

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

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Asylum Seekers (Detention of Children)

Anne McLaughlin (Glasgow) (SNP): To ask the First Minister what discussions have taken place between the Scottish Government and the United Kingdom Government regarding the detention of children of asylum seekers. (S3F-2482)

Reply from the First Minister (Alex Salmond): Over the past three years, we have made repeated representations to the United Kingdom Government on the detention of children. We welcomed the proposed ending of detention at Dungavel. We are opposed to detaining children anywhere in the United Kingdom, but we welcome the review of the detention of children that the UK Government announced last month and its recognition that there is a serious problem. We are clear that it is unacceptable for children to be detained anywhere in the UK and have offered whatever assistance we can provide to the UK Government to enable it to bring forward its intended policy.

Anne McLaughlin: One of my constituents is 10-year-old Precious Mhango, who has twice been detained. The experience had an horrific effect on her emotional and physical wellbeing, as I witnessed first hand when I visited her in Dungavel last year. However, when she was transferred to Yarl's Wood, the deterioration in her health was dramatic.

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

It resulted from the fact that she and her mother were completely isolated from their close-knit group of friends and supporters. Those supporters will continue to fight for Precious and her mother, but no one can guarantee that they will not be detained again. The only difference is that, this time, Precious would leave St Maria Goretti primary school at 3 pm and be in Bedfordshire by nightfall, with no warning. Does the First Minister agree that, however well intentioned the change, that situation is just wrong?

Reply from the First Minister: I agree. I share the member's concerns about the transfer of children from Scotland to Yarl's Wood. The welfare of children should be the Parliament's paramount concern. Locking up children in England rather than in Dungavel does not solve the problem; indeed, it could be argued that it compounds problems for children. We have expressed our concerns to the Home Office. The Minister for Culture and External Affairs has written to Damian Green, the UK Minister of State for Immigration, to request that the Home Office review the case of Precious Mhango and her mother Florence. There is a huge consensus across Scottish society on that point. The case should be reviewed.

Hugh O'Donnell (Central Scotland) (LD): Will the First Minister clarify what contingency plans the Scottish Government has in place to deal with the responsibilities that it has in relation to such young people's health, education and general wellbeing when they are returned to mainstream society in Scotland?

Reply from the First Minister: I point out that when those children have been in mainstream society in Scotland they have been well looked after by a combination of Government and local authority agencies throughout the country. The problem exists not when families are outside detention centres but when they are inside detention centres.

Of course, the prospect of being taken to a detention centre understandably provokes uncertainty and anxiety in families. Whatever the particular anxiety is in the case that Anne McLaughlin raised, which I absolutely share with her, I want to respect the moves that the UK Government is making to end a situation that I hope that all parties in the Parliament regard as unacceptable.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-10/sor0617-02.htm#Col27454>

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-6609 Bill Wilson: Tackling Traffickers and Helping Trafficked People—That the Parliament welcomes the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group report, *Wrong kind of victim? One year on: an analysis of UK measures to protect trafficked persons*; is dismayed that it found that the UK Government has yet to satisfactorily implement the entirety of its obligations under the Council of Europe's *Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings*, that the National Referral Mechanism is apparently failing to meet the needs of people who have suffered abuse and trauma and that the system has not facilitated prosecutions and bypasses the UK's framework to safeguard children; congratulates Strathclyde Police and Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary, however, on the report's statement that participants had highlighted the fact that these forces had made good progress on addressing trafficking, and calls on the relevant institutions in the UK to share best practice and implement all the report's recommendations as soon as possible.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=19337>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) Westminster Debate

Alternatives to Child Detention

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100617/halltext/100617h0001.htm#100617120000001>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration Controls

Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many annual allocations of certificates of sponsorship were requested by employers for the second year of the points-based system in respect of (a) Tier Two general and (b) Tier Two ICT. [1983]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is unable to provide the information requested. The annual renewal date for allocation of certificates of sponsorship is linked to the date an individual sponsor was granted a licence and is different for each sponsor.

Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were granted permission (a) in-country and (b) overseas to work in the UK under each category of Tier One and Tier Two of the points-based system in 2009; and how many associated dependants there were of people in each category. [1984]

Reply from Damian Green [holding answer 14 June 2010]: The available information relates to Tier 1 and Tier 2 visas issued overseas to main applicants and their dependants and in-country grants of leave to remain to Tier 1 and Tier 2 main applicants. This information is published in Tables 1.1 and 4.1 in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, January-March 2010 which is available in the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

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

Statistics on in-country grants of leave to remain to dependants for 2009 are due to be published on 26 August in the April-June 2010 Quarterly Statistical Summary.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100616/text/100616w003.htm#10061695000015>

Immigration Controls

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to decide the level at which the cap on non-EU economic migrants to the United Kingdom will be set. [1674]

Reply from Damian Green: We believe that immigration is too high and needs to be brought under control. An annual limit on economic migration from outside the EU is part of a package to deliver this.

We will hold a short and focused consultation with business and other interested sectors before taking the final decision on both the implementation mechanisms for the limit and the level at which it should be set.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100617/text/100617w0015.htm#100617140000009>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Married People

Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any language requirements apply to migrant spouses from other EU countries seeking to settle in the UK. [2537]

Reply from Damian Green: On 9 June, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced a new language requirement for those seeking entry to the UK as either a spouse or civil partner, fiancé or proposed civil partner, unmarried partner or same sex partner of a British citizen or someone who is present and settled in the UK.

The new language requirement will not apply to spouses of European economic area nationals or spouses who are European economic area nationals applying for the right to reside under the EU free movement directive. Spouses of EEA nationals and spouses who are European economic area nationals are required to demonstrate knowledge of English language and life in the UK if they apply for British citizenship.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100616/text/100616w0004.htm#10061695000018>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

David Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visas have been issued to (a) EU and (b) non-EU students in academic year 2009-10. [2952]

Reply from Damian Green: Under the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006, EEA nationals and their family members have the right of free movement within the territory of EEA member states. They may therefore come to the UK to seek work, take up employment or study without applying for Leave to Enter. No student visas are therefore issued to EEA nationals.

The total number of student visas issued to non-EEA nationals in the Financial Year 2009-10 was 288,010. This figure is based on the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summaries which have been published on the UK Border Agency's website,

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

Most non-EEA nationals who were issued with visas in 2009 in order to study in the UK in the current academic year would have been issued with visas during the summer months, and would therefore be included in the total for the financial year given above.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100617/text/100617w0015.htm#100617140000005>

Immigration Cases: Appeals

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, at what proportion of general immigration cases the Secretary of State has not been represented at appeal stage in the last 12 months; and what steps the UK Border Agency takes to protect children in such cases. [1472]

Reply from Damian Green: The representation rate at all appeals heard in country The representation rate at all appeals heard in country is currently 69% up to June 2010.

We can identify certain types of appeal case involving children from our database e.g. unaccompanied asylum seeking children. We are not able to identify from the database all types of cases. We aim to represent the Secretary of State at all asylum cases and usually achieve between 90-95% representation rate.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 requires the Home Secretary to make arrangements to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. To this end statutory guidance has been issued to UKBA staff on how to apply this duty and training on identifying child welfare and protection issues is provided for staff whose work involves decisions that affect children.

UKBA has appointed a Children's Champion who is responsible for advising the Chief Executive and UKBA Board on all issues to do with child welfare and child protection.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100617/text/100617w0015.htm#100617140000008>

Asylum: Children

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unaccompanied child asylum seekers were deported to each destination from the UK in each month over the last five years. [2630]

Reply from Damian Green: Our statistics do not record the number of unaccompanied children removed separately from the number of children removed as part of a family group. The number of unaccompanied children removed is, however, very small and generally confined to those returned to EU countries under Dublin convention procedures or the few that can be returned direct to their parents.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government plans to review arrangements for the removal of unaccompanied child asylum seekers from the UK. [2631]

Reply from Damian Green: We are looking to expand the reintegration assistance we make available to adult returnees who we remove to Afghanistan, in order to make it suitable for a limited number of males aged 16 or 17. This should result in some of this age group being returned but this will depend on individual assessments of their circumstances.

We are constantly monitoring the range of assistance available for returnees to a variety of countries. In respect of young people under 18, our preference is to return them direct to their parents. Only when that is not possible do we need to look to provide interim assistance on return while onward passage to parents or family is arranged.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100616/text/100616w0002.htm#10061695000007>

Detention Centres: Children

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were detained in the course of immigration proceedings in (a) 1997 and (b) the most recent year for which figures are available. [2879]

Reply from Damian Green: The requested information is not available. The published statistics on persons detained as at specific dates in 1997 related to asylum applicants only and did not separately identify children.

The latest published statistics show there were 30 people detained solely under Immigration Act powers recorded as being less than 18 years of age as at 31 March 2010. In 2009, 1,065 children entered detention solely under Immigration Act powers; this information was published for the first time in 2009.

This information relating to 2010 is available in tables 3.5 to 3.8 of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, January to March 2010 and the information relating to 2009 is available in table 9.2 of the Control of

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, October to December 2009 available in the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

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

I recently announced a review into the detention of children for asylum purposes so it can be brought to an end this summer. We have already ended the overnight detention of children at Dungavel.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100617/text/100617w0015.htm#100617140000004>

Immigration: Detention

Lord Dubs: To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will complete the review of detention of children in the asylum system.[HL351]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): In response to the Government's commitment to end the detention of children for immigration purposes, the UK Border Agency is undertaking a review and will be engaging with a range of experts and organisations. The review began its work on 1 June and aims to be ready to report in July.

Lord Dubs: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the detention of children for immigration purposes has ceased; if not, how many children are being detained; and in which centres.[HL356]

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: The Minister for Immigration recently announced a review into the detention of children for asylum purposes so that it can be brought to an end this summer. While the review is taking place, the current policies will continue and this means that sometimes families with children will be detained.

The UK Border Agency's own management information indicates that on today's date the number of children detained solely under Immigration Act powers was five and that these were part of three families.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100617w0001.htm#100617117000154>

Illegal Immigrants

Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the number of illegal migrants in the UK; what recent research she has evaluated on this subject; and if she will make a statement. [159]

Reply from Damian Green: It is not possible to accurately quantify the number of illegal immigrants in the UK as some will deliberately evade immigration control to enter and stay in the country illegally.

I am aware of research by the London School of Economics (LSE) in May 2009 which gave a central estimate for the total irregular migrant population in the UK as at the end of 2007 of 618,000 (1.0% of UK population) within a range of 417,000 to 863,000. Estimating methodologies vary and I have noted that the LSE 2007 estimate used the estimate prepared from April 2001 census figures which gave a central figure of 430,000 (0.7% of UK population within a range of 310,000 to 570,000) as its starting point and then added further assumptions. For example it included estimates for the UK-born children of irregular migrants which were not included in the original report.

The LSE report is available to view at:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/LSELondon/pdf/irregular%20migrants%20full%20report.pdf> and a copy of the Home Office Research Development and Statistics

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

report (29/05) "Sizing the unauthorised (illegal) migrant population in the United Kingdom in 2001" can be found at:

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/rdsolr2905.pdf>

The wider immigration programme, contained in "The Coalition: our programme for government" published on 20 May, includes a commitment to support e-Borders and re-introduce entry and exit checks.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100616/text/100616w0003.htm#10061695000014>

Immigration: Detention

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many migrants who cannot be returned to their countries of origin are being held in detention centres; and what is the purpose of so doing.[HL62]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones):

Detention may be used in the following circumstances:

initially, to establish a person's identity and claim; where there are reasonable grounds for believing that a person will fail to comply with the conditions of temporary admission or release; where the application is capable of being considered quickly; or to effect removal.

There is no country to which the UK Border Agency does not as a matter of policy return individuals. We may, however, suspend enforced removals to a country.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum, including those on the number of persons in detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers, are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100614w0002.htm#1006144000774>

Press Release

Combatting trafficking a key priority

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/trafficking-a-priority>

News

Review of child detention launched in Glasgow

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/10309237.stm

New review into asylum seeker system announced

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/new-review-into-asylum-seeker-system-announced-1.1034847>

Scotland leads way as 'inhumane' asylum system is overhauled

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Scotland-leads-way-as-39inhumane39.6361641.jp>

Fight goes on to keep Precious in Scotland

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/fight-goes-on-to-keep-precious-in-scotland-1.1035047>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Salmond says Westminster must review Precious deportation case

<http://www.heraldsotland.com/news/politics/salmond-says-westminster-must-review-precious-deportation-case-1.1035618>

First Minister urges review of family's deportation case

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/First-Minister-urges-review-of.6370132.jp>

Translations soar for Polish patients

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/Translations-soar-for-Polish-patients.6372631.jp>

Asylum seekers find most British welcoming

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-find-most-british-welcoming-1999957.html>

Asylum-seekers left without legal advice as Government faces demand to pay up

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylumseekers-left-without-legal-advice-as-government-faces-demand-to-pay-up-2004772.html>

Asylum seeker mistreatment claims denied

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seeker-mistreatment-claims-denied-2004537.html>

Mohammad Razai: from child Afghan asylum seeker to Cambridge undergraduate

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/jun/20/mohammad-razai-afghanistan-asylum-seekers>

Refugees' perspectives on Britishness

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/libertycentral/2010/jun/18/refugees-perspectives-britishness-peoples-panel>

It's not just asylum seekers who need to make a case for legal aid

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/libertycentral/2010/jun/17/refugee-migrant-justice-asylum-seekers>

Denying child asylum seekers a legal lifeline

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2010/jun/16/child-asylum-seekers-legal-aid>

The asylum seekers who survive on £10 a week

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/jun/16/asylum-seekers-survive-on-streets>

We must extend the rights of asylum seekers in the modern world

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/libertycentral/2010/jun/15/extend-asylum-seekers-rights>

Suspicion of migrants is deep-rooted – but not fixed

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/libertycentral/2010/jun/14/migrants-suspicion>

Being with your foreign spouse is a right, not a privilege

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/jun/14/foreign-spouse-language-tests-immigration-system>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Asylum seekers' survey reveals most find UK 'welcoming'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/jun/14/refugees-asylum-survey-uk>

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Equality

Press Releases

Diane Abbott heads up new cross-party race equality group

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/PressReleases/APPGstoryJune2010.pdf>

Communities minister celebrates equalities scheme (England and Wales)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1615424>

Freedom and unity defines a world without prejudice say Britain's youth

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/2010/june/freedom-and-unity-defines-a-world-without-prejudice-say-britain-8217-s-youth/>

New publications

Local Authorities and Race Equality

<http://www.bemis.org.uk/PDF/PDF%20BEMIS%20Council%20Report%5B2%5D.pdf>

Equality Groups in Glasgow: Horizon Scanning and Community Consultation

<http://glasgowwomensnetwork.files.wordpress.com/2010/06/final-report-april-2010-equality-groups-in-glasgow-horizon-scanning-and-community-consultation.doc>

The **Scottish Government Race Equality Statement** sets out the Government's priorities for race equality work to 2011, and was developed through an extensive consultation process with minority ethnic communities in Scotland.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1137/0075231.doc>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Justice

Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-33689 answered by Fergus Ewing on 27 May 2010, how many racist incidents were recorded in the Grampian Police force area in (a) 2007-08 and (b) 2008-09, broken down by ethnic origin of the victim, as per table 8 of Racist incidents by ethnic group of victim, 2007-08 and 2008-09 statistical bulletin. (S3W-34240)

Reply from Fergus Ewing: The following table shows the number of racist incidents recorded by Grampian police force, broken down by ethnic group of victim.

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Racist Incidents Recorded by Grampian Police, by Ethnic Group of Victim, 2007-08 and 2008-09

Ethnic Group	2007-08	2008-09
White British	76	120
White Irish	*	5
Other White	48	89
Mixed	22	21
Indian	50	85
Pakistani	31	48
Bangladeshi	11	15
Other Asian	21	40
Caribbean	6	18
African	55	99
Other Black	8	6
Chinese	20	6
Other	17	36
Not known/declared	21	16
Unknown	*	45
All ethnic groups ¹	390	649

Notes:

*Data suppressed as potentially disclosive.

1. Note that totals may not equal the sum of their constituent parts due to the suppressed cells.

The increase of racist incidents in the Grampian area reflects a number of successful specific campaigns and initiatives run by Grampian Police to improve the reporting of these incidents. Grampian Police believe they have succeeded in "raising the confidence of our communities to approach us and report instances of hate".

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-34240>

New publication

Aspiration and Frustration

<http://www.bitc.org.uk/document.rm?id=11535>

News

Racism at work 'still rife'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Racism-at-work-39still-rife39.6364005.jp>

'Blatant racism' puts one in four ethnic minorities off top careers

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/jobs/7827779/Blatant-racism-puts-one-in-four-ethnic-minorities-off-top-careers.html>

Attacks on English a disgrace to north-east

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1786002>

Anti-English incidents on the rise

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1786265>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Forced Marriage

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of forced marriages which occurred in (a) Lancashire and (b) England in each of the last five years. [1036]

Reply from Jeremy Browne: Due to the underground nature of forced marriage it is very difficult to estimate the scale of this practice in the UK and it is therefore likely that many cases go unreported.

The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU), a joint unit of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Home Office, was established in 2005 as the 'one-stop shop' for dealing with forced marriage policy, outreach and casework. It operates both inside the UK, where support is provided to any individual, and overseas, where consular assistance is provided to British nationals, including dual nationals.

The FMU collects data on (i) the number of reports it receives relating to possible forced marriages and (ii) the number of cases where the FMU provides direct support to a victim in the UK or overseas. Data on the number of reports made to the FMU relating to possible forced marriages were not collected prior to 2008. Data collected since then are recorded by UK region (where this is known) and are not broken down further. Data on the number of cases where the FMU provided direct support are available from 2005. Details are as follows:

Reports to the FMU relating to possible forced marriage

- In 2008: 1,618 total reports across the UK. Of these, 1,252 reports were from England (where the region was known) and 197 of these reports originated from the north-west of England (where the region was known).
- In 2009: 1,682 total reports across the UK. Of these, 1,200 reports were from England (where the region was known) and 210 originated from the north-west of England (where the region was known).

Cases where the FMU gave direct support to victims of forced marriage in the UK or overseas

- In 2009: 377 cases, including both assistance and immigration cases.
- In 2008: 430 cases, including both assistance and immigration cases.
- In 2007: 262 cases, including both assistance and immigration cases.
- In 2006: 197 cases, including both assistance and immigration cases.
- In 2005: 152 cases, including both assistance and immigration cases.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100614/text/100614w0009.htm#10061411000010>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Travellers: Caravan Sites

James Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to withdraw ODPM 01/06 instructing planning inspectors to presume in favour of otherwise illegal gypsy encampments. [1912]

Reply from Andrew Stunell: In the Coalition Agreement the Government stated that they will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development. An announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy will be made in due course.

The Secretary of State wrote to all local authority chief planners prior to the Whitsun bank holiday weekend to remind them of the potential risks of unauthorised development and to draw their attention to the existing enforcement powers at their disposal to deal with such breaches of planning control.

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to prevent the use of the retrospective planning application process in relation to unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller sites. [2324]

Reply from Andrew Stunell: The new Government are working on proposals to strengthen the powers that local authorities have to enforce against breaches of planning control and to limit the opportunities for retrospective planning applications in relation to any form of unauthorised development.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100614/text/100614w0012.htm#10061417000025>

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New Publication

16+ Learning Choices Policy and Practice Framework

http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/B63770%20-%20Policy%20and%20Practice%20Framework%20Draft_tcm4-598953.pdf

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Other News

Imams urged to condemn domestic abuse

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/imams-urged-to-condemn-domestic-abuse-1.1036028>

Inside the Muslim Eton: 20 hour days starting at 3.45am with the aim of producing Muslim elite of leaders

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1288053/Inside-Muslim-Eton-Their-day-starts-3-45am-goes-disciplined-20-hours-Their-aim-produce-Muslim-elite-leaders-.html>

Gypsies prepare to fight government housing policy

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/jun/08/gypsy-traveller-housing-government-backlash>

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Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/46-ComVic/index.htm>

**** End of Life Assistance Bill**

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

Summary of written evidence

(pp16-22) <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/endLifeAsstBill/papers-10/elap10-03.pdf>

Palliative Care Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/50-PalliativeCare/index.htm>

Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc. Bill

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

Bills in Progress Westminster

House of Lords Reform Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/houseoflordsreformhl.html>

Identity Documents Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/identitydocuments.html>

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Consultations (closing date)

** new or updated this week

Draft National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (17 September 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/313390/0099355.pdf>

**** Review into ending the detention of children for immigration purposes** (1 July 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/26-end-child-detention/terms-of-reference.pdf?view=Binary>

**** Identity Documents Bill** (Committee consideration to be completed by 8 July)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2010/06/identity-documents-bill-committee-issues-call-for-evidence/>

**** Equality Act: obtaining information in potential discrimination and equality of term cases** (closes 13 July 2010)

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/news/new_streamlined_procedure_for.aspx

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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

Show Racism the Red Card Intercultural Summer Camp

5-10 July 2010 in Co Donegal, Ireland

Summer camp for young people between the ages of 11 and 16 to enable them to acknowledge diversity whether it is cultural, linguistic, religious or other and to explore differences in a positive way, break down social barriers, which may prevent positive interaction, and empower young people by enhancing their communication skills and allowing them to engage in community building exercises. For information see http://www.theredcard.ie/camp/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1&Itemid=3

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

22 July 2010 in Glasgow

26 August 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=87>

**** Certificate in Equality and Diversity Practice**

Glasgow University

Applications must be submitted by mid-August, course begins September 2010

This new one day/week work-based programme has been developed in partnership with BEMIS and Glasgow Works and other partners, who are key players within the field of equality and diversity practice. Recognising current developments in legislation and social policy, the programme provides a solid foundation of theoretical understanding and practice methodologies in relation to equality and diversity issues. For information see

http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/10vi_bemis_gu.pdf

or contact Liz Docherty 0141 330 1812 / e.hodge@educ.gla.ac.uk or Tanveer Parnez 0141 548 8047 / tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk

Third Sector Research Conference

15 October 2010 in Edinburgh

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

The needs and experiences of refugee women

22 October 2010 in Glasgow

Guest speaker: Kirsty Thomson, Solicitor, Women and Children's Department at Legal Services Agency. 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>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Judge a book by its cover? Not me!**

3 November 2010 in Inverness (9.30 – 12.30)

SCVO training course to find out more about the processes of stereotyping, and how misinformed judgements can lead to prejudice and discrimination. For more information contact Jane Baillie jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 8019.

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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/>

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/>