

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.*

Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Race Relations](#)

[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)

[Other Holyrood](#)

[New Publications](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Events/Conferences/Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and requests to be added to circulation to mail@bemis.org.uk

The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 21 February, and the UK Parliament from 17 to 28 February.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-7911 Hugh O'Donnell: Cuts to Scottish Refugee Council Advice Budgets— That the Parliament is seriously concerned by reports that the UK Border Agency (UKBA) proposes to cut advice funding to the Scottish Refugee Council (SRC) by as much as 62%; considers that the people using these services are some of the most vulnerable people in Scotland, often without recourse to any public funds or services; believes that this cut would be inappropriate, and calls on the UKBA to reconsider its current proposals before it damages what is considered the vital work being carried out by the SRC and other agencies working with refugees and asylum seekers.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=20766>

Westminster Debate

Higher Education (Student Visas)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110208/debtext/110208-0004.htm#1102099000002>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)β House of Lords Grand Committee

Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Order 2011

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110207-gc0001.htm#11020729000151>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration legacy cases were (a) lodged and (b) dealt with in each of the last 24 months; and what the outcome of each was. [37738]

Reply from Damian Green [*holding answer 3 February 2011*]: Cases dealt with under the "legacy" programme are asylum cases that were lodged with the agency on or prior to 5 March 2007 therefore no new legacy cases were lodged in the last 24 months. In response to part (b) of the question, the agency provides regular updates on performance, including a breakdown into grants, removals and "other" cases such as duplicates or errors, to the Home Affairs Select Committee and is due to report in the spring. On 1 November the agency reported to the Home Affairs Select Committee that it had concluded 334,500 cases.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110210/text/110210w0001.htm#11021062000018>

Immigration Controls

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to increase levels of immigration control at border entry points. [38326]

Reply from Damian Green: We are continually strengthening and modernising our border controls, to improve our ability to prevent those who do not qualify for entry to the UK from doing so, while continuing to welcome those who wish to travel to the UK legitimately to visit, work or study. Measures we have already taken include maintaining the strength of our visa regimes; maintaining immigration liaison officers at airports overseas and the juxtaposed immigration controls in France and Belgium; as well as the continued development of e-borders and evolution of the points based system. We will also create a dedicated border police command, as part of the new National Crime Agency, to enhance national security, improve immigration controls and crack down on the trafficking of people, weapons and drugs.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place at each port in the UK to detect (a) illegal immigrants and (b) prohibited items from entering the UK. [38913]

Reply from Damian Green: UK Border Agency (UKBA) officers carry out detection duties at ports and airports across the UK and at our juxtaposed controls in France and Belgium. Officers have at their disposal hi-tech search equipment. Specially trained officers deploy an array of search techniques including the use of body detection dogs, carbon dioxide detectors and heartbeat monitors as well as visual searches to find those seeking to enter the UK clandestinely. UK Border Agency officers work at the frontier to detect and disrupt smuggling of a wide range of goods. UKBA take a targeted risk-based approach to intervention that is intelligence led and use a variety of detection technologies to scan and examine baggage, vehicles and freight. This includes up-to-date x-ray and trace detection technology coupled with the use of detector dogs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110208/text/110208w0003.htm#11020866000063>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Migrant Workers

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visas under Tier 5 (religious workers) of the points-based visa scheme have been granted to applicants in each of the last three years. [39746]

Reply from Damian Green: Tier 5 of the points-based system (PBS) was introduced on 27 November 2008 to cover entry clearance visas for temporary workers and youth mobility. The following table shows the number of entry clearance visas issued under the Tier 5 (religious workers) category from 2008 to Quarter 3 2010.

Figures on entry clearance visas issued by category are published quarterly in table 1.1 of Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Data for Quarter 4 2010 will be published on 24 February 2011 in Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary Q4 2010.

<i>Entry clearance visas⁽¹⁾ to the United Kingdom issued under PBS Tier 5-Religious, 2008 to Q3 2010⁽³⁾</i>	
	<i>Visas issued</i>
2008 ⁽²⁾	-
2009	1,040
Q1 to Q3 2010	1,260
⁽¹⁾ Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 ('-' = 0, * = 1 or 2). ⁽²⁾ Tier 5 of the points-based system (PBS) was introduced on 27 November 2008. ⁽³⁾ Management information.	

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110210/text/110210w001.htm#11021062000020>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students from outside the European Economic Area were (a) admitted into the UK on study visas and (b) granted post-study work visas in 2009-10. [38360]

Reply from Damian Green: The latest available information is given in the following table. The table shows statistics for a) student admissions (excluding dependants and student visitors) in 2009 and b) entry clearance visas issued and grants of leave to remain in the United Kingdom under the tier 1-post study route (excluding dependants) 2009 to Q3 2010.

Out of country visas to the United Kingdom issued, admissions and in country extensions of leave ^(1,2) , by selected category, excluding dependants, 2009 to Q3 2010 ⁽⁴⁾		
Category	2009	2010 Jan to Sept
Students admitted to the UK (excluding Student visitors) ⁽⁴⁾		
Students	82,100	⁽⁸⁾ -
Tier 4	188,000	⁽⁸⁾ -
Tier 1-post study ^(5,6)		
Out of country visas issued ⁽⁷⁾	4,245	3,890

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

In-country grants of leave to remain	34,180	25,195
--------------------------------------	--------	--------

(1) Individuals could be counted in both entry clearance visas issued and grants of an extension of leave to remain if the issue and grant occurs within the same year.
(2) Excludes EEA and Swiss nationals.
(3) Provisional figures.
(4) Figures rounded to three significant figures.
(5) Entry clearance visas issued and grants of an extension of leave to remain should not be summed.
(6) Figures rounded to the nearest 5.
(7) Management information.
(8) Not available.
Source:
Home Office, Migration Statistics.

Statistics for visas issued, admissions and grants of leave to remain are published in tables 1.1, 1.2 and 4.2 respectively in the "Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom July-September 2010". This Home Office statistical bulletin is available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

A copy has been placed in the House Library.

Admission statistics for the first half of 2010 and statistics for visas issued and grants of leave to remain for the fourth quarter of 2010 are scheduled for publication on 24 February 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110208/text/110208w0003.htm#11020866000059>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of proposed reforms to the immigration system on the number of non-EU students applying to (a) all UK universities and (b) universities in (i) England, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Wales and (iv) Northern Ireland. [39369]

William Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of her proposed restrictions on the number of student visas on levels of income of universities with courses attracting overseas students in (a) Scotland, (b) England, (c) Wales and (d) Northern Ireland in each of the next four years. [39550]

Reply from Damian Green: A consultation on the student immigration system closed on 31 January 2011. The consultation sought the views of all respondents on the effect of the proposals. The results of the consultation and an impact assessment will be published in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110210/text/110210w0001.htm#11021062000017>

Immigration: Appeals

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the length of time was of the 20 longest-running immigration appeals cases concerning a single individual. [38906]

Reply from Damian Green: The Home Department does not record statistics on the individual time scales of all appeals.

The longest-running immigration appeals cases are cases that proceed through the court system to the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. There are no time limits for cases to be heard or judgments to be handed down at these courts. The length of time an appeal takes may be extended further should it be referred to the Court of Justice of the European Union. For the first two quarters of 2010-11

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

70,300 immigration appeals were received by the Tribunal Service and during the same period 73 appeals proceeded to the Court of Appeal, while four were determined at the Supreme Court.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110209/text/110209w0005.htm#11020983000122>

Illegal Immigrants: Asylum

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost of processing a case involving (a) an illegal immigrant and (b) an asylum seeker whose application for asylum is refused was in each year for which figures are available. [38916]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has not previously collected these data, but since I became Minister for Immigration, I have asked the agency to show a greater focus on productivity and these, or similar, data will be more readily available in the future.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) illegal immigrants and (b) asylum seekers whose application for asylum was refused have been allowed to remain in the UK by (i) ministerial or other administrative decision, (ii) as a consequence of an appeal to a tribunal and (iii) as a result of an appeal through the courts made predominantly, entirely or partly on human rights grounds. [38918]

Reply from Damian Green: We have interpreted illegal immigrants to mean individuals who have been served papers as immigration offenders, and refused asylum seekers to mean failed asylum seekers. Refused individuals who have been granted leave to remain by the Government, has been interpreted as individuals granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave.

The information requested is shown in the following table.

	2008	2009	2010
Immigration offenders served papers ^(1, 3)	37,296	34,738	20,934
Granted HP/DL ^(1, 3, 4)	2,156	1,754	705
Appeal allowed ^(1, 3, 5)	268	226	106
HR appeal allowed ^(1, 3, 6)	164	166	93
Failed asylum seekers ^(2, 3)	15,737	15,941	11,116
Granted HP/DL ^(2, 3, 4)	2,307	2,151	1,032
Appeal allowed ^(2, 3, 5)	2,825	3,616	1,719
HR appeal allowed ^(2, 3, 6)	2,410	3,116	1,547

⁽¹⁾ Data are for individuals served papers as immigration offenders, in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

⁽²⁾ Data are for individuals refused asylum based on initial decision, in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

⁽³⁾ Data relate to main applicants only.

⁽⁴⁾ Data relate to individuals refused, but allowed permission to remain in the UK by the Government on the grounds of humanitarian protection (HP) and discretionary leave (DL) at initial decision. HP and DL replaced exceptional leave to remain from 1 April 2003.

⁽⁵⁾ Data relate to individuals who were granted leave following a successful appeal.

⁽⁶⁾ Data relate to individuals who were granted leave following a successful appeal on human rights grounds. This is a subset of appeal allowed data.

Note:

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110209/text/110209w0005.htm#11020983000120>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigrants who have entered the UK illegally claimed asylum following detection in each year for which figures are available; how many of those were granted asylum; how many of those were refused permission to remain in the UK and asked to leave the UK; and how many left the UK in each year. [38911]

Reply from Damian Green: In answering this question we have interpreted illegal immigrants as individuals who have been served papers as immigration offenders, prior to claiming asylum. The information requested is shown in the following table:

	2008	2009	2010
Claimed asylum following detection ^(1, 2)	16,998	13,356	9,827
Granted ^{(1, 2), (3)}	4,528	3,117	2,224
Refused ^{(1, 2), (4)}	9,583	7,612	5,784
Other ^{(1, 2), (5)}	2,887	2,627	1,819
Total Removed ^(1, 2)	3,229	2,529	1,536

⁽¹⁾ Data are for individuals served papers as immigration offenders, who subsequently claimed asylum in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

⁽²⁾ Data relates to the main applicants only.

⁽³⁾ Data relates to the number granted asylum (including Humanitarian Protection and Discretionary Leave) at first decision.

⁽⁴⁾ Data relates to the number refused asylum at first decision.

⁽⁵⁾ Data relates to Other outcomes (e.g. as yet unconcluded cases, withdrawn by applicant, withdrawn absconder, applicant deceased, applicant left UK, Third Country action accepted.)

Notes: 1. All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change.

2. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110209/text/110209w0005.htm#11020983000114>

Asylum

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the maximum period of detention is for a stateless person in an immigration detention centre. [38756]

Reply from Damian Green: Immigration Act powers of detention are not time limited. However, detention must be kept to the minimum period reasonably necessary for the purpose for which it was authorised and must not be unduly prolonged. The length of those periods will vary between individual cases depending on their particular circumstances. Where a person seeks to frustrate their removal from the UK their detention may be prolonged as a consequence; the courts have upheld this position.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people classified as stateless were held in immigration detention centres on the most recent date for which figures are available. [38758]

Reply from Damian Green: As at 30 September 2010, the latest date for which National Statistics have been published, five people (figure rounded to the nearest five) classified as stateless were detained solely under Immigration Act powers, in UK Border Agency Immigration Removal Centres and Short Term Holding Facilities. The Home Office publishes National Statistics on the number of persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a quarterly and annual basis which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Border Agency unit dealing with older unresolved asylum cases is on schedule to resolve all such cases by its target date of summer 2011. [38759]

Reply from Damian Green: The agency provides regular updates on performance, including a breakdown into grants, removals and "other" cases such as duplicates or errors, to the Home Affairs Select Committee and is next due to report in the spring. On 1 November the agency reported to the Home Affairs Select Committee that it had concluded 334,500 cases and is on track to conclude the legacy backlog by summer 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110207/text/110207w0002.htm#11020713000079>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what medical help is available to asylum seekers in the United Kingdom.[HL6629]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): Under National Health Service (NHS) regulations, anyone who has made a formal application for asylum in the UK is eligible for both primary and secondary NHS treatment free of charge until a final decision is made on their claim and any appeal rights have been exhausted.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what medical help is available to asylum seekers due for deportation from the United Kingdom.[HL6630]

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: Asylum seekers are not removed until their case has been finally determined and it has been decided that they are not in need of protection. Failed asylum seekers whose removal is pending can access primary health care free of charge but may be charged for some secondary healthcare.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110210w0001.htm#11021053000364>

People Trafficking

Baroness Doocey: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children have been identified as potential victims of trafficking by UK Border Agency staff assigned to controls at Eurostar terminals in France and Belgium.[HL6514]

Reply from The Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): UK Border Agency Staff at the Eurostar terminals in France and Belgium do not record potential victims of trafficking. Cases of potential child trafficking are immediately reported to the French, Belgian authorities or the police authorities to take action.

Baroness Doocey: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the work of the Metropolitan Police's Paladin team, who safeguard children at London entry ports; and whether they plan to replicate such police units across the United Kingdom.[HL6515]

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: The Government are committed to safeguarding trafficked children and combating this terrible crime. Whilst the Government have not carried out a formal assessment of the work of the Paladin team, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) have conducted an internal study of the Paladin model and how it works. The decision on whether to replicate it is an operational matter for the police.

Baroness Doocey: To ask Her Majesty's Government what safeguards will be in place in United Kingdom ports in the lead up to and during the London Olympic and Paralympic Games to prevent children being trafficked.[HL6516]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: The UK Border Agency works closely with the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), social services and the police to safeguard the welfare of children arriving into the UK. All frontline border force officers are trained to identify any children deemed at risk. We will continue to work collaboratively with our partners to protect children from being trafficked into the UK. These safeguards will continue to apply in the lead up to and during the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110210w0001.htm#11021053000383>

Press Releases

New recommendations on the occupations to be removed from Tier 2 of the points-based system

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/february/23mac-report-tier2>

Migrant job recommendations will be 'studied in detail'

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/migrant-job>

Migrant children should not be detained

<https://wcd.coe.int/wcd/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=PR114%282011%29&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&Site=DC&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE>

Woman charged in people smuggling investigation

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/people-smuggling>

New publications

Becoming British Citizens? Experiences and Opinions of Refugees Living in Scotland

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0000/1460/Citizenship_report_Feb11.pdf

House of Commons Scottish Affairs Committee: UK Border Agency and Glasgow City Council

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmsscota/733/733.pdf>

Coping with Destitution: Survival and livelihood strategies of refused asylum seekers living in the UK

http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/right_heard/downloads/rr-coping-with-destitution-survival-strategies-uk-050211-en.pdf

UKBA: A feasibility study for a survey of migrants

<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/news/2011/ukba-report-feasibility-study-survey-migrant-workers>

International Migration: The search for decent work

http://cms.horus.be/files/99931/MediaArchive/Migration_report_web.pdf

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

Transatlantic Trends: Immigration

http://www.gmfus.org/trends/immigration/doc/TTI2010_English_Key.pdf

News

Letter to Glasgow asylum seekers 'inhumane' say MPs

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-12415943>

Just a friendly face

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/life-style/real-lives/just-a-friendly-face-1.1084671>

Consultation on visas may be unlawful, law firm says

<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=26&storycode=415031&c=1>

Job anguish for immigrants as English language courses face cuts

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2011/feb/13/english-language-teaching-immigrants-cutbacks>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

Press Release

Proud to be Roma: Roma MEP Livia Járóka on the need for a European strategy

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/019-113222-035-02-06-902-20110204STO13208-2011-04-02-2011/default_en.htm

New publication

Opting Out of Religious Education: The Views of Young People from Minority Belief Backgrounds

<http://www.queens-belfast.com/schools/SchoolofLaw/Research/researchfilestore/Fileupload.218867,en.pdf>

News

Multiculturalism: What does it mean?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-12381027>

Racial integration is a 'two-way street'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article2903074.ece>

Faith schools: reading, riting, religion, really?

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article2902816.ece>

David Cameron's message is that Muslims are not wanted

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/yasmin-alibhai-brown/yasmin-alibhaibrown-david-camerons-message-is-that-muslims-are-not-wanted-2206381.html>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Sectarianism

Bill Butler (Glasgow Anniesland) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive how many anti-sectarianism projects it has funded from the Race, Religion and Refugee Integration Fund since 2008, broken down by (a) project and (b) amount. (S3W-39060)

Reply from Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government funds a wide range of organisations to deliver projects to tackle sectarianism and all forms of religious intolerance. These include work focusing on schools, communities, the workplace, football supporters and adult offenders:

Organisation	Financial Years			Totals
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	
Nil by Mouth	£51,000	£59,000	£59,000	£169,000
Sense over Sectarianism	£112,500	£150,000	£150,000	£412,500
Show Racism the Red Card		£46,600	£46,600	£93,200
Show Bigotry the Red Card			£21,900	£21,900
Iona Community		£20,000	£42,300	£62,300
YouthLink Scotland	£21,500			£21,500
Youth Community Support Agency	£50,000	£70,000	£70,000	£190,000
Totals:	£235,000	£345,600	£389,800	£970,400

Despite huge cuts being inflicted on Scotland by the Westminster government, the Scottish Government has decided to retain the funding level for equality projects at £20.3 million for 2011-12. This demonstrates the continuing commitment of the Scottish Government to the promotion of equality and to tackling issues of discrimination. All organisations currently funded through Race, Religion and Refugee Integration funding, including those delivering work to tackle sectarianism, were issued with funding application packs on 25 January 2011 for the 2011-12 financial year. We are committed to working constructively with organisations to tackle the scourge of sectarianism.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pq=S3W-39060>

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Anti-Semitism

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received from the Co-ordination Forum for Countering anti-Semitism on the level of anti-Semitism worldwide; and if he will make a statement. [38035]

Reply from Mr Jeremy Browne: We have received no direct reports from the Co-ordination Forum for Countering anti-Semitism. The Community Security Trust (CST), a British charity focused on protecting the Jewish community, contributes to the forum and published their nationwide 2010 Anti-Semitic Incidents Report on 3 February 2011 which will be circulated to the Government and the Police.

The UK is committed to fighting racial discrimination and intolerance. Combating all forms of racism remains an important part of the Government's human rights policy. 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.

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Question

We have also recently published the Government's first progress update report on our work to take forward the recommendations of the 2006 All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Semitism.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110207/text/110207w0001.htm#11020713000049>

Press Release

Assessing multiculturalism: Is David Cameron Looking at the Broader Picture?

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2011-%2002-%2007%20Cameron%20Speech%20EN%20final.pdf>

News

Racism on the rise in Scotland

<http://news.stv.tv/scotland/227562-racism-on-the-increase-in-scotland/>

Courier investigation uncovers troubling rates of racism in Fife

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/News/Fife/article/10578/courier-investigation-uncovers-troubling-rates-of-racism-in-fife.html>

Battle over bigotry 'abandoned by SNP'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/battle-over-bigotry-abandoned-by-snp-1.1084895>

Gypsy wedding series 'whips up hatred and discrimination'

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/news/Gypsy-wedding-series-39whips-.6717086.jp>

Race is on to end racism

<http://www.voice-online.co.uk/content.php?show=18900>

General Synod backs ban on clergy joining the BNP

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/8311104/General-Synod-backs-ban-on-clergy-joining-the-BNP.html>

[TOP](#)

Other Holyrood

New publication

Census 2011: Shaping Scotland's Future

www.scojec.org/memo/files/11ii_census.pdf

[TOP](#)

New Publication

A Learning Culture for the Community Learning and Development Sector in Scotland

http://www.cldstandardscouncil.org.uk/files/CPD_Strategy_for_CLD

[TOP](#)

Other News

Radio 4 'lowers standards for racial reasons'

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Arts/article547488.ece

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

**** Certification of Death Bill**

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

Government response to the Stage 1 report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/inquiries/CertificationOfDeathBill/documents/ResponsefromtheMinisterforPublicHealthandSporttoStage1reportonCertificationofDeathScotl.pdf>

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>

Bills in Progress Westminster

Fixed Term Parliaments Bill

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

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

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/044/amend/ml044-ir.htm>
and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/044/amend/ml044-ii.htm>

Report Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110207-0001.htm#1102079000872>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110207-0002.htm#11020739000154>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110208-0001.htm#11020837000989>

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

** Scotland Bill

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

Scottish Parliament Committee evidence session on the Legislative Consent Memoranda

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/scotBill/or-11/sb11-0501.htm>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/scotBill/or-11/sb11-0602.htm#Col414>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

(closing date)

** new or updated this week

Department for International Development Match Funding Scheme (24 February 2011)

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Working-with-DFID/Consultations/Match-Funding-Scheme/>

Inquiry into Human Trafficking in Scotland (25 March 2011)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/scotland/projects-and-campaigns-in-scotland/inquiry-into-human-trafficking-in-scotland/call-for-evidence/>

International Commission for Aid Impact (scrutiny of UK overseas aid) (7 April 2011)

<http://icai.independent.gov.uk/>

** **Equality Act: Draft Code of Practice for Schools in Scotland** (22 April 2011)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-consultations/>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

** *this week!*

Equality Act 2010: What does it mean for you?

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

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

Tell the World

21 February 2011 in Glasgow (12.00 – 4.30)

Runnymede consultation event providing an opportunity to give your views to the UN on key issues facing black and minority ethnic communities in the UK, which also includes a training session about the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, a United Nations body that monitors compliance by UN countries to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. For information see <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/278/273/Tell-the-World-Advising-UN-race-committee-Glasgow.html> or contact Katy Schmitz klara@runnymedetrust.org.

OSCR Outreach Programme: Completing OSCR Returns

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

**** Healthy Communities: Immigrants helping immigrant access healthcare**

23 February 2011 webinar (4.00 – 5.00)

Staying healthy means knowing when and where to go for medical help and having access to experts who can speak your language, culturally and linguistically. Find out how programs in San Francisco and Hannover improve health literacy within immigrant communities. For information see <http://citiesofmigration.ca/integration-learning-exchange/calendar/lang/en/>

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.

The Gathering

23-24 February 2011 in Edinburgh

SCVO voluntary sector fair. For information see <http://www.scvo.org.uk/news/events-2/the-gathering/>

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Toward a Registration System for CLD Practitioners

9 March 2011 in Glasgow

11 March 2011 in Edinburgh

Standards Council for Community Learning and Development for Scotland consultations on establishing a registration system for Community Learning and Development practitioners. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/11iii_cld.doc or contact Gail Herrigan 0141 282 5054 / G.Herrigan@LTScotland.org.uk.

Race Equality in Scotland

8 March 2011 at the Scottish Parliament (6.00 – 7.30)

Runnymede political panel discussion to discuss each party's approach to race equality, as well as on whether race relations have changed in Scotland over the past ten years. For information contact Vicki Butler vicki@runnymedetrust.org

Youth Interfaith Conference

10 March 2011 in Jackton (10.00 – 3.00)

ACPOS conference and discussion forums to bring young people together to explore faith in our communities. For information see <http://www.interfaithconnect.org/>

**** Muslimah of Scotland Conference**

12 March 2011 in Dundee

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre conference to celebrate the contribution of Muslim women to Scotland as well as challenge negative stereotypes and barriers that exist to having a fair for all Scotland. For information contact 0141 585 8026 / info@mwrc.org.uk

**** Supporting Resilient Communities**

17 March in Edinburgh

SURF conference to discuss how best to support community resilience and creativity necessary to survive the present crisis and thrive independently in future. For information see <http://www.scotregen.co.uk/events/default.asp?ItemID=1254> or contact Derek Rankine Derek@scotregen.co.uk

OSCR Outreach Programme: Becoming a Charity

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

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.

[TOP](#)

Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/home.htm>

Scottish Government <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Home>

Westminster Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.eu.int/parliament/public.do?language=en>

One Scotland Many Cultures <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

Social Economy Scotland <http://www.socialeconomyscotland.info/content/index.asp>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <http://www.oscr.org.uk/Index.stm>

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) <http://www.crbs.org.uk/>

Disclosure Scotland <http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/>

BBC News24 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/default.stm>

BBC Parliament online

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm

[TOP](#)



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/>