

## 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.*

*Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to [MEMO@scojec.org](mailto:MEMO@scojec.org) and requests to be added to circulation to [mail@bemis.org.uk](mailto:mail@bemis.org.uk)*

**The new UK parliamentary session will begin on 18 May with the swearing-in of new MPs, and the State Opening of Parliament will take place on 25 May.**

**UK Government Departments are subject to restrictions during the pre-election period, and do not generally issue press releases or new publications during this time.**

**A second General Election MEMO+ will be issued later this week.**

### Immigration and Asylum

#### New publication

**'One Day We Will Be Reunited' Experiences of Refugee Family Reunion in the UK**  
[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/pub/Family\\_Reunion\\_Apr10](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/pub/Family_Reunion_Apr10)

## Immigration and Asylum (continued) News

**Scottish Poles join a grieving nation in paying tribute to air crash victims**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Scottish-Poles-join-a-6219012.jp>

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## New Publication

**MEMO+ Voting in the 2010 General Election**

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

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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>

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## Consultations (closing date)

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* closes this week!**

**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>

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

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

## Consultations (continued)

**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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## Funding Opportunity

**PROGRESS funding**

Closing date 4 May 2010

The European Commission is inviting proposals from Member States for funding for national awareness-raising activities in support of the Community's anti-discrimination agenda. National authorities can nominate non-profit making organisations, e.g. an NGO or an equality body, to carry out activities on their behalf. In the UK the Government Equalities Office is the "national authority".

The PROGRESS programme is concerned with: "Raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting the debate about the key challenges and policy issues in relation to discrimination and the mainstreaming of anti-discrimination in all Community policies, including among the social partners, NGOs and other stakeholders." ...

**For full details see**

[http://www.equalities.gov.uk/international/progress\\_funding.aspx](http://www.equalities.gov.uk/international/progress_funding.aspx)

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## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* New or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

**An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees**

23 April 2010 in Glasgow

8 June 2010 in Glasgow

22 July 2010

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](mailto:jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 248 9799 or see

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

**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](mailto:jacqueline.mcclafferty@nhs.net).

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **\*\* UKBA Asylum Support - The Essentials**

7 May 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](mailto:jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 248 9799 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=83>

### **\*\* Working with Interpreters**

21 May 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](mailto:jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 248 9799 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=80>

### **\*\* The Housing Rights of Refugees**

25 May 2010 in Glasgow

Guest speaker: Mark Willis, Welfare Rights Worker, Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland

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 those assisting refugees to access homelessness and housing services and to those assisting refugees to apply for benefits. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / [jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=66>

### **Third Sector Research Conference**

15 October 2010 in Edinburgh

For information contact Helen Swatton 01412258019 / [helen.swatton@scvo.org](mailto: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](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](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

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

## Useful Links (continued)

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](http://www.acas.org.uk)

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

Volunteer Development Scotland [www.vds.org.uk](http://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](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/>*