

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

Westminster Ministerial Statements

Changes to the Immigration Rules

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): I am today laying before the House a statement of changes to the Immigration Rules pertaining to tier 1 and tier 2 of the points-based system. Copies of which will be available from the Vote Office. On 28 June the Home Secretary announced in the House of Commons that the Government would introduce an interim limit on economic migration in anticipation of the introduction of a permanent limit in April 2011. This limit applied to out-of-country main applicants to tier 1 (general) between 19 July 2010 and April 2011, and numbers entering through this route would be equal to those entering in the equivalent period for 2009-10. The limit also applied to the number of migrants who can be offered jobs by sponsor employers through tier 2 (general). This route was to be reduced in the interim period by 1,300 migrants, the equivalent of a 5% reduction across the relevant routes of tiers 1 and 2.

The first of the changes in the statement of changes to the Immigration Rules will close the tier 1 (general) category of the Immigration Rules to persons applying from outside the United Kingdom. I am taking this step as a result of the volume of applications that have been received since 19 July 2010, the date I set the interim limit on tier 1 general.

The second of these changes, specifying the level of the tier 2 (general) interim limit in the Immigration Rules, is being made to take account of the divisional court judgment of 17 December 2010 in the cases brought by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants and the English Community Care Association. The divisional court determined that in order for the Government's interim limit policy to have legal effect the

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

level of the limit should be specified in the Immigration Rules, as opposed to UK Border Agency guidance.

The statement of changes remedies the matter. The interim limit on tier 2 (general) will apply from 21 December 2010 until 5 April 2011. The level of the limit is 10,832 and will apply to the number of certificates of sponsorship available to licensed tier 2 (general) sponsors. The changes will take effect immediately to ensure that employers and other users of the UK's immigration system have certainty about its operation. I would welcome the opportunity to debate these immigration rules changes should Members choose to pray against the statement of changes.

The Home Secretary has been granted a certificate to appeal; either directly to the Supreme Court if it grants permission or, if not, to the Court of Appeal.

Tier 1 (general) will be closed to out-of-country applications because of the number of applications that have been received since 19 July 2010. The route is not being closed in response to the divisional court's decision.

The statement of changes to the Immigration Rules laid before Parliament on 28 June 2010 was constructed to provide for the application of interim limits on the number of applications for entry clearance granted under the tier 1 (general) category. Under the Immigration Rules as amended by the changes made on 19 July, applications over and above this upper interim limit would be rolled over for consideration in a subsequent grant period. However, as the Home Secretary announced to Parliament on 23 November, the Government have decided tier 1 (general) route will not continue in its current form and will be refocused as a route aimed at entrepreneurs, investors and the exceptionally talented. This means that there will be no additional allocation of places under the tier 1 (general) category under which rolled-over applications could be considered once the current interim limit is reached.

We should not continue to accept applications under the existing route if they cannot be granted once the current interim limit is reached. We expect, taking into account current trends in applications and refusal rates, the interim limit to be reached imminently. The statement of changes to the Immigration Rules therefore removes existing provision for the granting of entry clearance in the tier 1 (general) category.

I regret that, given the difficulty in anticipating the date on which the interim limit would be reached, it has not been possible to observe the usual convention of laying such a statement of changes before Parliament 21 days in advance of its entry into force. I also wish to clarify that the numerical limit applied to tier 1 applications under the interim limit is 5,100 and not 5,400 as the Merits of Statutory Instruments Committee has previously been informed. The latter figure was the limit that would have applied if interim limits had commenced on 1 July 2010, whereas in fact they commenced on 19 July 2010.

This change is effective from 23 December and applications for entry clearance as a tier 1 (general) migrant made on or after that date will not be accepted. Applications for entry clearance as a tier 1 (general) migrant made before that date will still be considered against the existing Immigration Rules. These changes do not apply to those who have existing leave in the tier 1 (general) category and require an extension of stay, nor do they apply to those presently in the United Kingdom in another category of stay and are applying for a variation of leave as a tier 1 (general) migrant.

As noted above, tier 1 of the points-based system will be redesigned to make enhanced provision for entrepreneurs and investors and to incorporate new provisions for the exceptionally talented. This will ensure that tier 1 continues to offer a route for those who are able to make the greatest economic contribution to the United Kingdom. These changes will be introduced in April next year and I will announce the detail of these new arrangements to Parliament in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101221/wmstext/101221m0001.htm#10122138000018>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

Temporary Immigration Cap

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): In June, when the Government announced that we would consult on how to implement a permanent limit on economic migrants, we also said that we would impose an interim limit until the permanent one took effect. This was to avoid a surge of applications in anticipation of the permanent limit.

The interim limit was given effect through changes to the immigration rules that were laid before Parliament, and on which an oral statement was made. On Friday we received the judgement that the changes announced provide an insufficient legal basis for the operation of the interim limit. The judgment was based on a technical procedural point known as Pankina grounds. The Court decided that this meant that more detail about the manner in which the limit is set, including its level, should have been included in the immigration rule changes laid before Parliament.

I would like to make it clear that the judgment of the Court was concerned solely with the technicalities of how the interim limits were introduced. It was in no way critical of, or prejudicial to, the Government's policy of applying a limit to economic migration to the United Kingdom, either permanently or on an interim basis. The policy objective of a limit in migration has not been called into question, and I am now considering what steps are required to reapply an interim limit consistent with the findings of the Court. Tomorrow I will be laying changes to the immigration rules that will set out the details that the Court required. This will enable us to reinstate the interim limits on a clear legal basis.

The House will be interested to know that tomorrow I will also be laying changes to the rules to close applications under the tier 1 general route from outside the United Kingdom immediately, as the original level specified on this tier has been reached. I can reassure the House that the policy of using these limits as part of our overall policy of reducing net migration is unchanged.

To read the subsequent question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101220/debtext/101220-0001.htm#1012206000004>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration

Lord Marlesford: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the current terrorism threat, they will update the consultation carried out prior to the decision in 1998 not to require persons leaving the United Kingdom routinely to pass through immigration control on embarkation.[HL4668]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): Our programme for government sets out our clear commitment to reintroduce exit checks, which we will do by 2015, and our clear commitment to e-Borders.

E-Borders already supports our ability to undertake effective checks on passengers leaving the UK. It is already checking in excess of 55 per cent of passenger movements into and out of the UK, with coverage planned to increase in the future. We have announced our intention to review by April 2011 the extent to which the system will provide the complete solution to our commitment to reintroduce exit checks.

E-Borders is a key element of our border security strategy. The system enables us to screen travel document data provided in advance of travel, allowing us to target the most harmful individuals and help protect the UK against terrorist attack, serious crime and abuses of the immigration system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101220w0001.htm#1012207000516>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Jones on 3 December (WA 506), what assessment they have made of the Migration Advisory Committee's recommendation that consideration should be given to awarding zero points for allowances under the points-based system for intra-company transfers in order that they make a full contribution to United Kingdom revenues.[HL5379]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The Government have not accepted the Migration Advisory Committee's recommendation that no points be awarded for the payment of allowances under the Points Based System. However, the guidance pertaining to Intra-Company Transfers dictates that when calculating points for earnings, accommodation allowance can account for no more than 40percent of total remuneration. Where a transferee is entering for over 12 months, this is restricted to 30 per cent of the total remuneration.

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Jones on 3 December (WA 506), whether the responses to the consultation regarding visas for intra-company transfers support the view that business needs the ability to transfer key staff for short periods; and how many were opposed to tax and national insurance exemptions for such transfers.[HL5380]

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: The UK Border Agency consultation, Limits on non-EU Economic Migration, asked whether the Intra-Company Transfer (ICT) route should be included within annual limits. The largest proportion of respondents (49 per cent) felt that ICTs should not be included within annual limits. A further 32 per cent stated that they should be included and 19 per cent stated that they did not know. The consultation did not seek views on tax or national insurance regulations.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101222w0001.htm#10122243001143>

Visas

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Jones on 3 December (WA 506), how many intra-company transfer visa applicants sponsored for employment of 12 months or less in 2009 had a salary of (a) between £24,000 and £40,000, and (b) over £40,000; what were the types of job descriptions for key staff earning less than £24,000 who were granted visas in 2009; and why only staff earning more than £40,000 are eligible for intra-company visa access to the United Kingdom for periods of more than 12 months. [HL5250]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The number of visas issued to intra-company transferees in 2009 with a validity of 12 months or less was 5,054. Details of the salaries and job descriptions of these applicants is not held centrally and the information requested could only be produced by checking individual records at disproportionate cost.

Intra-company transferees account for a significant proportion of tier 2 numbers and there are concerns that they have been used by some companies to fill jobs that could be done by resident workers. Our new salary threshold of £40,000 for any transfers of longer than 12 months will ensure that those coming are the senior managers and key specialists that the route was intended for.

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many foreign students last year were detected working full-time contrary to their visa requirements; what sanctions are available; and whether those sanctions were applied to them.[HL5253]

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: For the period April 2009 to March 2010, 128 individuals, identified on our systems as students, were arrested during

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enforcement visits for working in breach of their conditions of leave, of which 88 have subsequently been removed and two have been prosecuted. The figures provided are sourced from management information tools; they are not quality assured under National Statistics protocols and are subject to change.

Where a foreign student is found to be working full-time in breach of his or her conditions of leave to enter or remain, there are a range of sanctions that the UK Border Agency can use including prosecution, curtailment of leave, refusal of future applications for leave and removal. Employers who fail to check that employees have the right to work in the UK can be fined up to £10,000 per illegal worker encountered.

Employers who knowingly employ an illegal worker may be liable to an unlimited fine and/or imprisonment.

The UK Border Agency does not keep central records of the number of individuals whose leave was curtailed or application refused for working in breach of their conditions, or of fines issued to employers for employing students in breach of their conditions. This information could only be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101221w0002.htm#10122141000764>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many certificates of sponsorship have been awarded in each of the last five years; and how many have been awarded under tier 2 of the points-based system since May 2010. [31078]

Reply from Damian Green: Tiers 2 and 5 of the points-based system were introduced on 27 November 2008.

The number of Certificates of Sponsorship (CoS) that have been issued by Tier 2 and 5 sponsors is as follows:

	<i>Numbers of CoS issued</i>
2008	2,095
2009	107,050
20101 (to 10 December)	111,280

Since 1 May 2010 to 10 December 2010 Tier 2 sponsors have issued 41,860 CoS. This number includes those issued under Tier 2 General, Tier 2 Intra-Company Transfer, Tier 2 Minister of Religion and Tier 2 Sportsperson routes.

These figures are based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for national statistics. They are provisional and may be subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101220/text/101220w0006.htm#10122114000084>

Asylum

Louise Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for reunification with a minor, spouse or partner in the UK were accepted from applicants who had been granted or had applied for asylum in another EU member state in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many such applications were made by people resident in each region in each such year. [32175]

Reply from Damian Green: We are unable to identify from central records people who have been issued with family reunion visas who had themselves been

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

granted or applied for asylum in an EU State or any other third country. We could only produce the information requested by checking individual records at disproportionate cost.

Louise Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many asylum seekers were resident in each (a) region and (b) local authority area in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [32176]

(2) how many asylum seekers whose claims for asylum had been rejected were resident in each (a) region and (b) local authority area in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [32177]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not maintain data on the numbers of asylum applicants living in any given area at any given time. To obtain such information for previous years would involve considerable work going back through the case working database, at disproportionate cost. We have provided figures for the numbers of asylum applicants living in each region and local authority area as of 17 December 2010.

A breakdown of the number of asylum applicants living in, and those whose claims have been rejected in, (a) each region and (b) each local authority has been placed on the Library of the House.

The asylum claims included are those made since 2006 and managed within regions, under the new asylum model (NAM).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101221/text/101221w0004.htm#1012222000007>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to prevent destitution among unsuccessful asylum applicants, following the report on this matter by the British Red Cross.[HL5284]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): Failed asylum seekers whose asylum applications have been fully determined and whose appeal rights are exhausted are required to leave the UK as soon as possible. It is accepted that there will be some failed asylum seekers who are destitute and who are unable to leave the UK immediately due to circumstances beyond their control. These individuals can request the provision of support under section four of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 pending the resolution of the temporary barrier to their return.

There are additional safeguards for families with dependent children under 18 when their appeal rights are exhausted who continue receiving support until they leave the UK. Therefore, no asylum seeker or failed asylum seeker need be destitute while they have a valid reason to be here.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101221w0001.htm#10122141000692>

Immigration: Detention

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Jones on 7 December (WA 42), what is their assessment of the constitutional implications of indefinite detention of refugees in the United Kingdom without the approval of a court.[HL5212]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): Individuals who have been recognised as refugees would not normally be detained. Immigration Act powers of detention are not time-limited, nor do they require judicial involvement. This is a long-standing position that has been accepted by the courts and is fully in accord with Article 5 of the European

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Convention on Human Rights. Individuals who are detained under Immigration Act powers are able to apply to an immigration judge for release on bail and can challenge the lawfulness of their detention by way of judicial review. The question of possible constitutional implications does not, therefore, arise.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101221w0001.htm#10122141000732>

Immigration: Detainees

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many immigration detainees have been held for (a) more than two years, and (b) more than three years; for what reasons in each case; and how they intend to prevent detentions of such lengths of time.[HL5392]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): I refer the noble Lord to the Answer given on 15 December 2010, 197WA which provided data on those detained in immigration removal centres beyond 12 months. Management information shows that the vast majority of those detained for such periods are former foreign national prisoners who we are seeking to deport from the UK.

Detention plays a key role in maintaining an effective immigration control. It is used only where necessary and is kept to the shortest time possible. Each case is considered on its individual merits, and there remains a general presumption in favour of release. Many factors will be taken into account, including the risk of absconding and the risk of further harm to the public.

Deportation of these individuals can be delayed in a number of ways. Judicial challenges can be used to delay or frustrate removal. This is being tackled through improved legal case working within the UK Border Agency and closer co-operation with the judiciary. Where there are difficulties in obtaining travel documents these issues are taken up directly with the relevant Embassy or High Commission. There may also be delays in the deportation process if individuals do not comply fully with the UK Border Agency's efforts to re-document them.

Every effort is made to ensure that a foreign prisoner's deportation coincides, as far as possible, with his or her release from prison. Where sentence length allows, deportation will be considered up to 18 months prior to the earliest point of removal. It is expected that in 2010 around a third of all foreign prisoner removals will have occurred before the end of sentence.

As Lin Homer, Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency, advised the Home Affairs Committee in July, the new government is committed to exploring ways of removing foreign criminals even earlier. This will include working with the prisons, courts and the police to build upon our capacity to gather intelligence information on nationality at an earlier stage.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101222w0001.htm#10122243001144>

Deportation

Jenny Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information about families the UK Border Agency considers before a decision is made on (a) removal and (b) participation in family return pilots. [31882]

Reply from Damian Green: All applicants, including families, whose application has been fully considered and all avenues of appeal have been exhausted will be considered for removal by the UK Border Agency. Chapter 45 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance provides comprehensive guidance to staff on how family units who include dependant children (aged under 18), who are liable to be removed, should be progressed through to removal. Chapter 45 of the

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Enforcement Instructions and Guidance can be found at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/enforcement/oemsectione/>

Family removals, and especially those involving children, are a particularly sensitive area of work. Family dynamics will vary from one family group to the next, and guidance and training is provided to UKBA staff to ensure that properly informed consideration can be made on how best to plan to meet any specific needs during each stage of any enforcement action leading to removal.

I made a statement to the House on 16 December 2010, Official Report, columns 125-26WS, which announced the Government's plans to end the detention of children for immigration purposes, outlining the new family process and how this is being piloted. An interim assessment of the pilots has been carried out and we expect to publish this in the new year.

Jenny Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many pilot schemes for alternative methods of removing families undertaken by the UK Border Agency are based in (a) the North West, (b) London and (c) other parts of the UK. [31883]

Reply from Damian Green: On 1 June 2010 the UK Border Agency began a review into ending the detention of children for immigration purposes. Over the past few months, the UK Border Agency have been working closely with partners and testing out new approaches with our pilots in the North West and London to find a new way of working with families and to build confidence in the system. The review report was published on 16 December 2010. A further pilot is running in Glasgow, in conjunction with Glasgow city council. This was launched in June 2009.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101221/text/101221w004.htm#1012222000016>

Human Trafficking

Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made, together with police forces, of the outcomes of the Pentameter 1 and 2 investigations into human trafficking. [26828]

Reply from Damian Green: During the operational phase of the Pentameter 1 and 2 investigations, 638 people were arrested for human trafficking related and other offences and 257 potential victims, including five for trafficking for forced labour, were recovered.

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on prevention of human trafficking; and if she will make a statement. [30877]

Reply from Damian Green: Working to ensure people do not fall prey to exploitation at the hands of traffickers in the first place is an important part of our overall approach to tackling human trafficking. We work closely with international partners to prevent trafficking at source and with voluntary organisations which raise awareness of the problem within the United Kingdom.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101220/text/101220w006.htm#10122114000085>

Human Trafficking

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to her Department's Update to the UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking, October 2009, what progress has been made in respect of each of the eight action points on prevention. [31640]

Reply from Damian Green: Since publication of the UK Action Plan update in October 2009, the UK:

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- has produced an up to date estimate of the scale of trafficking for sexual exploitation in the off-street market in England and Wales;
- is developing intelligence-led work overseas in countries and regions which pose the greatest threat, through the Serious Organised Crime Agency and the UK Human Trafficking Centre;
- continues to play an active role in helping improve wider EU efforts at combating human trafficking and works constructively with its European partners on issues of mutual interest. Activity has included helping to ensure human trafficking is a key area under the Stockholm Programme which sets out the EU's Justice and Home Affairs priorities for 2010 to 2014 and contributing to plans to strengthen the EU's response to trafficking from outside the EU;
- worked with a range of countries to support anti-trafficking projects that address vulnerabilities to trafficking; and
- has designated 18 October as Anti Slavery Day in England and Wales to provide a focal point for the awareness-raising work of the voluntary sector.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101221/text/101221w0004.htm#1012222000021>

Westminster Early Day Motions

Frank Field (1226) Deportation rights - That this House believes the Government should ensure that it has the powers that take precedence over human rights to deport failed asylum seekers who are found guilty of a criminal offence.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=42239&SESSION=905>

Keith Vaz (1222) Human trafficking and Operation Golf - That this House notes with concern that the Government will not be opting in to the EU Directive on Human Trafficking; further notes that Operation Golf, a joint human trafficking investigation team between the Metropolitan Police and the Romanian National Police came to an end in December 2010; praises the outstanding work of the Operation that targeted one of the largest child trafficking rings in Europe; calls on the Government to consider human trafficking as an international crime that requires an international response founded on partnership working across EU countries; and urges the Government to encourage more joint EU investigations such as that of Operation Golf in order to protect those who fall victim to human trafficking and to prosecute those who commit this crime.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=42235&SESSION=905>

Press Releases

Temporary limit on migrant workers is back up and running, says Immigration Minister

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/Damiangreen-limitstatement>

Tier 1 (General) to close overseas and new interim limit set for Tier 2 (General)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/dec/61-t1g-closure-overseas>

Limit on Tier 2 (General) certificates of sponsorship until 23 April 2011

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/28-interim-t2-limit>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

UK Border Agency publishes revised guidance on family members

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/jan/06-revised-family-members>

UK Border Agency publishes revised guidance on operational enforcement activity and detention and removals

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/jan/14-revised-eig>

Applications under European law - return of documents

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/38-euro-return-documents>

New website to help fight human trafficking

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/1763&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

New publications

Migration Review 2010/2011

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=/ecomm/files/Migration%20Review%202010-2011%20Dec2010.pdf&a=skip>

Protecting Refugees

<http://book.coe.int/ftp/3582.pdf>

News

Migrant marriage rules condemned by Court of Appeal

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-12054705>

Marriage visa rules in doubt after new court defeat

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/8217914/Marriage-visa-rules-in-doubt-after-new-court-defeat.html>

Minister in city visit for talks over asylum seeker switch

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/minister-in-city-visit-for-talks-over-asylum-seeker-switch-1.1076204>

IPPR says UK net migration unlikely to plunge in 2011

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-12091427>

Mayor attacks Coalition's policy on immigration cap

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/mayor-attacks-coalition-s-policy-on-immigration-cap-1.1077397>

What happened next? The destitute asylum seeker

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2010/dec/27/asylum-seekers-living-on-street>

Irish influx to thwart Conservative election pledge on migration

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/dec/30/irish-influx-conservative-migration-pledge>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Yarl's Wood detainees 'paid 50p an hour'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/jan/02/yarls-wood-detainees-paid-50p-hour>

'Bogus students' aren't as big a problem as MigrationWatch claims

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/jan/09/migrationwatch-bogus-foreign-students>

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Race Relations

New publications

A minority within a minority: a report on converts to Islam in the United Kingdom

<http://faith-matters.org/images/stories/fm-reports/a-minority-within-a-minority-a-report-on-converts-to-islam-in-the-uk.pdf>

Intercultural Dialogue: Enabling free, full and equal participation

http://www.intercultural-europe.org/PIE_DP1_2.pdf

News

The Islamification of Britain: record numbers embrace Muslim faith

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/the-islamification-of-britain-record-numbers-embrace-muslim-faith-2175178.html>

A closer look at reports about the growth of Islam in the UK

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2011/jan/08/islam-uk-growth-muslims>

Caught between cultures: how Muslim converts are left to fend for themselves

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article2857013.ece>

Countering isolation can help to defeat radicalisation

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article2857057.ece>

'I find Islam to be liberating not oppressive: women are partners'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article2857033.ece>

Converting to Islam needs just a declaration, but that's the easy part

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article2857080.ece>

What we Muslims can learn from converts

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2011/jan/06/muslim-islam-uk-pakistan>

Religions unite for prayers, pies and pakora

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/religions-unite-for-prayers-pies-and-pakora-1.1076338>

Only half of Britons say UK is a Christian country

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/8210671/Only-half-of-Britons-say-UK-is-a-Christian-country.html>

Race Relations

News (continued)

Not just a white Christmas in Luton

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/not-just-a-white-christmas-in-luton-2168414.html>

Christmas trees 'make non-Christians feel excluded'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/topics/christmas/8214222/Christmas-trees-make-non-Christians-feel-excluded.html>

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Equality

New publications

Achieving Race Equality in Scotland

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

"Snowy Peaks": Ethnic Diversity at the Top

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

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Equality Act 2010

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in view of the research study by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, which suggests that caste discrimination and harassment within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010 exists in the United Kingdom, they will bring caste within the list of protected characteristics in that Act.

Reply from Baroness Verma: My Lords, we published the National Institute for Economic and Social Research's report on caste discrimination and harassment in Great Britain on 16 December. This is an important report that we will consider carefully before responding. We will of course consider our response in the broader context of the equality strategy, Fairness for All. This sets out a new role for government, moving beyond simply introducing more legislation to promoting equality through transparency and behaviour change.

Lord Avebury: My Lords, does the Minister agree that the research shows that discrimination based on caste does occur within the areas covered by the Act, and that it would be reduced if Section 9(5) of the Act was activated? Will she invite members of the Anti Caste Discrimination Alliance for a discussion on how best to proceed in eradicating this kind of discrimination?

Reply from Baroness Verma: My Lords, we have not ruled out legislative responses, but this is a different Government from the one who commissioned the research study. Inevitably, we will consider the report in the context of our own equality strategy, including the enhanced public sector equality duty and our commitment to work with businesses to address the main challenges to equality.

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The report is a valuable guide. We have included all the people who raised the issue of caste, and the report shows where caste problems exist. However, we need to ensure that our response is reasonable and proportionate, bearing in mind that a lot of people will be affected by it if it is brought into legislation.

Baroness Scotland of Asthal: My Lords, bearing in mind the noble Baroness's deep understanding and commitment to equality, particularly in this area, will she assure us that when she looks at these issues she will take into account the fact that the whole House supported this aspect of the Equality Bill, including those sitting on her Benches, and will she deploy that delicacy of mind that I know she has in persuading her Government that this is a matter on which they should commit to bring in legislation?

Reply from Baroness Verma: My Lords, I thank the noble Baroness for her kind words. I think I understand caste probably better than most people in this House, which is why I say to the noble Baroness and to Members around the House that this is an incredibly complex area. Legislating for it would not deal with the issues behind the continuance of this abhorrent practice. Therefore, I ask noble Lords to look at the report, consider it carefully and then decide whether there is a need to take on board Section 9 of the Act.

Lord Harries of Pentregarth: As chair of the All-Party Group on Dalits, perhaps I may say how pleased the Dalit communities—that is, the former untouchables—in this country will be that the discrimination that they experienced and reported to the previous Government over many years has now been shown to be a fact by the report of the National Institute for Social and Economic Research. The Minister mentioned education, as indeed does the report. Does she not agree that it would be a vital instrument in achieving education on this sorry situation if there were very firm legislation in place, as there is in India, prohibiting discrimination in the areas of employment, public education and public goods and services?

Reply from Baroness Verma: My Lords, the noble and right reverend Lord raises the question of Dalits and I understand the issue. Even with legislation in place in India, the problem has not been eradicated. It is a question of shifting attitudes within individuals, and I think that the only way of doing that is by ensuring that, if there is discrimination against people on grounds of caste, it is dealt with through the legislation that we have. We need to ensure that the law plays its part in this but, as I said, the report has to be considered fully and I ask the noble and right reverend Lord to give us time to do so.

Lord Lester of Herne Hill: My Lords, I was one of those who, when the previous Government were in power, argued very strongly for dealing with this ancient source of injustice in India and now here. Does the Minister agree with my noble friend Lord Avebury that the report shows that there is unfair discrimination based on caste, or the absence of it? Will she agree, as did the previous Government, to meet the Dalit community's organisations so that they can hear first-hand, as did the previous Government, about the injustices that the present situation is causing?

Reply from Baroness Verma: My noble friend will be aware that during the passage of the Equality Bill there were consultations and meetings with people right across the caste system to ensure that both sides of the argument were put. I urge all noble Lords to allow the Government to consider the report carefully. I think that there will be a fair outcome if we see how it impacts on the wider context of legislation in our country.

Lord Skelmersdale: My Lords, is it not fundamental to this whole question that we have proper education in schools from the very earliest age?

Reply from Baroness Verma: My noble friend is right about education, but I think that education needs to start within the communities in which such discrimination is practised. I understand completely how difficult it is for some communities to

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

raise the question but, unless they deal with it themselves, legislation will not do so.

Baroness Falkner of Margravine: My Lords, does my noble friend accept that it is very worrying to see in the report that caste is seen as providing identity and support and reinforcing community? Does she agree that integration, education and legislation are what are needed and that we do not need to support community cohesion by supporting discrimination?

Reply from Baroness Verma: My noble friend is absolutely right. As one who has always supported equality through integration, I think we need to come away from the idea that constantly supporting people to be separate is an easier form of dealing with the problem now. The big picture should be that we can get on with our lives and treat people without having to worry that we will offend them in some way because of one issue or another. The law will not cover every possibility of discrimination, even if we are constantly legislating to bring in more and more groups to protect.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101222-0001.htm#10122246000554>

Press Releases

UN human rights chief condemns religious attacks around the world

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Media.aspx?IsMediaPage=true>

Roma Integration: First Findings of Roma Task Force and Report on Social Inclusion

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/10/701&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

New publication

Improving the tools for the social inclusion and non-discrimination of Roma in the EU

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=6428&langId=en>

News

Do not suffer in silence, hate victims told

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/Do-not-suffer-in-silence.6666417.jp>

Panic as anti-Polish hate crime sweeps Scotland

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/panic-as-anti-polish-hate-crime-sweeps-scotland-1.1076477>

Recasting Hinduism for the 21st century

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2010/dec/21/india-hindu-dalit>

Must my daughter be bullied because of this callous comedy?

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/thunderer/article2856897.ece>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

'Not Ashamed': Christian campaign to encourage people to display their faith

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/religion/8226187/Not-Ashamed-Christian-campaign-to-encourage-people-to-display-their-faith.html>

The Christians who felt discriminated against

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/religion/8226444/The-Christians-who-felt-discriminated-against.html>

Jack Straw criticised for 'easy meat' comments on abuse

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-12142177>

Straw: Pakistanis target white girls as 'easy meat'

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Society/article503708.ece

Child sex trafficking study sparks exaggerated racial stereotyping

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2011/jan/06/child-sex-trafficking-racial-stereotyping>

Grooming and our ignoble tradition of racialising crime

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/jan/07/grooming-racialising-crime-tradition>

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Other Holyrood

New publication

Voting and the Scottish Parliament

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/vli/publicInfo/documents/VotingandtheScottishParliament.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Question

Churches: Repairs and Maintenance

Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport in respect of how many eligible places of worship grants have been made under the listed places of worship grant scheme in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average amount of each grant was in the latest period for which figures are available. [32102]

Reply from John Penrose: The listed places of worship grant scheme makes payments equivalent to the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings primarily in use for public worship. In the 2009-10 financial year, 3,745 claims were paid UK-wide, with a total value of £14,963,412.67, giving an average grant of £3,996.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101220/text/101220w0005.htm#1012216000089>

Other Westminster (continued)

Early Day Motion

Valerie Vaz (1219) Female genital mutilation - That this House is concerned about the continuing prevalence of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the UK, despite the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 that restated and amended the prohibition of such practices under UK law; understands that there have been no prosecutions in respect of offences relating to female genital mutilation in the last five years; notes the World Health Organisation's (WHO) view that the procedure has no health benefits, and can cause severe acute and chronic problems for physical and mental health; further notes that the WHO recognises four distinct types of FGM; recognises that the procedure is nearly always carried out on minors and thus constitutes a violation of the rights of children; further recognises that the practice violates the human rights of girls and women, including a person's rights to health, security and physical integrity, the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and the right to life when the procedure results in death; acknowledges that the causes of FGM are complex and include a mix of cultural and social factors within families and communities; further acknowledges that no religious scripts prescribe the practice; and calls on the Government to ensure that protection is provided for young women at risk, whether they are UK nationals, permanent residents or newly arrived.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=42232&SESSION=905>

Press Releases

ID cards consigned to history

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/IDcard-scrappedc>

Foreign Secretary's Christmas message

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=484536682>

News

Multi-faith chaplains to make House of Commons more inclusive

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/religion/8224923/Multi-faith-chaplains-to-make-House-of-Commons-more-inclusive.html>

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New Publications

Faith Leadership through Chaplaincy

http://faith-matters.org/images/stories/fm-reports/faith_matters_chaplaincy_report.pdf

Social enterprise and ethnic minorities

<http://www.tsrc.ac.uk/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=HU/eq0AdTZM=>

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Other News

Charities fear public spending cuts will limit range of services offered

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/charities-fear-public-spending-cuts-will-limit-range-of-services-offered-1.1075644>

Rise in demand for work chaplains

<http://breakingnews.heraldscotland.com/breaking-news/?mode=article&site=hs&id=N0329381293263258543A>

What if the world had been following Islamic financial practices?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2011/jan/07/islam-fairer-finance-moral-risk>

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Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Certification of Death Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/58-CertDeath/index.htm>

Forced Marriage etc. (Protection and Jurisdiction) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/53-forcedMarriage/index.htm>

Local Electoral Administration Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/57-LocalElecAdmin/index.htm>

Public Records Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/56-PublicRecords/index.htm>

Westminster

Fixed Term Parliaments Bill

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

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>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/035/amend/ml035-i.1-2.html>

House of Lords consideration of Commons Reason

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101221-0001.htm#10122142000802>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101221-0002.htm#10122146000169>

Royal Assent

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101221/debtext/101221-0004.htm#10122162000004>

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

**** Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill**

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

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101220-0001.htm#1012201000308>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101220-0002.htm#10122019000665>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101220-0003.htm#1012211000092>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/026/amend/ml026-vira.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/026/amend/su026-virb.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/026/amend/su026-viron.htm>

Parliamentary Question

Lord Bassam of Brighton: To ask Her Majesty's Government why they judged that the provisions of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill did not require an impact assessment.[HL4944]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: The Government take the view that a regulatory impact assessment is not required for the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill on the grounds that its impact will fall on citizens rather than business or the public sector front line.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101220w0001.htm#1012207000522>

**** Scotland Bill**

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

Scottish Parliament Legislative Consent Motion evidence from the Scottish Government

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/scotBill/or-10/sb10-0302.htm#Col77>

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Consultations

(closing date)

**** new or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

Sikh Articles of Faith (10 January 2011)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/scotland/projects-and-campaigns-in-scotland/sikh-articles-of-faith/>

**** closes this week!**

Scotland Bill (14 January 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/scotBill/documents/Callforevidence.pdf>

Consultations (continued)

**** closes this week!**

Charity Commission for England and Wales: Views on Future Strategy

(14 January 2011)

http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr_strategic_review.aspx

Introducing fee charges for appeals in the Immigration and Asylum Chambers of the First-Tier Tribunal and the Upper Tribunal (21 January 2011)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/fee-charges-appeals-consultation-211010.htm>

Student Immigration System (31 January 2011)

Full consultation paper:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/consultations/students/>

Online survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BDPMGMTM>

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Events/Conferences/Training

**** New or updated this week**

**** this week!**

Scottish Refugee Council AGM

14 January 2010 in Edinburgh (2.00)

Keynote speaker Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty. The year 2011 marks the 60th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees, and the theme of the AGM will be to recognise the importance of this international agreement which has saved thousands if not hundreds of thousands of lives over the years. For information contact Graeme Corbett Graeme.Corbett@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk /0141 223 7930

Equality Act 2010: What does it mean for you?

19 January 2011 in Edinburgh

17 February 2011 in Inverness

Equality and Human Rights Commission conferences to provide information about how the Act works and how to use it, what discrimination means and who is protected. For information contact David Reilly David.Reilly@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5967 or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/11ii_ehrc.pdf

OSCR Outreach Programme: Completing OSCR Returns

19 January 2011 in Perth (10.00 – 12.30)

22 February 2010 in Glasgow (2.00 – 4.30)

10 May 2010 in Aberdeen (10.00 – 12.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training for charity advisors to enable them to assist charities to complete annual and supplementary monitoring returns. For information see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/EventItem.aspx?ID=41d2239c-6e59-4edb-96ea-cfd052854b50> or contact communications@oscr.org.uk

Working with Interpreters

20 January 2011 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 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Violence against Women in Muslim Communities

24 – 26 January 2011 in Glasgow (10.00 – 6.00)

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre training to enhance the skills and knowledge of existing trainers and those who work on women's issues. For information contact tabassum@mwrc.org.uk or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/11i_mwrc.pdf

From the Ballot Box to the Podium: Webinar: Mobilising Immigrant Voters and Political Leadership

25 January 2011

Webinar to explore how under-represented ethnic groups can be engaged, bringing fresh ideas and alternative perspectives to the political table. For information see <http://citiesofmigration.ca/integration-learning-exchange/calendar/lang/en/>

OSCR Outreach Programme: Becoming a Charity

26 January 2010 in Edinburgh (2.00 – 4.30)

19 April 2011 in Dundee (10.00 – 12.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training for charity advisors to enable them to assist organisations in deciding whether to register as a charity, and, if so, to do so. For information see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/EventItem.aspx?ID=6bb95a2f-165b-4bbc-8f78-25fd07c79e34> or contact communications@oscr.org.uk

**** Domestic abuse: a consultation day for faith groups**

3 February 2011 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 1.00)

Consultation to bring together interested representatives from faith communities to explore how Scottish Women's Aid can work with and support faith communities in addressing domestic abuse. For information contact Fiona Buchanan 0131 226 6606 / fiona.buchanan@scottishwomensaid.org.uk or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/11i_swa.pdf

UKBA asylum support - the essentials

3 February 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for people supporting those going through the asylum process. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/325_ukba_formerly_nass_asylum_support_-_the_essentials

**** An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees**

10 February 2011 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore immigration terminology, main refugee nationalities, why people flee and factors affecting migration, the Refugee Convention - its history and interpretation, the UK asylum process and current implementation in Scotland, how to develop culturally sensitive services, and issues facing practitioners and possible solutions; best practice for support and advocacy. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/858_an_introduction_to_working_with_asylum_seekers_and_refugees

**** Becoming British citizens? The experiences and opinions of refugees living in Scotland**

14 February 2011 in Glasgow (1.30 – 4.30)

Research findings examining the opinions of refugees living in Scotland towards the UK citizenship process and their views on becoming British citizens. For information see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/events_calendar/892_research_seminar_becoming_british_citizens or contact 0141 223 7915 / info@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Violence Against Women Faith, Culture and Practice Training

23 February 2011 in Stirling(10.00 – 4.00)

Amina training to explore the faith and cultural dimensions associated with the perpetration of violence against women in the Muslim and other Communities. For information contact pdu@stirling.gov.uk / 01786 442 562.

**** Justice and Fairness in the Workplace**

18 February 2011 in Glasgow (10.00 – 3.00)

Conference jointly organised by BEMIS, the Scottish Refugee Council, and the STUC to discuss employment and human rights, migrants and employment, the role of the unions, and active citizenship. For information contact Tanveer Parnez 0141 548 8047 / conference@bemis.org.uk or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/11ii_bemis.pdf

**** An introduction to working with separated children**

24 February 2011 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course about children under 18 years of age, in the UK without a parent or other guardian who may be going through the asylum process, have been granted leave to remain, or be victims of trafficking. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/879_an_introduction_to_working_with_separated_children

Researching Poverty at Community Level

The second pilot programme will begin in April 2011

BEMIS in partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University (Scottish Poverty Information Unit) and Faith in Community Scotland are offering a 12 week Certificate Level training programme to empower local community and faith groups with much needed necessary skills in relation to research and tackling poverty. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/11iv_bemis.pdf and registration form http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/11iv_bemis.doc or contact Tanveer Parnez Tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

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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/AToZOofCentralGovernment/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/>

Useful Links (continued)

Equality and Human Rights Commission <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>
Scotland Helpline 0845 604 5510

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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/>*