegally but were thwarted by officers at juxtaposed controls.

The monthly breakdown is as follows*:

Month	Total number of refusals at UK border	Number of which claimed asylum
March 09	1,877	37
April 09	1,750	30
May 09	1,993	34
June 09	1,891	40
July 09	1,902	29
August 09	1,924	37
September 09	1,917	44
October 09	1,864	35
November 09	1,619	51
December 09	1,869	45
January 10	1,697	24
February 10	1,696	19
Total	21,999	425

* Data are management information and are from a live database. They have not been subject to the detailed checks required for National Statistics.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100406w0007.htm#10040610000894>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum: Standards

Petetr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time was between a person claiming asylum on arrival in the UK and a final decision being made on their application in the latest period for which figures are available. [323021]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The public service agreement (PSA) Delivery Agreement 3, Indicator 2 refers to the reduction in the time to conclusion of asylum application. The measure is to ensure a target percentage of cases should be resolved within six months.

The method of reporting against the target is based on the performance of the specific monthly cohort of cases reaching six months. Hence all reporting is done against a six-month timeframe. A cohort is specified as those new applications received between 1 and 31 of each month.

The conclusion measurement requires applications to be granted asylum or some form of leave to remain in the UK, allowed at appeal or removed within 182 days (six months) to be counted as concluded.

Performance against the targets has been published in National Statistics as follows:

61 per cent. of new applications received in June 2009 were concluded in six months by the end of December 2009.

Published information is not available in relation to conclusion of applications in timescales other than six months.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100406/text/100406w0021.htm#10040638000003>

Asylum

William Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of asylum cases arising since 2007 have been determined by his Department within six months in (a) 2007, (b) 2008 and (c) 2009. [322835]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Information on asylum cases in which the UK Border Agency has made an initial decision within six months which excludes the appeal rights exhausted outcomes, is set out in the following table; the figures do not include dependents.

	<i>Asylum applications received</i>	<i>Initial decisions within six months (grants or refusals)</i>	<i>Percentage of applications with initial decision within six months</i>
2007	23,430	18,918	81
2008	25,930	19,624	76
2009	24,250	20,326	84

The initial decisions within six months and the percentage of applications with initial decision within six months are internal management information and as such have not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. These data are provisional and subject to change.

The Home Office publishes statistics on immigration and asylum, including numbers of asylum applications, and initial asylum decisions, on a quarterly and annual basis. These publications are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100329/text/100329w0021.htm#10032956000007>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many outstanding applications for asylum were received by the UK Border Agency before 1 March 2009. [324517]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency have interpreted the question as asking for the number of asylum applications which were made before 1 March 2009 and which have been neither granted, withdrawn, are successful at appeal or removed. This would include applications made both to the New Asylum model (NAM) and cases within the CRD legacy.

The number of outstanding asylum applications which were made since the introduction of the new Asylum model (NAM) in 2006 and prior to 1 March 2009 is contained in the following table:

	<i>Number of asylum applications⁽¹⁾</i>	<i>Number of cases yet to reach conclusion⁽²⁾</i>
2006	23,610	-
2007	23,430	-
2008	24,700	-
2009	24,250	-
Total	95,990	40,640

⁽¹⁾ Numbers for Asylum Applications are from migration statistics published stats.

⁽²⁾ Please note that figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. This figure is the total number of unconcluded out of service standard cases. Cases within a six month period are considered in standard and therefore considered as work in progress, they are not considered to be outstanding applications.

The above figure (40,640) does not include cases being dealt with by the Case Resolution Directorate (CRD)⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ This is because the Agency is unable to accurately report on these outstanding cases. As reported in February 2010 to the Home Affairs Select Committee, 52 per cent. of the concluded cases were data errors and required no further action. Therefore, any such report would be unable to accurately represent CRD cases with outstanding applications.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100330/text/100330w021.htm#10033085000005>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Case Resolution Directorate of the UK Border Agency is processing asylum cases in order of the person's arrival in the United Kingdom; and, if not, how the directorate decides on their priority. [HL2909]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The Case Resolution Directorate (CRD) does not process outstanding asylum legacy cases in order of the person's arrival in the United Kingdom. As set out in the Home Office's Immigration and Nationality Directorate review of July 2006, command paper reference 275921, CRD prioritises those individuals who may pose a risk to the public, are receiving support from the agency, and those who can more easily be removed or where it is likely that the decision will be made to allow them to remain in the United Kingdom.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

All cases will be dealt with on their own individual merits and in accordance with these priorities.

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government following the recent Human Rights Watch report *Fast-Tracked Unfairness: Detention and Denial of Women Asylum Seekers in the UK*, whether they will ensure that people with complex claims are not included in the fast-track asylum procedure; and whether complex gender-related persecution claims will be excluded from that procedure. [HL3047]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: No asylum seeker whose case is considered to be complex would be processed in the detained fast track procedure, irrespective of the basis of their claim.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100329w0001.htm#10032931000523>

Immigration: Detainees

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will respond to the report "Outsourcing Abuse" by Baroness O'Loan; whether they will publish their response; and whether they will take steps to ensure that all complaints of maltreatment will be fully investigated. [HL2912]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Baroness O'Loan was appointed by the Home Secretary to review allegations of systematic abuse of immigration detainees by escorting staff that were published in a dossier entitled "Outsourcing Abuse". Her review centred on investigations into the complaints detailed in the dossier and the UK Border Agency's complaints and investigation systems.

Baroness O'Loan's findings were published on 12 March 2010. She found that there was no evidence to substantiate the central allegation of systematic abuse by escorting staff. At the same time, she recognised that many of the concerns she had about the way a number of the investigations into complaints had been handled in the past had been addressed already by the agency following a decision to transfer responsibility to its Professional Standards Unit in February 2008. She none the less made a number of recommendations to strengthen the supervision of staff and improve our complaints handling further.

In the report's foreword, the chief executive of the UK Border Agency welcomed Baroness O'Loan's report. Her response can be found on the UK Border Agency's website.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100329w0004.htm#10032931000554>

Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre

Angus MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment he has made of the reasons for the hunger strike by detainees at Dungavel immigration removal centre; and if he will make a statement; [323502]

(2) how many cases of hunger strike have occurred at immigration removal centres in each of the last two years. [323504]

Reply from Phil Woolas: There has not been a hunger strike at Dungavel immigration removal centre (IRC). I refer the hon. Member to the letter sent to Members of this House by my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office (Meg Hillier) on 24 February 2010, addressing the inaccurate reporting in the media of a hunger strike at Yarl's Wood IRC; and to my own comments during Home Office questions in the House on 22 March 2010.

Those detainees said to be on hunger strike at Yarl's Wood were refusing meals from the centre's canteen, but they were buying food from the centre's shop and vending machines and having food delivered by visitors. They were all also drinking.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

There is a well-publicised procedure in every immigration removal centre to enable detainees to complain about any aspect of their detention or care within the centre. There were no records of complaints received from any of the women involved at the start of the protest. Concerns which have since been raised are being addressed.

We only record information on detainees who have missed four consecutive meals, excluding breakfast. Such detainees miss meals for a number of reasons, including fasting due to their religious faith. We do not record the number who state they are refusing food in protest at a particular issue.

All those who miss meals are monitored closely by the centre, including healthcare, where they will receive advice on diet and welfare issues.

The UK Border Agency and the centre management engage closely with such detainees to understand the reason for them missing meals and to seek to resolve any underlying problems.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100329/text/100329w0021.htm#10032956000012>

Human Trafficking

Anthony Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the victims of human trafficking who were returned to their country of origin in each of the last five years were (a) EU nationals, (b) European non-EU nationals and (c) from a country other than Europe; and what the cost to the public purse was in each of those years. [325032]

Reply from David Hanson: Tracking victims of human trafficking beyond the National Referral Mechanism reflection and recovery period is limited if there is no longer a risk to their safety or health and they have the right to remain in the UK (UK and EEA victims in particular). This makes it difficult to confirm the numbers of voluntary returns in this category and what associated costs there have been. There is currently no record of any enforced return of individuals conclusively found to be victims of trafficking returned to their own country.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100330/text/100330w0022.htm#10033085000018>

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Anthony Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions of people for human trafficking offences there were between (a) April 2009 and April 2010 and (b) April 2008 and April 2009. [325033]

Reply from David Hanson: In the period 2008-09 there were a total of 124 prosecutions for human trafficking offences with a further 106 prosecutions in the period 2009-10.

In many cases where there is insufficient evidence to support a prosecution for human trafficking, there are successful prosecutions resulting in convictions for associated serious charges such as rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, managing a brothel or assisting unlawful immigration.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100330/text/100330w0022.htm#10033085000019>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking: Convictions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many (a) British and (b) non-British citizens have been (i) convicted and (ii) imprisoned in relation to human trafficking offences in each year since 1998. [314749]

Reply from Alan Johnson: The offences of trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labour were introduced under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004. From the commencement of these Acts until the end of 2008 there were a total of 113 convictions resulting in 110 terms of imprisonment. Of those convicted and imprisoned up to the end of 2008, six were British citizens and 107 non-British citizens.

The statistics broken down by year of sentence are as follows:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>British National</i>	<i>Foreign National</i>
2004	3	0	3
2005	21	1	20
2006	29	1	28
2007	22	1	21
2008	38	3	35

Figures for the full year of 2009 are not yet available.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100330/text/100330w0055.htm#10033134000026>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Jeremy Corbyn (1224) Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre – That this House notes that two of the Government's most senior professional advisers, the Children's Commissioner for England and Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons, have stated unequivocally that Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre, near Bedford, is 'no place for a child'; further notes that their detailed reports, published respectively in February and March 2010, catalogue compelling reasons for concluding that the welfare of children is 'clearly and adversely affected' at Yarl's Wood; believes that the reports make shameful reading for a country which prides itself in having the welfare of children at the heart of its legislation; further notes that both reports recommend greater attention by the relevant Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and that the Children's Commissioner reports that the LSCB is already reviewing an allegation of sexually harmful behaviour between unrelated young children at Yarl's Wood; and further believes that immediate rectification is required to safeguard children in the Government's care at Yarl's Wood Immigration Centre.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=40884&SESSION=903>

Westminster Ministerial Speech

Gordon Brown speech: Controlling immigration for a fairer Britain

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page23011>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Press Releases

Prime Minister sets out new immigration measures

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/255022/pm-sets-new-immigration-measures>

Migration Advisory Committee publishes recommendations for shortage occupation list

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/mac-shortage-list.html>

New rules for skilled and highly skilled migrant workers

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/april/04-new-rules-t1t2>

Tier 4 changes for education providers and migrant students

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/april/03-t4-changes>

New super premium service for applications

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/april/01-super-premium>

Changes to the Immigration Rules - minimum age for armed forces marriage visas

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/april/82-changes-to-the-ir>

Changes to the 'knowledge of language and life' requirement for settlement

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/25-kol-settlement1>

Visa Waiver Test results for eastern Caribbean

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/255022/visa-waiver-test-eastern-carribe>

UNHCR provisional statistics show asylum numbers stable in 2009

<http://www.unhcr.org/4ba89d726.html>

IOM focuses on the needs of families and children with new voluntary return programme

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/IOM_Returns_April10

UNAoC / IOM Online Community on Migration and Integration

<http://www.unaoc.org/forms/migration-integration-forms/>

New publications

UK Border Agency: Follow-up on Asylum Cases and E-Borders Programme

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmhaff/406/406.pdf>

Improving Asylum Procedures: Comparative Analysis and Recommendations for Law and Practice. Key Findings and Recommendations

<http://www.unhcr.org/4ba9d99d9.html>

Welcome Information Pack for Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/info/Children>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **News**

Brown admits 'misusing' immigration statistics

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8597530.stm

Brown rebuked by watchdog over use of immigration statistics

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/brown-rebuked-by-watchdog-over-use-of-immigration-statistics-1.1017580>

Brown tells illegal migrants: 'You are not welcome'

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8595973.stm

Immigration is destined to be an emotive issue in campaign

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-view/immigration-is-destined-to-be-an-emotive-issue-in-campaign-1.1017552>

Gordon Brown warns against 'scaremongering' over immigration

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/mar/31/gordon-brown-warns-scaremongering-immigration>

Plea to back family in deportation fight

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/editor-s-picks-ignore/plea-to-back-family-in-deportation-fight-1.1018967>

Europe gives all-clear to test foreign doctors on the English language

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/world/Europe-gives-allclear--to.6217292.jp>

Children deported from UK alone with no safety checks

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/children-deported-from-uk-alone-with-no-safety-checks-1941430.html>

Foreigners have not 'taken' new jobs

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/apr/10/foreigners-immigration-jobs-ons>

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Race Relations

Press Releases

Warmest wishes for Easter from the PM

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page23068>

Easter greeting from John Denham

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/easter2010>

New publication

Identity, Politics and Public Policy

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=/ecomm/files/Identity%20Politics%20and%20Public%20Policy.pdf&a=skip>

Race Relations (continued) News

Religious tolerance has put a fatwa on our moral nerve

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/minette_marrin/article7094227.ece

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Equality

New publication

Seeking Sound Advice: Financial Inclusion and Ethnicity

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/SeekingSoundAdvice-2010.pdf>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Question

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Government have to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. [320956]

Reply from Shahid Malik: The Government are working to build a fairer, more equal society, where a person's chances and opportunities in life are determined solely by their talent and effort-not by their class, gender, religion or race. We are tackling race inequality by enforcing the strong legal framework, promoting clear leadership in public bodies and focusing work on race across Government.

To mark the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March, on 22 March the British embassy in Bucharest hosted an event for NGOs, civil society and the media on anti-discrimination and tackling racism. Ambassador Robin Barnett and the Romanian Minister for Education both spoke at this event.

On 19 March, ambassador Peter Gooderham, the UK's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, attended a screening of the film "Colour Blind" hosted by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at the United Nations in Geneva. During the subsequent panel discussion, ambassador Gooderham reaffirmed our commitment to tackle racism both in the UK and internationally.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100406/text/100406w0016.htm#10040627000017>

Press Release

The situation of Roma in Europe and relevant activities of the Council of Europe

<http://assembly.coe.int/Documents/WorkingDocs/Doc10/EDOC12174.pdf>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) **News**

Rise of anti-Semitism in Scotland

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/rise-of-anti-semitism-in-scotland-1.1019632>

Racist thugs sent to jail at long last

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/Racist--thugs-sent-to.6200467.jp>

Nine arrested over rival protests in Dudley

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/west_midlands/8601520.stm

Black pupils 'are routinely marked down by teachers'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2010/apr/04/sats-marking-race-stereotypes>

London UKIP election candidate in racism row

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/election_2010/england/8609891.stm

Polish students awarded £25,000 in discrimination and unfair dismissal case

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/2010/april/polish-students-awarded-163-25-000-in-discrimination-and-unfair-dismissal-case/>

What has Britain come to when it takes a Muslim like me to defend Christianity?

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-1264399/What-Britain-come-takes-Muslim-like-defend-Christianity.html>

Church leaders head for showdown with top judges over bias against Christians

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/religion/7574690/Church-leaders-head-for-showdown-with-top-judges-over-bias-against-Christians.html>

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Other Holyrood

Petition

Petition by Lynne Tammi on behalf of members of the Young Gypsy/Travellers Lives Project calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to remove the Trespass (Scotland) Act 1865 from all future guidance on the management of Gypsy/Traveller temporary and halt sites. (PE1321)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/petitions/pdfs/PE1321.pdf>

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Parliamentary Questions

Communities: Preventing Extremism

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what legislation authorises local authorities to map locations and residential areas containing Muslims, as provided in the *Preventing Violent Extremism scheme National Indicator No 35*; and what assessment they have made of the effect of such action on Muslims. [HL2911]

Reply from Lord McKenzie of Luton: National Indicator 35 or NI35 "Building resilience to violent extremism" is one of the 188 indicators that make up the national indicator set. All district and unitary local authorities in England are required to report against NI35 and some have agreed it as a priority indicator in their local area agreement. The principles of the national indicator set are set out in more detail in the Local Government White Paper *Strong and Prosperous Communities*.

The Communities Secretary has made clear that work on "Prevent" should be done in partnership with Muslim communities. Local authorities can do this only by knowing who their communities are. The measure around understanding and engagement of Muslim communities in NI35 is consistent with the statutory duties placed on local authorities to involve their communities in local decisions.

A new duty to involve came into force on 1 April 2009 as part of the Local Government Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and includes an additional requirement on local authorities to ensure that people have greater opportunities to have their say. Statutory guidance, "Creating Stronger and Prosperous Communities" which supports the Act, was issued to local authorities in July 2008.

A copy of this guidance is available on the CLG website at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/strongsafeprosperous>

It is for local authorities themselves to make assessments about the impact of their work on local communities. We would expect them to listen to any concerns raised by their communities about any aspects of their work.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100329w0002.htm#10032931000528>

Poverty: Ethnic Groups

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children from an (a) Black Caribbean, (b) Black African, (c) Black other, (d) Indian, (e) Pakistani, (f) Bangladeshi, (g) other Asian, (h) Chinese, (i) other ethnic minority and (j) mixed race background resident in (i) the East Midlands, (ii) Leicester and (iii) England are living in severe poverty. [323489]

Reply from Helen Goodman: Between 1998-99 and 2007-08, some 500,000 children were lifted out of relative poverty as measured using the European Union standard definition based on 60 per cent. of median income. Measures announced in and since Budget 2007 are expected to lift around a further 550,000 children out of poverty. Absolute poverty has been halved. Child poverty statistics, published in the households below average income series, only allow a breakdown at country level of the overall number of children in relative poverty by ethnic group. This means information for (i) East Midlands and (ii) Leicester is not available.

The ethnic groupings used in the table are the lowest level of breakdown available for the groups requested. This is because some of the groups asked for in the question have sample sizes which are too small to be reliable. Data are presented as three-year averages, due to variability in single-year estimates.

There is no official or agreed definition of severe poverty. The households below average income series presents a range of low-income thresholds (based on 50, 60 and 70 per cent. of median income). Figures for England looking at the number

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions *(continued)*

of children in households below 60 per cent. of median are given in the table. Statistics based on other thresholds are given in the Households Below Average Income publication, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Numbers of children living in Black Caribbean, Black Non-Caribbean, Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi, Chinese and other groups, and mixed race background households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income before housing costs, England, 2005-06 to 2007-08

<i>Ethnic group</i>	<i>Number of children (millions)</i>
Black Caribbean	(1)_
Black Non-Caribbean	0.1
Indian	0.1
Pakistani and Bangladeshi	0.3
Chinese and other groups	0.1
Mixed race background	(1)_

(1) Indicates less than 50,000 children.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey. Both the households below average income series and the Family Resources Survey are available in the Library.
2. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for households below average income figures are single financial years. Three survey year averages are given for ethnic group statistics as single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. Household ethnic group has been classified according to the ethnic group of the household reference person. The household reference person is classified as the highest income householder without regard to gender. This is consistent with the households below average income publication.
5. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" series, which uses net disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
6. For the households below average income series, incomes have been equivalised using organisation for economic co-operation and development equivalisation factors.
7. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand children.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, 2005-06 to 2007-08.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100330/text/100330w0029.htm#10033088000031>

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General Election

Conservative Party <http://www.scottishconservatives.com/>

Labour Party <http://www.scottishlabour.org.uk/>

Liberal Democrat Party <http://www.scotlibdems.org.uk/>

Green Party <http://www.scottishgreens.org.uk/>

Scottish National Party <http://www.snp.org/>

BNP <http://bnp.org.uk/>

Christian Party http://www.christianparty.org.uk/index.html#SlideFrame_1

UKIP <http://www.ukip.org/>

Respect <http://www.therespectparty.net/index.php>

BBC General Election website

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/election_2010/default.stm

Electoral Commission: information about the General Election

<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/elections/upcoming-elections-and-referendums/uk/general-election>

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Other News

Gypsy bid for government to scrap ancient trespass law

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1678997>

Survivors of forced marriage go on UK tour

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/survivors-of-forced-marriage-go-on-uk-tour-1937602.html>

Muslim children help faith study

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/south_east/8613077.stm

European Commission urges Roma social inclusion

http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/407&format=HTML&age_d=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

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Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

End of Life Assistance Bill

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

Public Services Reform Bill

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

Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc. Bill

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

Bills in Progress Westminster

**** Equality Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/096/amend/pbc0963003a.1305-1306.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/096/amend/pbc0963003a.1305-1306.html>

House of Commons consideration of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100406/debtext/100406-0021.htm#1004073000001>

The Bill has now received Royal Assent

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Consultations (closing date)

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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>

Self-directed support: A National Strategy for Scotland (7 May 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/301424/0094007.pdf>

Consultations (continued)

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/>

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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!**

Self-Directed Support: A National Strategy Consultation for Scotland

13 April 2010 in Glasgow (10.30 – 1.00)

BEMIS consultation event in association with the Scottish Government . Self-directed support is a way for people to get the support they need to be part of their community and to stay fit and healthy. This can be disabled people, older people, or people who are ill or dying. Self-directed support can help people to stay healthy and independent for longer. For information contact Tanveer Parnez 0141 548 8047 / tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk

**** this week!**

SCVO Election debate

14 Edinburgh 2010 in Edinburgh (6.00 – 8.30pm)

Gavin Brown MSP, Sheila Gilmour, John Barrett MP, Jim Mather MSP debate the future of the voluntary sector. For information contact Helen Swatton 01412258019 / helen.swatton@scvo.org

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>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Are we really listening?

29 April 2010 in Edinburgh (1.0.30 – 2.30)

(register by 23 April)

NHS Health Scotland workshop to discuss approaches to reduce stigma associated with mental health problems in minority ethnic communities, and to find out about small grants available for anti-stigma work with BME communities across Scotland.. For information contact Jacqueline McClafferty jacqueline.mcclafferty@nhs.net.

**** Third Sector Research Conference**

15 October 2010 in Edinburgh

For information contact Helen Swatton 01412258019 / helen.swatton@scvo.org

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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>

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/>

Westminster (continued)

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/>