

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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The Scottish Parliament is now in recess until 5 September 2010. During the summer recess MEMO will be issued fortnightly on 2, 16, and 30 August, and 13 September, when weekly bulletins will resume.

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Immigration Rules

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): On 28 June 2010 the Home Secretary set out our proposals for an annual limit on the number of non-EU economic migrants admitted into the UK to live and work, including an interim limit for the tier 1 (general) and tier 2 (general) categories of the points-based-system.

On the same date we laid a Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules (HC 59) to implement the interim limit for the tier 1 (general) category, the category for highly skilled workers who do not require a job offer before coming to the UK.

In the case of tier 2 (general), the category for sponsored skilled workers with a job offer, the interim limit will be applied by limiting the number of certificates of sponsorship which licensed tier 2 (general) sponsors are authorised to issue. We previously considered that this does not require changes to the immigration rules. However, subsequent legal decisions have made the position less clear. For the avoidance of doubt, I am laying

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

changes today which make explicit provision for the Secretary of State to limit both the number of certificates of sponsorship that may be assigned to points based system sponsors overall during any particular period, and the number of certificates of sponsorship that may be assigned to individual sponsors.

As the Home Secretary set out in her statement on 28 June 2010, the total number of certificates of sponsorship that sponsors are authorised to issue under tier 2 (general) will be set at a level that achieves a reduction of 1,300 in the number of migrants admitted under this category in the equivalent period a year previously. The tier 2 interim limit will not apply to intra-company transferees, ministers of religion or to elite sportspeople, nor will it apply to dependants of tier 2 migrants.

The UK Border Agency's sponsor management team has already contacted sponsors in connection with the implementation of this interim limit, and will be writing to each sponsor individually to advise them of how the interim limit affects their allocation of certificates of sponsorship.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100715/wmstext/100715m0001.htm#10071517000025>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many pages of guidance the UK Border Agency has issued to licensed sponsors in the last 24 months; [5120]

(2) how many institutions have had their licences revoked since the roll-out of tier 4 of the points-based immigration system; and how many of these were (a) Highly Trusted Sponsors, (b) accredited by the British Council and (c) inspected by Ofsted. [5121]

Reply from Damian Green: In the last two years the UK Border Agency has issued 1,501 pages of guidance to licensed sponsors covering tiers 2, 4 and 5. This will include reissue of guidance on specific tiers. At present the tier 2 and 5 guidance stands at 83 pages and the tier 4 guidance at 70 pages.

As at 30 June 2010, 47 sponsors have had their tier 4 licence revoked since 31 March 2009. Of these none held a Highly Trusted Sponsor licence, five were accredited by the British Council and none was inspected by Ofsted.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal migrants identified in the last 12 months, who initially entered the UK through the student visa system, had been sponsored by Highly Trusted Sponsors. [5123]

Reply from Damian Green: The number of illegal migrants identified in the last 12 months, who initially entered through the student visa system and who are now being sponsored by a Highly Trusted Sponsor is nil. The Highly Trusted Sponsor scheme came into force on 6 April 2010.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100712/text/100712w0004.htm#10071245000042>

EU: Migrant Workers

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will produce information packs in European languages about life in the United Kingdom, to be made available to prospective migrant workers in the European Union. [HL615]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): There are no plans to produce any information packs for prospective migrant workers from the European Union.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100706w0001.htm#10070639000323>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Work Permits

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued in 2009; and how much revenue her Department obtained as a result. [6904]

Reply from Damian Green: In 2009, there were 9,985 work permits issued and the revenue generated was £883,300. The work permit scheme closed for new applications in November 2008 and was replaced by Tiers 2 and 5 of the Points Based System. Under these Tiers, licensed sponsors issue Certificates of Sponsorship (CoS) not work permits. Sponsors pay UKBA a fee for each CoS they issue. In 2009, sponsors issued 54,630 Certificates of Sponsorship under Tier 2 and the total revenue was £11,429,100.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100713/text/100713w0002.htm#10071348000017>

Worker Registration Scheme

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether nationals of the A8 countries will enjoy the same freedoms and rights in the United Kingdom as other European Union nationals after the end of the worker registration scheme on 30 April 2011.[HL98]

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether nationals of the A2 countries will enjoy the same freedoms and rights in the United Kingdom as other European Union nationals after the end of the worker registration scheme on 31 December 2011.[HL99]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): Under the terms of the accession treaty, transitional measures relating to labour market access for nationals of member states that acceded on one May 2004 must end by 30 April 2011. The worker registration scheme must cease to apply to nationals of those countries from that date. When the scheme ends they will enjoy the same rights as other European Union nationals in terms of their freedom to take employment in the United Kingdom. Nationals of Bulgaria and Romania are not subject to the worker registration scheme and are instead subject to separate work authorisation requirements. These restrictions will continue until 31 December 2011, and under EU law may, in the event of a serious disturbance to the labour market, be extended until 31 December 2013. The Government will apply transitional controls as a matter of course in the future for all new EU member states.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100705w0001.htm#10070516000812>

Immigration Controls

Wayne David: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for an annual limit on the number of immigrants to the UK. [4924]

Reply from Damian Green: On 28 June the Government launched a 12 week consultation with businesses and other interested sectors on our plans for implementing annual limits on non-EU economic migration. At the same time, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary commissioned the independent Migration Advisory Committee to advise the Government on the level at which the first annual limit should be set. In order to prevent a surge of applications while we consult, we introduced an interim limit on the General routes of Tiers one and two of the Points Based System and raised the pass mark for all new Tier one (General) applicants to ensure that those coming through the route are the most valuable to the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100705/text/100705w0003.htm#10070539000017>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration Controls: English Language

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the UK Border Agency plans to take to publicise the new English language requirement for those making immigration applications as spouses and partners. [4799]

Reply from Damian Green: On 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 11WS, 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(e) 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 announcement on 9 June received extensive publicity both in the UK and overseas. Information about the new policy for those making immigration applications is currently available on the UK Border Agency website. A further publicity campaign is planned.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100712/text/100712w0004.htm#10071245000043>

Visas

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will consider seeking authorisation from the European Commission to extend the transitional arrangements for visa restrictions on Bulgarians and Romanians for two years beyond 2011 because of recent changes in unemployment in the United Kingdom, particularly amongst young people, and long-term patterns in the labour market.[HL729]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The United Kingdom may, under the terms of the accession treaty, extend the labour market restrictions currently applied to nationals of Bulgaria and Romania beyond 2011 until the end of 2013, in the event of a serious disturbance to the labour market. The Government will assess the labour market case for extending the restrictions during the course of next year and notify the European Commission if it decides to extend the restrictions.

The Government will apply transitional controls as a matter of course in the future for all new EU member states.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100705w0001.htm#10070516000811>

Entry Clearances: Married People

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the proposed cap on immigration will include those applying for spouse visas. [5828]

Reply from Damian Green: The proposed limit announced by the Home Secretary on 28 June applies to economic migration routes only-Tier one and Tier two of the Points-Based System. We are consulting on whether the dependant spouses of Tier one and Tier two migrants should be included in the limit. The limit will not include those applying for other spouse visas, although we intend to review all other immigration routes in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100706/text/100706w0003.htm#10070657000084>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration Controls: English Language

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what documents people making immigration applications as spouses and partners will be required to show to demonstrate that they have reached the A1 standard in the English language (a) in the UK and (b) when applying for entry clearance abroad. [4803]

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(e) or proposed civil partner, unmarried partner or same sex partner of a British citizen or someone who is present and settled in the UK.

Spouses and partners both in the UK and when applying for entry clearance abroad will need to demonstrate competence in English language speaking and listening at a basic level (Common European Framework of Reference, level A1). A spouse or partner will need to provide evidence to the UK Border Agency with their visa application that they have passed an English language test to this standard with one of the UK Border Agency's approved test providers. Details of acceptable qualifications, approved test providers and documentary evidence to be submitted with an application will be published on the UK Border Agency website at the earliest opportunity.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the adequacy of teaching and examination facilities for the English language A1 standard examination for immigration purposes; what discussions she has had on the subject; and if she will make a statement. [4804]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government have received no formal representations on the adequacy of teaching and examination facilities for the A1 standard English language examination for immigration purposes.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100705/text/100705w0003.htm#10070539000018>

Immigration: Applications

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken to process applications for (a) post-study work visas, (b) indefinite leave to remain based on long-term residency, (c) certificate of approval for marriage and (d) leave to remain was in the latest period for which figures are available. [5479]

Reply from Damian Green: The average processing times are as follows:

1. Post-study work visas :
Financial year 2009-10: 37 calendar days
April 2010 to May 2010: 23 calendar days
2. Indefinite leave to remain based on long-term residency :
Financial year 2009-10: 465 calendar days
April 2010 to May 2010: 240 calendar days
3. Certificate of approval :
Financial Year 2009-10: 86 calendar days
April 2010 to May 2010: 99 calendar days
4. Leave to remain (LTR) :

<i>LTR cases by category in calendar days</i>		
	<i>Financial year 2009-10</i>	<i>April 2010 to May 2010</i>
Employment	37	30
Family Route	191	100
Protection	403	252

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Study	78	68
Visiting the UK	121	83
Total LTR	86	64

Notes:

1. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.
2. All data extracts measure applications despatched between two dates.
3. Average Processing Time calculated from application raised date and date despatched.
4. Post-study work visas defined by the following case types: Tier one (T1) Highly Skilled (HS)-UK Graduate Worker (Post Study)-Extension, T1 HS-Post Study-International (Int.), T1 HS-(Revised) Post Study-Int.
5. Indefinite leave to remain (based on long-term residency) defined by the following two case types: Long Residency (10 Year)-ILR, Long Residency (14 Year)-ILR.
6. Certificate of Approval defined by the following case types: Certificate of Approval (Civil Partnership), Certificate of Approval (Marriage).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100707/text/100707w002.htm#10070765000015>

Entry Clearances

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been (a) granted and (b) refused entry clearance into the UK in each year since 1997. [6460]

Reply from Damian Green: The total number of people who have been (a) granted and (b) refused entry clearance in each of the financial years from 2001-02 to 2008-09 can be found in the published annual Entry Clearance Statistics on our website: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas.

Reliable statistics for previous years is not available. The number of people granted and refused entry clearance in FY 2009-10 was 2,015,670 and 444,622, respectively⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ This information is based on Management Information and as such has not been quality assured. It is provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100708/text/100708w001.htm#10070876000069>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a cost-benefit analysis to the UK economy of the presence of overseas students who obtain visas to study at English language schools will be included in her Department's review of the points-based immigration system. [6492]

Reply from Damian Green: As the Home Secretary has indicated, the Government will be reviewing the non-economic immigration routes with a view to bringing forward proposals in due course. I intend to undertake a thorough evaluation of the student system, including English language schools. The aim of that work will be to ensure that the right balance is struck between providing a user-friendly route for bona fide students and education providers and keeping out those who would seek to abuse the student system. The work will also take into account the Government's overall objective to reduce net migration to the tens of thousands by the end of the parliamentary term.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100708/text/100708w001.htm#10070876000070>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas students were awaiting a decision on their application for a visa to study in the UK at the latest date for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [5143]

Reply from Damian Green: Our records show that, as of 31 March 2010, there were 28,610 student visa applicants who were awaiting a decision on their applications.

This information is based on management information and as such has not been quality assured. It is provisional and subject to change.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the terms of reference are of the ministerial review of the points-based immigration system rules applied to visa application forms for overseas students wishing to study in the UK. [5145]

Reply from Damian Green: As the Home Secretary has indicated, the Government will be reviewing the non-economic immigration routes with a view to bringing forward proposals for parliamentary consideration in due course. I intend to undertake a thorough evaluation of the student system. The aim of that work will be to ensure that the right balance is struck between providing a user-friendly route for bona fide students and education providers and keeping out those who would seek to abuse the student system. The work will also take into account the Government's overall objective to reduce net migration to the tens of thousands by the end of the parliamentary term.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100705/text/100705w003.htm#10070539000014>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has (a) commissioned and (b) evaluated on a link between competence in the English language and the likelihood of overstaying following the issue of a student visa. [6235]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government will be reviewing the non-economic immigration routes with a view to bringing forward proposals in due course, and this will include detailed consideration of the student routes. The UK Border Agency has analysed information on levels of abuse based on nationality, and on students not enrolling on courses or discontinuing study as part of tier four review undertaken earlier this year. As tier four of the points-based system was only launched just over a year ago, on 31 March 2009, many of the visas issued under the new student route have not yet expired and consequently no specific research has yet been commissioned or evaluated on the links between overstaying and competence in the English language.

I have asked for a thorough evaluation of the student system to be undertaken in the coming months. The aim of that work will be to ensure that the right balance is struck between providing a user-friendly route for bona fide students and education providers and keeping out those who would seek to abuse the student system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100707/text/100707w002.htm#10070765000013>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Refugee and Migrant Justice

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government how the former clients of Refugee and Migrant Justice will receive continuity of legal advice and representation. [HL878]

Reply from the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is working closely with the administrator and others to ensure that urgent arrangements are made so that clients continue to receive the advice they need. The LSC has experience of handling the transfer of work when a provider leaves the market and is satisfied that there is adequate capacity to absorb the extra workload. Although some initial disruption is unfortunately inevitable, every effort will be made to minimise this. The LSC is making urgent arrangements for other providers to take on RMJ cases that require prompt advice—for example, clients held in detention.

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the ability of other providers of legal services to absorb the caseload of Refugee and Migrant Justice. [HL879]

Reply from Lord McNally: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) has recently run a tender exercise for asylum and immigration contracts from October 2010. There has been significant long-term interest in the work from organisations, both not-for-profit organisations and private solicitor firms.

Ongoing cases for Refugee and Migrant Justice's clients are currently in the process of being reallocated to other immigration providers who can progress their cases. The LSC is also working with immigration providers to ensure continued availability of services for clients detained at immigration removal centres.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100707w0001.htm#10070750000249>

Asylum

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the number of claimants for asylum advised by Refugee and Migrant Justice before it went into administration; and what assessment her Department has made of the effects of that administration on the (a) time taken to complete claims and (b) costs to the public purse of processing the claims of those persons. [8152]

Reply from Damian Green: In each case where the UK Border Agency is notified by an individual applicant's legal representative of their details, these are recorded on our caseworking database. UK Border Agency internal management information shows that, at the beginning of July, Refugee and Migrant Justice (RMJ) were on the database representing more than 10,000 asylum applicants, of which fewer than half are recorded as being active cases. We are waiting to be advised of RMJ's final estimates of numbers of clients by the Legal Services Commission as RMJ's administrators manage the transfer of cases to other representatives. The UK Border Agency, with the Legal Services Commission, is working to ensure prompt access to alternative legal representation for all applicants as well as to ensure that the impact of what has happened to RMJ, in terms of both cost and effect on individual cases, is minimised.

Denis MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funds have been provided to Maxim Bakiyev following his application for asylum in the UK. [7039]

Reply from Damian Green: It is not Home Office policy to comment on individual cases.

Phil Woolas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for the time taken to publish Compass programme contract notices relating to the commissioning of services for asylum seekers. [8266]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Damian Green: The original timetable for the COMPASS programme was to publish the invitation to tender for new asylum accommodation services in the summer of 2010.

Given the recent change of Government and the size of the contracts involved it has been agreed to delay the issue of the formal tender document until new ministers have had the opportunity to review the current plans and the strategy, to ensure best value.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100713/text/100713w0001.htm#10071348000003>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Jones on 28 June (WA 241-2), what is the usual interval between the ending of Section 4 support for persons granted leave to remain as a result of an appeal or change of circumstances and the beginning of normal benefits should the person not be able immediately to find work; and whether they will reduce the interval.[HL917]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): An application for benefits can be made where a person or family on support is given permission to stay. From that point, they are no longer a person subject to immigration control. The support provided under Section 4 is taken into account as income and deducted from any weekly benefit entitlement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100714w0001.htm#10071442000304>

Asylum: Legal Aid and Assistance

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will postpone decisions on applications for asylum in all cases where the applicants were receiving legal aid and assistance from Refugee and Migrant Justice until arrangements have been made for alternative legal aid and assistance to be provided to them; and if she will make a statement. [5086]

Reply from Damian Green: While the UK Border Agency will take every care to ensure that former Refugee and Migrant Justice clients are not unreasonably affected and will treat individual cases sensitively, we are unable to give a blanket assurance that no adverse immigration decisions will be taken on their former clients until a new legal representative has been appointed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100707/text/100707w0002.htm#10070765000007>

Refugee and Migrant Justice

Lord Jones of Cheltenham: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that migrants have access to justice following the closure of Refugee and Migrant Justice.[HL926]

Reply from the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is working closely with the administrator and others to ensure that urgent arrangements are made so that clients continue to receive the advice they need. The LSC has experience of handling the transfer of work when a provider leaves the market and is satisfied that there is adequate capacity to absorb the extra workload. Although some initial disruption is unfortunately inevitable, every effort will be made to minimise this. The LSC is making urgent arrangements for other providers to take on RMJ cases that require prompt advice; for example, clients held in detention.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Jones of Cheltenham: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the cost to public funds of the closure of Refugee and Migrant Justice.[HL927]

Reply from Lord McNally: Where any provider ceases to have a legal aid contract for whatever reason, the LSC will make an assessment of any potential financial issues in the individual circumstances. This will include payments on account made, claims to be billed and whether, for example, the provider will be continuing to conclude cases for existing clients.

The LSC is working closely with the administrators and others to ensure that urgent arrangements are made so that clients continue to receive a good quality service and that cases are transferred to other providers where necessary. The LSC has agreed payment of £280,000 for the work to transfer RMJ clients' files. The LSC is also working with the administrators to confirm the correct payments to be made to RMJ. This assessment will take several weeks to be concluded. In the mean time, they have agreed an advance payment of £70,000 against any payment for work in progress, plus a contingency of £20,000 for this work.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100708w0001.htm#10070870000381>

Asylum: Children

Phil Woolas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department plans to publish its response to the consultation on unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. [8268]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government last issued a consultation paper regarding unaccompanied asylum seeking children in February 2007: 'Planning Better Outcomes and Support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children'. A formal response was published in January 2008 entitled 'Better Outcomes: The Way Forward-Improving the Care of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children'.

Although not pursuing a formal consultation, the UK Border Agency is in regular and frequent discussion with its partners on improvements to policy and process around dealing with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. For example, a number of children's charities and refugee groups have recently been asked to review proposed amendments to the Processing an Asylum Application from a Child instruction to reflect changes in policy to remove some unaccompanied children to their country of origin where adequate reception arrangements are in place. In circumstances like this, comments and recommendations from partners will be factored into the revised instruction rather than being the subject of a formal response to consultation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100713/text/100713w0001.htm#10071348000004>

Asylum: Detainees

Phil Woolas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what alternatives to the detention of families whose asylum applications have been rejected her Department is considering. [8265]

Reply from Damian Green: I recently announced a review into the detention of children for asylum purposes so it can be brought to an end. The terms of reference of the review included a requirement to consider how the detention of children for immigration purposes will be ended and how a new family removals model can be established which protects the welfare of children and ensures the return of those who have no right to be in the UK. This will involve options based on keeping families with children in the community and these are now being considered in draft form by the Departments concerned and by me.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100713/text/100713w0001.htm#10071348000005>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

People Trafficking

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government who is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of procedures for identifying trafficked adults and children.[HL588]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The UK signed the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in March 2007, ratified it in December 2008, and implemented it from 1 April 2009. At the centre of the convention is a duty to meet minimum standards concerning the identification and protection of victims of trafficking called the national referral mechanism (NRM). To meet this obligation a government-led, multi-agency framework was created to help identify and support victims.

The coalition Government are currently reviewing monitoring arrangements. The responsible Minister of State in the Home Office has offered to write to the noble Lord when the review is complete.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100712w0001.htm#10071230000819>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Peter Borttomly (495) Entry clearance and appeal delay - That this House believes that in particular cases, such as the request for a family visit by the overseas mother of a woman in Britain who had a complex premature birth of a second child, and whose husband works long hours at moderate pay, a delay of over 10 weeks before there is further information on the appeal against the refusal of a visa is inappropriate; and further believes it to be right for Entry Clearance to be granted without delay in such a case.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=41448&SESSION=905>

Press Releases

Changes to Tier 4 policy guidance

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/29-t4-policy-changes>

Settlement protection for refugees

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/july/28settlement_protection

New fee for the reconsideration of naturalisation and citizenship applications

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/30-reconsideration-fee>

New publications

Scottish Refugee Council Strategic Plan 2010-2013

18http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/Strategic_plan_2010_

What is Fresh Talent?

<http://www.scotlandistheplace.com/stitp/files/WhatIsFreshTalentNew.pdf>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **News**

Can EU law protect asylum seekers in these straitened times?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2010/jul/14/eu-law-asylum-seekers-austerity>

Gatwick deportation centre 'not safe'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/jul/12/gatwick-deportation-centre-conditions>

Detainees bully staff at 'unsafe' asylum centre

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/detainees-bully-staff-at-unsafe-asylum-centre-2024381.html>

Cap on skilled immigrants may hit recovery, businesses warn

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/jul/18/immigration-cap-warning-business>

Britain pays Calais migrants £3,500 to go home - before they even get here

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1295629/Britain-pays-Calais-migrants-3-500-home--here.html>

Immigration officers told 'don't chase suspects who run away'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/7896497/Immigration-officers-told-dont-chase-suspects-who-run-away.html>

At last, a serious attempt to deal with immigration

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/telegraph-view/7896630/At-last-a-serious-attempt-to-deal-with-immigration.html>

Immigration removal centre Brook House branded 'unsafe'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk/10582084.stm>

English language schools win court battle over visas

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/10569701.stm>

Abused, humiliated and abandoned. What really happens when the UK deports failed asylum-seekers

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/abused-humiliated-and-abandoned-what-really-happens-when-the-uk-deports-failed-asylumseekers-2018387.html>

We must harden our hearts and our borders

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/matthewparris/article2637836.ece>

If we are honest, billions have a case for asylum

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/Comment/article342429.ece>

Home Office advice to gay asylum seekers criticised

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/10517655.stm>

Two gay men win landmark court ruling over right to asylum in UK

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Two-gay-men-win-landmark.6407464.jp>

Why the Supreme Court ruled against the deportation of gay asylum-seekers

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/why-the-supreme-court-ruled-against-the-deportation-of-gay-asylumseekers-2021227.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Gay refugees must get asylum, rule judges

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jul/07/gay-refugees-asylum-seekers>

MSP in Malawi mercy trip to head off deportation

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/MSP-in-Malawi-mercy-trip.6407474.jp>

Two days to save city girl Precious

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/editor-s-picks/two-days-to-save-city-girl-precious-1.1039986>

Asylum family lodge second appeal

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/10585766.stm

Alex Salmond joins plea to help Precious, 10

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/news/Alex-Salmond-joins-plea-to.6413171.jp>

Asylum seeker Precious Mhango defies order to leave Glasgow

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/asylum-seeker-precious-mhango-defies-order-to-leave-glasgow-1.1040531>

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Race Relations

New publication

Runnymede Bulletin

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/34234340/Summer-First-Edition>

News

Ministers dismantle £60m programme to prevent violent extremism

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/jul/13/ministers-dismantle-programme-prevent-violent-extremism>

How Prevent undermined cohesion

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2010/jul/16/prevent-cohesion-communities-islam>

French niqab ban: Beneath the veil

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/jul/15/france-niqab-veil-ban-law>

Racism veiled as liberation

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2010/jul/14/forced-into-freedom-france>

Champion of UK burka ban declares war on veil-wearing constituents

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/champion-of-uk-burka-ban-declares-war-on-veilwearing-constituents-2028669.html>

Race Relations News (continued)

This burka ban does not translate

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/leading-articles/leading-article-this-burka-ban-does-not-translate-2028711.html>

Comments like these fan the flames of intolerance in Britain

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rajnaara-akhtar-comments-like-these-fan-the-flames-of-intolerance-in-britain-2028670.html>

Inconsistency in enforcing laws just breeds resentment

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/tehmina-kazi-inconsistency-in-enforcing-laws-just-breeds-resentment-2028671.html>

Banning the burqa compromises the very principles that we value

<http://blogs.independent.co.uk/2010/07/07/banning-the-burqa-compromises-the-very-principles-that-we-value/>

Burka ban ruled out by immigration minister

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/politics/7896751/Burka-ban-ruled-out-by-immigration-minister.html>

Burka ban: Why must I cast off the veil?

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/personal-view/7896536/Burka-ban-Why-must-I-cast-off-the-veil.html>

Burkas should not be worn where it compromises safety

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/7896472/Michael-Nazir-Ali-Burkas-should-not-be-worn-where-it-compromises-safety.html>

British Muslims after 7/7

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/jul/06/british-muslims-disenfranchised-july-bombings>

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Equality

Westminster Privileges Committee

Report : Mr Trevor Phillips: Allegation of Contempt

The original allegation was made by the Joint Committee on Human Rights in February 2010. The Committee for Privileges and Conduct concluded that Mr Phillips was not guilty of committing a contempt when he approached members of the Joint Committee on Human Rights shortly before they were to consider a draft report on the operation of the EHRC. However, the committee described his behaviour as “inappropriate and ill-advised”.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldselect/ldprivi/15/1503.htm>

Equality Act 2010

Baroness Gould of Potternewton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their timetable for implementing the Equality Act 2010. [HL502]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The provisions in the Equality Act will come into force at different times to allow time for the people and organisations affected by the new laws to prepare for them. The first wave of implementation will go ahead to the planned October timetable following the publication of the first commencement order in Parliament this week. This will pave the way for much-needed simplification of discrimination law and the implementation of landmark provisions to protect disabled people from discrimination and to tackle the gender pay gap.

The Government have made clear that a key priority as we support economic recovery is to remove unnecessary burdens on business. By simplifying discrimination law, the Equality Act is an important part of our efforts to deliver on this commitment. The Government are looking at how the rest of the Act can be implemented in the best way for business and will make an announcement in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100708w0001.htm#10070870000371c>

Police: Stop and Search

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they propose to address the proportion of police stop and searches of black and Asian people. [HL658]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reasons for the increased rates of black people being stopped and searched by the police compared to white people.[HL659]

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have assessed the likely consequences for race relations and equality, especially police/community relations, if the different proportions of police stop and searches of black people and white people continues.[HL660]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice and guidance applies to the use of stop and search by police; and whether there is specific advice on how to avoid biased or unjustified stops.[HL661]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The Government share the concerns about disproportionality in the use of stop-and-search powers. We are working with the police service to help ensure that stop-and-search powers are used appropriately. There is, however, no single cause of disproportionality. It is important, therefore, to look at levels of disproportionality, and any specific demographic or other factors, in individual forces.

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) has developed Next Steps, a diagnostic tool to ensure that a force's use of stop and search is not driven by other unjustified factors such as discrimination or stereotyping. NPIA will support forces to implement Next Steps and will target forces with high levels of disproportionality. We are about to start the roll out of Next Steps in Dorset, Merseyside and one borough of the Metropolitan Police.

Detailed guidance on the appropriate use of stop-and-search powers are contained in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 Code of Practice A. This includes the fundamental principles governing stop and search, which are that the powers must be used fairly, responsibly, with respect for people being searched and without unlawful discrimination. In 2005 the national Stop and Search Manual was published jointly by the Home Office, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities.

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The manual gives further detailed good practice, training packages and supervision techniques and looks at what should be done to address issues around the disproportionate use of stop-and-search powers.

In addition to this, police forces have their own operational advice and guidance which will address local stop-and-search and community issues.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100712w0001.htm#10071230000820>

Press Releases

Equalities and Human Rights Commission statement on its 2008/9 Annual Report and Accounts

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/2010/july/commission-statement-on-its-2008/9-annual-report-and-accounts/>

Commission Chair Trevor Phillips cleared of contempt allegations

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/2010/july/commission-chair-trevor-phillips-cleared-of-contempt-allegations/>

New publications

Equality Act 2010: What do I need to know?

Series of summary guides to key changes in the law as a result of the Equality Act.

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/equality_act_2010/equality_act_2010_what_do_i_n.aspx

Equally Professional: Like minds on different journeys

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/publications/equally_professional_report.pdf

News

Equality watchdog warned on spending

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/jul/15/equality-watchdog-warned-on-spending>

Older People Services Development Project

The Older People Services Development Project aims to encourage and maximise uptake of benefits and services uptake by older people from Black & Minority Ethnic communities, by free, multilingual and culturally sensitive advice and information through active outreach work in Scotland. The project will provide: -

- Confidential, practical advice about benefits and housing needs
- Benefits check
- Home visits
- Help with applying and filling in the forms and paper work
- Assistance in your own language

For information contact Neeru Bhatnagar neerub@trusha.org.uk / 0131 444 4952 or Anthony LK Chu Lchu@trusha.org.uk / 0131 444 4941.

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Anti-Semitism

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-Semitic incidents (a) were recorded in England and Wales in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009 and (b) have been recorded in 2010 to date; and if she will make a statement. [5684]

Reply from Nick Herbert: The information requested is not collected centrally in the recorded crime statistics. The recorded crime statistics only hold data for racially or religiously aggravated offences as defined by law. Specific details relating to the victim or alleged offender are not collected.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100706/text/100706w0003.htm#10070657000072>

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 314-15, on higher education: anti-Semitism, when he plans to meet representatives of the Jewish community and the higher education sector; if he will place in the Library a copy of the agenda of that meeting; and if he will make a statement; [5379]

(2) what his policy is on the continuance of the higher education sub-group of the cross-Government working group on anti-Semitism; what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues about this group since his appointment; and if he will make a statement; [5584]

(3) what guidance his Department has issued to higher education institutions on combating (a) anti-Semitism, (b) stereotyping of the Jewish community and (c) violent extremism; what discussions his Department has had with the Jewish community on the issue; and if he will make a statement. [5585]

Reply from David Willetts: The meeting with Jewish community and higher education stakeholders is in the process of being arranged and I anticipate that it will involve broad discussions on anti-Semitism and the implications for the higher education sector, including the future of the BIS Anti-Semitism and Higher Education Group. A formal agenda has not yet been agreed for this meeting but I would be happy to place a copy in the Library when it is available. I have held no discussions with ministerial colleagues about this group.

The former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills provided updated and revised guidance to higher education institutions on 'Promoting Good Campus Relations, Fostering Shared Values and Preventing Violent Extremism in Universities and Higher Education Colleges', available here:

<http://www.dius.gov.uk/publications/extremismhe.pdf>

This provided detailed guidance to help institutions address issues concerning violent extremism, applicable to any form this might take on campus. The Department has not issued any guidance about the stereotyping of any community. The sector itself has also produced guidance which offers institutions practical strategies to deal with instances of hate crimes and intolerance on campus, including anti-Semitism.

There is no place for racism of any form, including anti-Semitism, in higher education. Universities have the primary responsibility for ensuring that their students are not subject to threatening or abusive behaviour on campus and have access to a strong legislative framework and guidance to help them deal effectively with instances of intolerance, racism and harassment in their institutions. Government would expect them to vigorously tackle these issues when they arise and report criminal attacks to the police when they occur on campus, or support students to do so.

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which directorate of his Department has responsibility for the (a) formulation and (b) implementation of policy on (i) countering anti-Semitism in higher education, (ii) the higher education sub-group of the cross-government working group on anti-Semitism, (iii) the cross-government working group on anti-Semitism and (iv) Government policy on the work of the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Semitism; how many officials in his Department at each pay band are employed in this Directorate; what other posts in his Department each such official has held; and if he will make a statement. [5586]

Mr Willetts: The higher education directorate has the responsibility for policy on anti-Semitism in higher education. There are four officials within this directorate who cover policy on anti-Semitism as part of their remit-by grade these are two senior civil servants, one team leader and one higher executive officer. As experienced civil servants these officials have undertaken work in a number other posts across Government in the past.

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what files his Department holds on (a) the higher education sub-group of the cross-government working group on anti-Semitism, (b) the cross-government working group on anti-Semitism, (c) the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into anti-Semitism and (d) countering anti-Semitism in higher education; and if he will make a statement. [5587]

Reply from David Willetts: The Department holds the necessary records on each of (a), (b), (c) and (d) to enable officials to provide the appropriate policy support to Ministers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100706/text/100706w0005.htm#10070668000076>

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to protect Jewish university students from anti-Semitic attacks; what recent reports he has received of incidents of anti-Semitism on university campuses; what discussions he has had with representatives of the Jewish community on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [4327]

Reply from David Willetts: There is no place for racism of any form, including anti-Semitism, in higher education. Universities have the primary responsibility for ensuring that their students are not subject to threatening or abusive behaviour on campus and have access to a strong legislative framework and guidance to help them deal effectively with instances of intolerance, racism and harassment in their institutions. Government would expect them to vigorously tackle these issues when they arise and report criminal attacks to the police when they occur on campus, or support students to do so. I have received correspondence on this issue, and I have had no discussions so far with representatives of the Jewish community. However, I am due to meet with representatives of the Jewish community and the HE sector to discuss anti-Semitism and higher education.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100705/text/100705w0005.htm#10070551000009>

Anti-Semitism: International Cooperation

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress his Department has made in implementing the provisions of the final declaration of the London Conference on Combating anti-Semitism, with particular reference to (a) establishing an international taskforce of internet specialists to measure anti-Semitism online and propose international responses and (b) exposing and isolating (i) governments and (ii) politicians engaging in anti-Semitism; and if he will make a statement. [5434]

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Jeremy Browne: The implementation of the provisions of the London Conference on Combating anti-Semitism falls within the remit of the cross-Government working group to tackle anti-Semitism which is made up of officials from across Whitehall and the chief executives of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Jewish Leadership Council and the Community Security Trust. The working group is currently ensuring that the provisions within the declaration are taken forward and they plan to report back on progress at the second Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism (ICCA) Conference in Ottawa in November 2010.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on implementation of the provisions of the final declaration of the London Conference on Combating anti-Semitism; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [5435]

Reply from Jeremy Browne: We welcome the London Declaration on Combating anti-Semitism that was adopted in February 2009 and its important recommendations. We are committed to combating all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism. The implementation of the provisions of the London Conference on Combating anti-Semitism falls within the remit of the cross-Government working group to tackle anti-Semitism which is made up of officials from across Whitehall and the chief executives of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Jewish Leadership Council and the Community Security Trust. We look forward to the second Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism (ICCA) Conference in Ottawa in November 2010 as an opportunity for all participants to assess the progress that has been made.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100712/text/100712w0003.htm#10071240000004>

Anti-Semitism

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government plan to take to (a) monitor and (b) seek to reduce levels of anti-Semitism overseas; and if he will make a statement. [5517]

Reply from Jeremy Browne: Combating all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism, remains an important part of the Government's human rights agenda. We condemn all instances of violence and discrimination against individuals and groups because of their race, faith or belief. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas missions have a responsibility to monitor and raise human rights in their host countries and routinely raise our concerns with host governments. Where possible our embassies take action on individual cases where persecution or discrimination has occurred and lobby for changes in discriminatory practices and laws. The Government also support the All Party Parliamentary Group against anti-Semitism and their work on tackling anti-Semitism across Europe and encourages MEPs to get involved in tackling anti-Semitism in their own countries. We will continue to promote these issues within the EU, the UN, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and other multilateral fora.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100712/text/100712w0003.htm#10071240000003>

Press Release

Racist violence is growing in Europe, says Council of Europe Anti-Racism Commission report

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/69-08_07_2010_AnnualReport2009_en.asp

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) **New publication**

Annual Report on ECRI's Activities: 1 January to 31 December 2009

<http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/Annual%20report%202009.pdf>

News

Test of endurance for CPS employee in race case

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/jul/06/crown-prosecution-service-racial-discrimination>

Anti-terror work at GCHQ 'being undermined by racism', report says

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article2638985.ece>

'Too few ethnic officers' and 'discrimination' at GCHQ

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/10589031.stm>

Tory MP refuses to meet Muslim women wearing burkas

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1295498/Tory-MP-refuses-meet-Muslim-women-wearing-Burkas.html>

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Other Holyrood

New publications

**Death Certification, Burial and Cremation: Analysis of Consultation Findings:
Phase 1 Report: Questions 1-20, 51 And 52**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/318318/0101513.pdf>

Summary <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/317758/0101182.pdf>

Scottish Household Survey 2007/2008 Analysis and Data Summary

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/933/0101727.pdf>

News

SNP attacks burqa ban attempt

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/news/SNP-attacks-burqa-ban-attempt.6426036.jp>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Pope Benedict XVI

Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of the forthcoming visit to the UK by Pope Benedict. [5507]

Reply from Henry Bellingham: Pope Benedict XVI will visit the UK not only as the leader of the Catholic Church but as a Head of State, and at the invitation of Her Majesty the Queen. Part of the costs of the visit will therefore fall to the Government.

The total costs can be divided into two categories: policing costs, which will be met by the state from existing policing budgets, and non-policing costs, which will be split between the Catholic Church and the Government. Discussions are under way to finalise these costs and to agree the appropriate levels of contribution from the Government and the Catholic Bishops' Conferences of England and Wales, and of Scotland.

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on the visit to the UK of Pope Benedict XVI; what recent discussions he has had with his Vatican counterpart on the visit; and if he will make a statement. [5518]

Reply from Henry Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not met his Vatican counterpart to discuss the Papal Visit. However, a delegation from the Holy See visited the UK from 21 to 24 June and held discussions with Government officials and representatives of the Catholic Church on preparations for the visit. These included details of the programme and organisation of the various events involved, in addition to accommodation, travel and practical arrangements for the Papal delegation. Our embassy to the Holy See is in close touch with the Vatican over arrangements for the visit.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100705/text/100705w0001.htm#10070527000074>

Early Day Motion

Jim Dobbin (483) Ethnic group question in the 2011 census - That this House has regard to the historic and enduring value of information gathered by the decennial National Census; believes the ethnic group question, first introduced in 1991, represented a milestone in understanding and embracing the diversity of the United Kingdom; notes the primary purpose of the ethnic group question is to enable organisations to monitor equal opportunities and anti-discrimination policies and to allocate government resources more effectively; further notes that the development of the ethnic group question for the 2011 Census is interlinked with that of the newly introduced national identity question; further notes that in extensive consultation with key users of Census data 92 per cent. of respondents expressed support for requirement for information on population ethnicity; and consequently urges the Government to maintain a considered framework for Census questions that form an important part of a balanced policy of improving race relations and to resist calls to drop questions regarding ethnic and national identity.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=41436&SESSION=905>

Other Westminster (continued) **New publication**

Findings of the Forced Marriage IDVA Support Pilot

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/forced-marriage-pilot-a.pdf>

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New Publications

Sharia Law in Britain

<http://www.onelawforall.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/New-Report-Sharia-Law-in-Britain.pdf>

Ethnicity and alcohol: a review of the UK literature

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/ethnicity-alcohol-literature-review-full.pdf>

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Other News

HMIE inspection teams lay membership

HM Inspectorate of Education is actively for school inspection teams as Lay Members, and would particularly welcome applications from those who represent the ethnic diversity of Scotland. Posts are unpaid although expenses will be reimbursed. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo+/recruitment/ads/10vii_hmie.pdf

Ethnic minorities to quadruple in next 40 years

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/ethnic-minorities-to-quadruple-in-next-40-years-1.1040930>

Population predictions show a welcome diversity for Scotland

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-view/population-predictions-show-a-welcome-diversity-for-scotland-1.1040967>

Ethnic minorities seeing majority of population growth

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Ethnic-minorities-seeing-majority-of.6415335.jp>

Ethnic minorities to make up 20% of UK population by 2051

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/jul/13/uk-population-growth-ethnic-minorities>

Revealing positives and negatives of mobility

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Analysis-Revealing-positives-and-negatives.6415334.jp>

French MPs vote to ban Islamic full veil in public

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/europe/10611398.stm>

Critics slam city's gypsy deterrents

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/Critics-slam-city39s-gypsy-deterrents.6407956.jp>

Sharia is not the problem here

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2010/jul/08/religion-sharia-marriage-registration-islam>

Other News (continued)

NHS urged to offer circumcisions to avoid botched operations

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/jul/11/doctors-urge-circumcision-on-nhs>

Why don't black people camp?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/travel/2010/jul/09/black-people-camp-holidays>

Lord Patel receives Scotland's top honour

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1829279>

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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>

Palliative Care Bill

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

Bills in Progress Westminster

House of Lords Reform Bill

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

Face Coverings (Regulation) Bill

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

**** Human Trafficking (Border Control) Bill**

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

Identity Documents Bill

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/001/amend/pbc0010607m.15-17.html>

**** Return of Asylum Seekers (Applications from Certain Countries) Bill**

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

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Consultations (closing date)

** new or updated this week

**** Palliative Care Bill** (1 September 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/inquiries/PalliativeCareBill/PallCareC allforevid.htm>

**** Migration Advisory Committee: level of an annual limit on economic migration to the UK** (7 September 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/mac-consultation-annual-limit/0610/mac-consultation-annual-limit?view=Binary>

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

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

Limits on non-EU economic migration (17 September 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/limits-on-non-eu-migration/>

**** Taking action on rights, support and protection of victims of crime and violence** (30 September 2010)

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/news/consulting_public/news_consulting_0053_en.htm

**** Data protection legislative framework** (6 October 2010)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/dpa-call-evidence-02-07-2010.pdf>

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Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Funding Opportunities

£2.5 million fund opened to youth groups

Closing date: midday 27 August 2010

<http://www.youthlinkscotland.org/Index.asp?MainID=11384>

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**** this week!**

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

22 July 2010 in Glasgow

26 August 2010 in Glasgow

30 September 2010 in Glasgow

2 November 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>

**** closing date for registration this week!**

Training for Trainers: Violence against women in Muslim communities

Registration by 23 July 2010

Course on 9, 10, and 11 August 2010

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre course to explore the role of faith, culture and honour in understanding violence against women issues. For information contact tabassum@mwrc.org.uk / 0141 585 8026.

**** Being aware of ME/LGBT people and issues**

10 August 2010 in Edinburgh (9.00 – 4.00)

EveryoneIN training on making services more inclusive for minority ethnic people who may identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender. EveryoneIN is a partnership project between BEMIS and the Equality Network. For information contact Sam Rankin sam@equality-network.org / 0774 704 0355 or Emma Boyd emma@lgbthealth.org.uk / 0131 652 3281

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

**** Legal seminar on fresh claims and further leave applications**

20 August 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council information seminar on writing fresh asylum claims and lodging applications for further leave to remain. The seminar will outline the basic legal framework and procedures for fresh claims and further leave applications, cover some of the more recent legal , and discuss some areas of current controversy. For information see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=100> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** The Housing Rights of Refugees: Supporting those with Leave To Remain into appropriate housing**

24 August 2010 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course for people working with refugees who need a comprehensive knowledge of their rights to housing in Scotland. For information see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=99> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799

**** Working with Interpreters**

7 September 2010 in Glasgow

25 November 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 see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=94> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799

**** Making services more inclusive for ME/LGBT people**

10 September 2010 in Glasgow (9.00 – 2.00)

EveryoneIN training on making services more inclusive for minority ethnic people who may identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender. EveryoneIN is a partnership project between BEMIS and the Equality Network. For information contact Sam Rankin sam@equality-network.org / 0774 704 0355 or Emma Boyd emma@lgbthealth.org.uk / 0131 652 3281

**** Gender and Gender Identity**

12 October 2010 in Edinburgh (9.00 – 4.00)

EveryoneIN training on making services more inclusive for minority ethnic people who may identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender. EveryoneIN is a partnership project between BEMIS and the Equality Network. For information contact Sam Rankin sam@equality-network.org / 0774 704 0355 or Emma Boyd emma@lgbthealth.org.uk / 0131 652 3281

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>

**** Scottish Refugee Council annual conference**

29 October 2010 in Glasgow

The conference will focus primarily on the new Coalition Government's stated agenda for asylum seekers and refugees - including: speeding up the asylum process; ending child detention and treatment of LGBT people seeking asylum. For information contact Graeme Corbett events@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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.

**** LGBT Asylum Seekers and Refugees**

5 November 2010 in Glasgow (9.00 – 2.00)

EveryoneIN training on making services more inclusive for minority ethnic people who may identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender. EveryoneIN is a partnership project between BEMIS and the Equality Network. For information contact Sam Rankin sam@equality-network.org / 0774 704 0355 or Emma Boyd emma@lgbthealth.org.uk / 0131 652 3281

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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/>

Useful Links (continued)

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/>