

## Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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**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.**

### Immigration and Asylum

#### Holyrood Committee

**Equal Opportunities Committee Inquiry into Migration and Trafficking**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/or-10/eo10-0802.htm#Col1649>

#### Press Releases

**European Commission calls for increased protection of unaccompanied minors entering the EU**

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/534&format=HTML&age=d=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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

### **Immigration Document Checks and Workplace Raids**

[http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/downloads/policy\\_reports/MRN-trade-union-guide.pdf](http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/downloads/policy_reports/MRN-trade-union-guide.pdf)

## **News**

### **Immigrants hail welcome in Scotland**

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1719661>

### **Parties clash over immigration and EU**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk\\_politics/election\\_2010/8660653.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/election_2010/8660653.stm)

### **Police toil in war against human trafficking**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Police-toil-in-war-against.6272453.jp>

### **No prosecutions for trafficking**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/no-prosecutions-for-trafficking-1.1025293>

### **Detention centre publicised safety award just 24 hours after man died in custody**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/detention-centre-publicised-safety-award-just-24-hours-after-man-died-in-custody-1965612.html>

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## **Equality**

### **New publications**

#### **EU co-operation in the field of social inclusion**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/studies/download.do?language=en&file=31011>

#### **National Human Rights Institutions in the EU Member States - Strengthening the fundamental rights architecture in the EU I**

[http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/NHRI\\_en.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/NHRI_en.pdf)

#### **Data Protection in the EU: the role of National Data Protection Authorities - Strengthening the fundamental rights architecture in the EU II**

[http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/Data-protection\\_en.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/Data-protection_en.pdf)

#### **Rights Awareness and Equality Bodies - Strengthening the fundamental rights architecture in the EU III**

[http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/DIF3\\_en.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/DIF3_en.pdf)

#### **The impact of the Racial Equality Directive - Strengthening the fundamental rights architecture in the EU IV**

[http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/Racial-equality-directive\\_conf-ed\\_en.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/Racial-equality-directive_conf-ed_en.pdf)

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# Racism and Religious Hatred

## Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

### Racially Aggravated Crime

**Jim Hume** (South of Scotland) (LD): To ask the Scottish Executive what action it is taking to tackle racially aggravated crime. (S3O-10436)

**The Minister for Community Safety (Fergus Ewing):** The Scottish Government is working towards a Scotland that embraces diversity and is a place where people of all backgrounds, irrespective of their race, faith, belief and place of birth, feel respected and have a sense of belonging. We support work that helps to tackle and prevent racism in all its guises through investing in Scottish police forces to put more police officers on our streets and in our communities. We are also providing more than £9 million of funding between 2008 and 2011 to organisations that aim to tackle racist attitudes and improve the lives of minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including refugees, asylum seekers, migrant workers and Gypsies/Travellers.

**Jim Hume:** Scottish Government statistics that were released last week show that, in Dumfries and Galloway and in Grampian, there has been an increase in the number of racist incidents. In Dumfries and Galloway last year, the number of such incidents rose by about 50 per cent, from 64 to 96. There was an increase of a similar percentage in the total number of racist crimes. What extra steps will the minister take to ensure that those worrying statistics are addressed in Dumfries and Galloway and other rural areas such as Grampian?

**Fergus Ewing:** I agree that the figures that the member cites are worrying, although I point out that the figure for 2006-07 was higher still than the figure for last year to which he alluded. Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary says that the rise is in keeping with its expectations, following increased proactivity in the area. The police force's work to widen accessibility and confidence includes improved third-party reporting and close working with multicultural associations. We have assisted with funding of local citizens advice bureaux.

I make the serious point that the statistics do not record every racist incident that takes place in Scotland, because not all incidents are reported to the police. An increase in police proactivity in this area is bound to lead to more prosecutions.

I am delighted to share with members the glad news that we have delivered on our promise of 1,000 extra police officers on the streets in Scotland. As at 31 December 2009, there were 17,273 police officers in Scotland, who take seriously their duty to tackle racially motivated crime.

**Bill Aitken** (Glasgow) (Con): Will the minister accept my congratulations on the fact that he succumbed to pressure from the Conservatives to ensure that policing resources were in place?

Does the minister agree that he would be more likely to reassure Mr Hume and the rest of us in the Parliament, who are genuinely worried about the incidence of race-related crime, if he did not follow his Government's stupid, futile and downright irresponsible policy on the inhibition of six-month jail sentences? Accordingly, will he accept that the Justice Committee, in its infinite wisdom, was quite correct to change that measure in the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Bill?

**Fergus Ewing:** Bill Aitken started well, but he tailed off rather badly.

The incidence of racist crime is a very serious matter. The Scottish picture is slightly different, in that the number of incidents has decreased for the second year in a row—modestly, but significantly.

The Crown Office takes an extremely serious attitude to all crimes involving prejudice. These are extremely serious matters, which I am sure command a cross-party consensus in the Parliament.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-10/sor0505-02.htm#Col26021>

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

**OSCE and Organization of the Islamic Conference need to work together to battle Islamophobia, says OIC leader**

<http://www.osce.org/item/43760.html>

## **News**

**Griffin's future in doubt as BNP campaign implodes**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/griffins-future-in-doubt-as-bnp-campaign-implodes-1968206.html>

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## **General Election**

### **Results**

**Full General Election results**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/election2010/results/>

**Full Council Election results (England)**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/nol/shared/election2010/council/html/region\\_99999.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/nol/shared/election2010/council/html/region_99999.stm)

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## **New Publications**

**Charities in financial Difficulties**

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=57dbac19-f799-4513-8e6e-53b5c0675fbd>

**Resilience in Scottish Charities**

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=ae614f30-5ba6-4d21-b80e-039678c609f8>

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## **Other News**

**A gypsy dance around the law**

[http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest\\_contributors/article7120488.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest_contributors/article7120488.ece)

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## Bills in Progress \*\* New or updated this week

### Holyrood

#### Draft Census Order

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2010/draft/pdf/sdsi\\_9780111008379\\_en.pdf](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2010/draft/pdf/sdsi_9780111008379_en.pdf)

#### End of Life Assistance Bill

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

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

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

Finance Committee consideration of Stage 2 amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/finance/or-10/fi10-1202.htm#Col2201>

Bill as amended at Stage 2

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/39-SPCC/b39as3-stage2-amend.pdf>

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## Consultations (closing date)

\*\* new or updated this week

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

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

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

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

**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/>

\*\* **Taking Talent to the Top: online survey for professionals** (no closing date given)

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/183/272/Survey-for-professionals.html>

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## Job Opportunities

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

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## Funding Opportunities

\*\* New or updated this week

### **\*\* Community Chest**

Deadline for applications 30 June 2010

The Community Chest small grant programme provides grants of up to £1,000 and free training to help small community groups in Scotland sustain and develop their activities. For information see [http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/5,40/grants/communt\\_y\\_chest/](http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/5,40/grants/communt_y_chest/)

**Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland**, one of Scotland's leading charitable organisations, has announced the reopening of its grant-making programme and is inviting charities to apply for funding from the £2 million available for 2010. This year's main grant programme will be named 'The Henry Duncan Awards' in honour of the Reverend Henry Duncan who founded the first Trustee Savings Bank – which ultimately led to the establishment of the Foundation – 200 years ago this year.

There will be three application rounds in 2010 closing on 24 May, 19 July, and 13 September.

### **Henry Duncan Awards**

For information see <http://www.itsbfoundationforscotland.org.uk/index.asp?tm=31>

### **Capacity Building Grants**

For information see <http://www.itsbfoundationforscotland.org.uk/index.asp?tm=27>

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## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* New or updated this week

### **\*\* Making Integration Count: Local Gateways to Citizenship**

19 May 2010 online (4.00 – 5.00)

Cities of Migration “webinar” that looks at how new gateway cities are helping transform the immigrant experience of dislocation and exclusion into a celebration of new community where everyone counts -and is counted. For information see <http://citiesofmigration.ca/integration-learning-exchange/calendar/lang/en/>

### **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>

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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

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>

### **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/>

**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>



## Useful Links (continued)

**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/>