

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-8135 Robert Brown: Handling of Asylum Claims in Scotland—That the Parliament welcomes *21 Months Later*, a report by the British Red Cross (BRC) and the Refugee Survival Trust (RST), which highlights the plight of people who have to travel from Scotland to Croydon to register claims for asylum without receiving financial help for this from the UK Government; notes that the BRC and RST pay for food and overnight bus travel for the claimants; further notes that the BRC and RST are calling on the UK Border Agency to meet the travel costs for people making these trips of approximately 400 miles to register their claims, and considers that asylum seekers housed in Scotland should have the right to lodge and have their claims dealt with in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=21005>

Westminster Debate

Visas: Points-based System

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110310-0002.htm#11031067000420>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Worker Registration Scheme

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before Parliament regulations which will have the effect of closing, on 30 April 2011, the worker registration scheme for workers from those member states from eastern Europe that joined the EU on 1 May 2004. This means that after 30 April 2011 nationals of those countries will no longer be subject to a requirement to register their employment as a condition of working legally in the United Kingdom and will be able to work and reside in the United Kingdom on the same basis as nationals from other EU member states.

The worker registration scheme is being closed because the terms of the treaty of accession mean that the United Kingdom cannot apply restrictions on access to the labour market to nationals of those member states for more than seven years from the date of accession. Those other EU member states—that is, Germany and Austria—that have maintained such restrictions to date will also be required to lift them.

The Government intend to apply transitional controls on labour market access, in accordance with the relevant accession treaty, to nationals of any country joining the EU in the future. This is part of the Government's commitment to reducing net migration to the tens of thousands, alongside the steps that the Government are taking to reduce immigration from outside the EU, including new limits on numbers of workers admitted under tiers 1 and 2 of the points-based system and reforms to other routes of entry including students, families and marriage. Economic migration routes will remain closed to lower-skilled migrants from outside the EU while UK and EU labour continues to be available to meet labour needs at this level.

The UK Border Agency will be publishing guidance on its website for workers from the relevant accession member states and for employers, clarifying their responsibilities in relation to compliance with the worker registration scheme until its closure on 30 April.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110310/wmstext/110310m0001.htm#1103104000019>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

British Citizenship

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many successful applications for British citizenship were made under Section 4C of the British Nationality Act 1981 by country of birth in each year from 2003 to 2010 inclusive.[HL7176]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The available information is given in the attached table.

This information is taken from local management information provided by UK Border Agency, North West Region Planning and MI Team. It is not a national statistic and as such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110308w0001.htm#11030856001896>

Immigration System

Thérèse Coffey: [To ask the Minister] What steps she plans to take to decouple temporary residence from permanent settlement in the immigration system. [44040]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): The Government have pledged to break the link between temporary migration and permanent settlement. Settling in Britain should be a privilege to be

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

earned, not an automatic add-on to a temporary way in. We have already announced that we will introduce a new permanent limit on non-EU economic migrants, with a reduction in the number of visas in the next financial year from 28,000 to 21,700, a fall of over 20%. The Government will consult later this year on breaking the link between work and settlement.

Ann Coffey: My constituents are largely concerned not by people who work here temporarily, but by people who work here for a short amount of time and then can settle permanently. Is there not a case for a review of the criteria for permanent settlement, to try to avoid this kind of practice?

Reply from Theresa May: ... We will review the entire question of permanent settlement including the criteria for it as part of our review of the whole immigration system. We will make announcements on that shortly, but I can tell my hon. Friend that we have already tightened the settlement criteria in April, by introducing, for example, a new criminality threshold so all applicants must be clear of unspent convictions when applying, a new income requirement for skilled and highly skilled migrants applying for settlement, and reform of the English language requirements.

Paul Flynn: Regardless of whether applicants are applying for temporary or permanent residence, and of whether they have friends in high places, should we not restrict the admission of foreigners convicted of paedophilia offences?

Reply from Theresa May: I understand where the hon. Gentleman is trying to lead his question. Of course there are rules on that offence in relation to exclusions from the United Kingdom. Decisions on exclusions are taken by the Home Secretary on the basis of evidence put forward by the UK Border Agency.

James Clappison: On temporary residence, is it not clear that under the Government's plans students are welcome to come and study in this country, and, indeed, should be made welcome? However, is it not part of the inheritance of this Government that large numbers of people have used the study route as a means of coming to the country to work, rather than to study? Will my right hon. Friend give me an assurance that this Government will bear down on bogus students and bogus colleges who abuse the system?

Reply from Theresa May: I am grateful to my hon. Friend for his question, and I am happy to give him precisely that assurance in relation to the stance this Government are taking. It is perfectly clear from the figures that, sadly, all too many people have used the student visa route as a means simply of coming to the UK to work. There are some very good examples of colleges that exist in name only, such as the college that had two lecturers covering 940 students. I hope there is cross-House agreement that that sort of abuse must be stopped, but we do want to ensure that legitimate students wanting to study legitimate courses at legitimate institutions come here.

Ian Lucas: Is it the Home Secretary's intention to scrap identity cards for foreign nationals, and if so, how will that assist in preventing individuals who are here on visas from overstaying?

Reply from Theresa May: The answer to the hon. Gentleman's question is no: the biometric residence permits will continue.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110307/debtext/110307-0001.htm#11030711000016>

Visas: Students

Matthew Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to identify fraudulent student visa applications. [45423]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is already taking steps to

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identify fraudulent (student) visa applications. The UK Border Agency's International Group currently has over 100 intelligence officers overseas in its Risk and Liaison Overseas Network (RALON), providing an effective overseas disruption capability. The UK Border Agency has also established police referral programmes in 53 countries to deter the use of false documents as part of the visa application process.

The UK Border Agency ensures that all sponsoring educational institutions have a valid UK Border Agency Tier 4 licence and all applicants' biometrics are checked against various immigration, criminal and counter-terrorism databases in the UK. Robust checks are carried out to verify the authenticity of supporting documents.

Applicants will be automatically refused and may be banned from coming to the UK for 10 years if they use a false document, lie or withhold relevant information.

They may also be banned if they have breached immigration laws in the UK.

The Government are concerned about the number of non-EEA nationals who enter the UK on student visas but whose main intention is to work and settle permanently in the UK. Nearly half of those entering via the student route come to study courses below degree level and abuse is particularly common at those levels. We are reviewing the student entry route. A consultation on the student immigration system closed on 31 January. The results of the consultation will be published in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110310/text/110310w0001.htm#11031069000083>

Illegal Immigration

Edward Leigh (Gainsborough) (Con): [To ask the Minister] What further steps she plans to take to control illegal immigration; and if she will make a statement. [44045]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): UK Border Agency enforcement officers are continuing to crack down on immigration crime and remove illegal migrants. Our proposals to tackle abuse by foreign nationals using student visas to gain work in the UK, alongside new plans to toughen up marriage and family routes, will further tackle illegal migration into the UK.

Edward Leigh: As Members of Parliament, we are approached all the time by constituents who want to marry somebody from abroad and it is only humane and right that we should try to help them, but our job is made doubly, even trebly, difficult by the existence of sham marriages. What is my hon. Friend doing to tackle the problem without making the system so bureaucratic for everyone else?

Reply from Damian Green: My hon. Friend identifies one of the key loopholes that did exist in the immigration system. Last summer, I asked our enforcement teams to focus on sham marriages, and 53 sham marriage operations were undertaken, resulting in 126 arrests. Between November and January, a further 86 operations followed that up, focusing on sham marriages, with an additional 29 arrests. This has been one of the big loopholes in our immigration system, but we are becoming ever more effective in closing it.

Ben Bradshaw: In seeking to strike the right balance on student visas, will the Minister and the Secretary of State give the House an assurance that they will listen carefully to the representations of universities in the UK, including mine in Exeter, and of our reputable language schools, which say that the current proposals would be devastating to their sector and to the economy as a whole?

Reply from Damian Green: We are, indeed, speaking to many universities and listening to their representations, and my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has met the vice-chancellor of Exeter university. I am sure that when our proposals are put forward, universities will discover that they defend the rights of

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legitimate students to come here to study legitimately at legitimate institutions. At the same time, we will also crack down on the huge and widespread abuse of the student visa.

Philip Hollobone: Which three countries are responsible for the largest number of illegal immigrants into Britain and what specific steps are being taken with those countries to take those people back when they are caught?

Reply from Damian Green: By definition, illegal immigrants do not go through the system, so it is quite difficult to give accurate figures about where they come from, but we know the main routes by which people come into the country, one of which is from Asia, through Turkey into Greece. We are working very hard with both the Greek and Turkish Governments to stop that route and minimise the problem. One of the most effective things we are doing is improving our border controls at Calais, which mean that the number of people who are identified as coming across illegally into Britain is now running at about a third of the level it was at 18 months ago. That is a significant strengthening of our border defences.

Shabana Mahmood: Any action to control illegal immigration depends upon a properly staffed and effective border agency which can both detect and remove illegal immigrants. With cuts of 20% and job losses of 5,200 for the UK Border Agency, detection and enforcement officers are already warning that their work is being undermined. The Government are talking tough on illegal immigration. Is the Minister sure that the Home Secretary has given him the resources to deliver?

Reply from Damian Green: Yes, absolutely. The hon. Lady will, of course, recognise that the reason there must be cuts in public services is the appalling state of the public finances that her Government left us with. We are confident that by using technology, better intelligence and flexible working, we can maintain and improve levels of border security with fewer staff. I invite her to consider the example of Calais. We can now check 1.5 million lorries a year, and in the past year we have found just over 9,700 individuals trying to cross illegally, compared to just over 29,000 in 2009, so the new system that we are operating does work.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110307/debtext/110307-0001.htm#11030711000019>

Asylum Seekers: Glasgow

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of attempted suicide by asylum seekers in Glasgow were reported to her Department in the last 12 months. [44063]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency received four reports of attempted suicide by asylum seekers in Glasgow over the last 12 months.

The UK Border Agency takes very seriously the need to respect and provide for the mental health needs of vulnerable individuals seeking asylum in the UK. Throughout their asylum application, all individuals receive the same free access to NHS services and additional support that is available to the general public.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110307/text/110307w0005.htm#11030812000006>

Asylum

Matthew Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the potential benefits to children in families seeking asylum of the introduction of the Family Returns Panel. [45425]

Reply from Damian Green: The panel will provide independent advice to the UK Border Agency on how best to ensure the return of families who have been found to have no right to remain in the country and who have failed to go voluntarily or to

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comply with instructions to do so without the need for enforcement action. The panel will ensure that the welfare of children is a central consideration in the new process. The panel will not have any role in respect of families whose application for asylum is still under consideration.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110310/text/110310w0001.htm#11031069000071>

Asylum

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provision her Department makes for asylum seekers waiting to hear the outcome of their cases; and what the cost of such support was to the public purse in the latest period for which figures are available. [44323]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency provides support in the form of accommodation and/or subsistence to everyone who claims asylum and who would otherwise be destitute, until they have exhausted their appeal rights. Support is also provided to failed asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute and who face a legitimate barrier to return. This includes a number who are judicially reviewing the decision not to grant asylum.

The total cost of asylum support in 2009-10 was £524 million.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will meet representatives of the refugee charity sector in Scotland to discuss the effects of reductions in funding for the UK Border Agency on the asylum system. [44666]

Reply from Damian Green: The Secretary of State for the Home Department currently has no plans to meet with representatives of the refugee charity sector in Scotland in this regard.

The UK Border Agency is committed to continuing to work with Voluntary Sector partners. However, asylum intake has reduced significantly since grant payments were first put in place. It is only right that funding is reduced accordingly to reflect this. The grant reduction also reflects the fact that the UK Border Agency's budget has been cut as part of the Government's action to reduce the public deficit.

Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to improve the quality of the initial decision-making stage of asylum applications. [44816]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency continues to invest in quality through a detailed audit process developed with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to support a continuous improvement in quality. In addition to auditing individual decisions it conducts audits of the quality in specific areas of interest such as potential victims of trafficking, maintaining the best interests of the child, and Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual decisions. The Border Agency provides a wide variety of training, policy, guidance and tools to support high quality decisions on asylum applications. The Asylum Improvement Project, which was established by the Government in summer 2010, is exploring new ways to improve the asylum system which includes detailed work to reduce the number of asylum decisions overturned at appeal.

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of asylum seekers were (a) granted asylum and (b) refused asylum and returned to their home country in each of the last five years. [44433]

Reply from Damian Green: Information on the outcome of asylum applications is available in Main Table 2.7 of Control of Immigration: Annual Bulletin, United Kingdom 2009, published in August 2010. This publication is available in the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>

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Data for 2010 will be available in August 2011. A summary is as follows:

Analysis of applications for asylum, excluding dependants, made 2005 to 2009; estimated outcomes, as at May 2010⁽¹⁾

Principal applicants

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 ⁽⁴⁾
Total principal applicants	25,710	23,610	23,430	25,930	24,485
<i>Summary of estimated outcomes (including appeal outcomes at IAA/AIT)⁽²⁾</i>					
Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum as a percentage of total applications	(21)	(22)	(25)	(26)	(26)
Not recognised as a refugee but granted HP or DL as a percentage of total applications	(11)	(10)	(9)	(9)	(9)
Refused asylum, HP or DL, or withdrawn by appellant as a percentage of total applications	(65)	(64)	(59)	(56)	(52)
Cases with decision not known ⁽³⁾ as a percentage of total applications	(3)	(5)	(7)	(8)	(13)

⁽¹⁾ Figures (other than percentages) rounded to the nearest five (- = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

⁽²⁾ Appeals do not include outcomes of cases reconsidered prior to appeal. Excludes cases which were successful after appeal to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal/Immigration Appeal Review or higher courts.

⁽³⁾ No confirmation of a decision had been received when statistics were compiled on 10 May 2010. Includes appeals awaiting an outcome.

⁽⁴⁾ Provisional figures.

The proportion of refused applicants does not include outcomes of cases reconsidered prior to appeal, and they also may include cases that were successful after appeal to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal/Immigration Appeal Review or higher courts.

Information on those refused asylum and returned to their home country is not available and could be obtained only by the detailed examination of management information at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110308/text/110308w0001.htm#11030879000002>

Detention Centres

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average monthly cost to the public purse of holding a person in immigration detention in each facility was in 2010. [43392]

Reply from Damian Green: It is not possible to answer the question by giving details of average monthly cost in each detention facility since this information is commercially sensitive. Seven out of the 10 immigration removal centres are run by private contractors and the cost for running these centres are only agreed after an extensive tendering exercise. By giving the cost of running these centres we would jeopardise the process of ensuring that the taxpayer gets the optimum price. The average estimated direct monthly cost of holding a person in any of our immigration detention facility is £3,407.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110308/text/110308w0001.htm#11030879000008>

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Detention Centres: Children

Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of steps taken by immigration detention facilities to improve the family-friendly nature of their institutions; [43611]

(2) what has been her Department's expenditure on steps to make immigration detention centres more family-friendly in the latest period for which figures are available. [43612]

Reply to Damian Green: The Government are committed to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes. On 16 December 2010 we published our plans for doing this, including the immediate closure to children of the family unit at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre.

A fresh approach to managing family returns is being developed which places greater emphasis on engagement with families and aims to encourage families to leave without the need for enforcement action if they are found to have no legal right to be in the UK.

Most elements of this new process went live across the UK on 1 March, including the setting up of a new independent Family Returns Panel to advise the UK Border Agency on how to ensure the return of those families who do not take up the opportunities to leave under their own steam. A range of options has been developed to provide sufficient flexibility for a tailored approach to each family.

As a backstop, we are also developing a new option of pre-departure accommodation for use when other options for ensuring return have failed. This will not look or feel like an immigration removal centre; families will be held in self-contained flats, providing them with independence and privacy, within a large setting, including extensive grounds. It will be run on a care model rather than a secure one and there will be provision for family members to leave the premises after suitable risk assessments. The project to create the pre-departure accommodation has engaged the use of a number of specialist consultants for areas such as surveying and planning. We have so far received invoices for around £65,000.

The pre-departure accommodation will take a little longer than 1 March to establish so a small number of family rooms will remain available at Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre in the meantime. Their use will be kept to an absolute minimum during this interim period. We do not expect them to be used beyond May for families with children, other than for those few cases of families who are refused entry to the UK at the border and need to be held for a short time while enquiries are made and/or until a return flight can be arranged for them. There may also be the occasional need to use Tinsley for criminal or other high-risk families who could not be accommodated safely in the pre-departure accommodation but this would be rare.

The family facility at Tinsley House has just been refurbished to create a far more family-friendly environment. This work has cost £1.3 million.

Both the family unit at Tinsley House and the new pre-departure accommodation will be subject to regular assessments and reporting by UK Border Agency monitors, but also to the oversight and inspection of HM Chief Inspector for Prisons, the Children's Commissioner for England and the Independent Monitoring Board.

Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support her Department provides to young children detained in the immigration system. [43613]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency takes very seriously its responsibilities towards children. The agency is required under section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 to carry out its functions having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the UK.

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Statutory guidance has been issued to the agency on how to fulfil this duty and all staff are required to complete training on keeping children safe.

As part of the Government's commitment to children, we announced on 16 December 2010 plans to end the detention of families with children for immigration purposes and new processes were rolled out on 1 March to achieve this.

Special arrangements are also in place for unaccompanied children who arrive in the UK to claim asylum. The children are referred to the nearest local authority immediately on arrival to ensure that they receive the same standard of care and support as any other child in need. Their asylum claims are then considered by specialist case owners with enhanced safeguards to take account of their vulnerability. Even if their asylum claims fail the children are not returned to their countries of origin unless appropriate reception and care arrangements have been put in place.

Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to ensure the welfare of children during the asylum application process. [44817]

Reply from Damian Green: We are committed to safeguarding the welfare of asylum seeking children who arrive in the UK either unaccompanied or as part of a family group. The UK Border Agency (UKBA) has a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are in the United Kingdom under section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009.

Where a child forms part of an asylum seeking family, further support has been provided to UKBA staff as part of the recent work to end child detention for immigration purposes. A new asylum instruction was published on 1 March 2011, providing additional advice on how to process an asylum application made by an adult with at least one child dependant under 18, and how to consider the best interests of the child within that process. Specialist training has also been provided for any asylum case owners who will be required to host family return conferences or family departure meetings, both key stages within the new family returns process which was rolled out nationally on 1 March 2011. A new family key worker pilot based in the north-west region started recently with the aim of providing further practical support for families going through the asylum process.

There are a considerable number of safeguards in place to protect the welfare of unaccompanied asylum seeking children and these are documented within the 'processing an asylum application from a child' guidance. Recent changes include providing further guidance on considering the best interest of the child, the introduction of a standardised welfare pro forma to ensure newly encountered unaccompanied children's physical welfare is properly considered in advance of any interview, as well as piloting a child specific asylum screening form. All unaccompanied children are referred to a local authority as well as the Refugee Council's Children Panel to ensure they obtain appropriate care and advice throughout the asylum process.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110308/text/110308w0001.htm#11030879000009>

Illegal Immigrants: Deportation

Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances force may be used to deport an illegal immigrant; if she will consider the use of alternatives to force in such circumstances; and if she will make a statement. [44774]

Reply from Damian Green: We expect all those with no basis of stay in the UK to

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leave voluntarily, and in certain circumstances we offer assistance with doing so. However, where they refuse to leave we have a duty to uphold our immigration laws by enforcing their departure.

The vast majority of people detained comply with arrangements for their removal, and while they are taken to the airport to be placed on the aircraft, they make the return journey alone. However, a small minority of people even then refuse to leave and, regrettably, escorts have to be used to enforce their departure.

It is not our wish that individuals are restrained, but if they refuse to leave and in some cases even become violent in an attempt to harm the officers, damage the aircraft or generally disrupt their removal, we have to ensure they are controlled for safety reasons and comply with the law. There are no other alternatives where people refuse to go.

Escort officers are trained in the use of control and restraint techniques, which are only used as a matter of last resort when all other alternatives of persuading a person to comply with their removal have failed or they need to be controlled for safety reasons.

The use of restraint is legitimate and lawful so long as its use is justified, proportionate and de-escalated at the earliest opportunity when the individual has complied. Where restraint is used, officers have to complete a comprehensive report, which is submitted to a senior manager and the UK Border Agency escort monitor for review.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110308/text/110308w0002.htm#11030879000014>

Immigrants: Detainees

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which Department of the UK Border Agency is responsible for ensuring that immigration detainees scheduled for removal are able to retrieve personal possessions from their homes before removal; [44990]

(2) what changes there have been to (a) policy and (b) practice on responsibility within her Department and the UK Border Agency for ensuring that immigration detainees scheduled for removal are sent personal possessions before removal. [45186]

Reply from Damian Green: Where UK Border Agency enforcement officers (based in Local Immigration Teams around the country) attend an individual's home in order to detain them with a view to removal, the opportunity to pack a reasonable amount of luggage (determined by baggage flight allowances) is given prior to departure for the Immigration Removal Centre (IRC). Full details are set out in Chapter 61.10.8 of the UK Border Agency's Enforcement Instructions and Guidance, available to view at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/enforcement/

However, once an individual is in detention, it is their responsibility to make arrangements for the retrieval of any further possessions from their home, via friends or family for instance. Such possessions may be brought to the IRC in question for inclusion in the individual's luggage for their removal flight.

Should this lead to an excess of baggage for the flight, however, separate arrangements for their transport must be made by the individual. Detainees are allowed to retain their mobile phones or use phone cards to facilitate this, and welfare officers are on site to assist detainees with any concerns surrounding their departure, such as luggage.

There has been no recent change to this policy or practice.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110309/text/110309w0001.htm#11030977000055>

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Olympic Games 2012: Human Trafficking

Peter Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions has he had with (a) representatives of non-governmental organisations and (b) other interested organisations on measures to prevent human trafficking during the London 2012 Olympics. [44117]

Reply from Hugh Robertson: Regular threat briefings take place between the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, the right hon. Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), myself and the Olympic Intelligence Centre, a dedicated body comprising representation from across the Government intelligence and law enforcement apparatus that assesses strategic threats to the games. As part of this the Department have been informed that we are not currently seeing any evidence of an increase in human trafficking related to the London 2012 games.

However, we remain vigilant and will be continuously reviewing the threat of human trafficking. The Government are determined to deter traffickers from exploiting London 2012 and we are building on the considerable expertise the UK has in tackling this issue. Should the intelligence indicate an increase in trafficking we shall ensure that the appropriate measures are in place.

We regularly engage with non-government organisations with an interest in tackling human trafficking. Government representatives sit on the Human Trafficking and London 2012 Network which shares key issues on Olympic human trafficking issues, including dedicated sub-groups on sexual exploitation and forced labour.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110307/text/110307w0001.htm#11030715000031>

Human Trafficking

Stephen Phillips: [To ask the Minister] What discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on the support available to women trafficked to the UK. [45303]

Reply from the Minister for Equalities (Lynne Featherstone): The Government are determined to ensure that all identified victims of this terrible crime receive the support to which they are entitled. Ministers work together, including through the interdepartmental group on human trafficking, to ensure that we achieve that objective.

Stephen Phillips: I am grateful to my hon. Friend for that answer. Support is absolutely critical for women who have been trafficked. Will she clarify whether the new Home Office policy on human trafficking will include at least a three-month period of support, as recommended by the European Union group of experts on trafficking in human beings in its opinion of 16 April 2004?

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: The Council of Europe convention, to which we have signed up, sets a minimum of 30 days. I am pleased to reassure my hon. Friend, however, that in this country we have a minimum 45-day extendable recovery period for accommodation, counselling or reintegration if desired.

Luciana Berger: When will the Government publish their anti-trafficking strategy?

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: The strategy will be coming forward in the spring.

Tom Brake (Carshalton and Wallington) (LD): Why was it felt necessary to change the funding arrangements that apply to the support provided to women?

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: We found that using a single contractor was extremely inflexible and led to a lack of capacity. The lack of bed capacity meant that voluntary organisations were taking in trafficked women and, because they were going all over the place, it was impossible to have proper oversight of all

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

those who needed help and support. For that reason, we have changed the procurement process.

Mark Durkan (Foyle) (SDLP): Women are trafficked not only to the UK but within these islands. Will the Minister and her ministerial colleagues use the auspices of the British-Irish Council to improve support for women who have been trafficked throughout these islands, as well as to improve enforcement?

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: We are happy to work with all the nations on this serious issue to stop women being trafficked within and without these islands.

Peter Bone (Wellingborough) (Con): Will the Minister tell us when spring starts and when it ends?

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: It is the parliamentary spring, and in this country it is quite difficult to tell, but it will happen in due course.

Fiona Mactaggart: Since my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Camberwell and Peckham (Ms Harman) raised the European directive on human trafficking with the Prime Minister on 15 September, the issue has been raised at least 40 times in this Chamber alone. The final text of the directive was agreed by the European Parliament more than 12 weeks ago. How often do we need to ask the Minister about this? How long does she need before she decides that Britain will sign up to the directive?

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: We are undertaking proper consideration and discussion with the devolved Administrations, but I can assure the hon. Lady that it will not be that much longer.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110310/debtext/110310-0001.htm#11031052000032>

UK Human Trafficking Centre

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what mechanism she plans to put in place to ensure that a focus on the safeguarding needs of trafficked children is maintained within the proposed National Crime Agency; [44161]

(2) whether she has plans to integrate the UK Human Trafficking Centre into the National Crime Agency; [44162]

(3) what the proposed (a) roles and (b) responsibilities are of agencies within the proposed National Crime Agency in respect of safeguarding children and young people; [44163]

(4) what plans she has for the future of the UK Human Trafficking Centre. [44341]

Reply from Damian Green: The consultation document, 'Policing in the 21st Century' announced our intention to create a powerful new body of operational crime fighters—the National Crime Agency—to tackle serious and organised crime more effectively and strengthen our borders. To be established in 2013, this powerful new body will harness and build on the intelligence, analytical and enforcement capabilities of the existing Serious Organised Crime Agency, of which the UK Human Trafficking Centre is a part, and better connect these capabilities to those within the police service, HM Revenue and Customs, the UK Border Agency and a range of other criminal justice partners. It will contain a Border Policing Command that will enhance national security, improve immigration controls and crack down on trafficking of people, weapons and drugs. Further details will be published shortly.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110308/text/110308w0002.htm#11030879000029>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Press Releases

Barnardo's help asylum families

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/barnados-help>

Shortage jobs list halved

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/skilled-jobs>

New publications

Scotland: A safe place for child traffickers?

<http://www.sccyp.org.uk/downloadfileitem.aspx?file=5412>

additional appendices

<http://www.sccyp.org.uk/downloadfileitem.aspx?file=5413>

Draft Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004 (Remedial) Order 2010—second Report

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201011/jtselect/jtright/111/111.pdf>

Student immigration reforms and their anticipated economic impacts

http://www.appgmigration.org.uk/sites/default/files/APPG_migration-international%20students-briefing_paper.pdf

Immigrant Integration in a Time of Austerity

<http://my.migrationpolicy.org/salsa/track.jsp?v=2&c=B6rkkrgvh4I2VL0zAeHBitYys69mhq2p>

Temporary and circular migration: opportunities and challenges

http://www.epc.eu/documents/uploads/pub_1237_temporary_and_circular_migration_wp_35.pdf

Violence and Exploitation of Undocumented Migrant Women: Building Strategies to End Impunity

<http://picum.org/picum.org/uploads/publication/FINAL%2008.03.2011PIC%20004-10%20EN.pdf>

News

Rule change gives abused foreign spouses access to help

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-12704205>

Asylum deal in doubt over staff transfer

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/asylum-deal-in-doubt-over-staff-transfer-1.1088875>

Barnardo's to help at asylum families removal centre

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-12690444>

Barnardo's to offer play facilities at Yarl's Wood replacement

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/mar/09/barnados-play-facilities-yarls-wood-replacement>

Barnardo's won't lessen trauma of child detention

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/mar/10/barnados-child-detention-play-services>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

2 held in first Scots sex trafficking prosecution

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/2-held-in-first-scots-sex-trafficking-prosecution-1.1089901>

Child trafficking in Scotland is hidden scandal, says report

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2011/mar/13/child-trafficking-scotland-scandal-report>

Scotland 'failing' trafficked children

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-12712569>

Scotland 'fails child victims of trafficking'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/scotland-fails-child-victims-of-trafficking-1.1090201>

Report brands Scotland a 'welcome place for child trafficking'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Report-brands-Scotland-a-39welcome.6733479.jp>

Moore seeks to limit impact of restriction on foreign students

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/moore-seeks-to-limit-impact-of-restriction-on-foreign-students-1.1090188>

An immigration rethink is a must

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-view/an-immigration-rethink-is-a-must-1.1090165>

Clampdown on migrant chefs could force takeaways to shut up shop

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/mar/13/immigration-damian-green-new-restrictions>

Immigration rules leave stateless Malaysians in limbo

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/immigration-rules-leave-stateless-malaysians-in-limbo-2240532.html>

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Race Relations

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-8083 Stewart Maxwell: The Jewish Way of Life—That the Parliament welcomes the launch of the Jewish Way of Life educational resource about Judaism; considers this an excellent resource and congratulates the Pears Foundation for funding it; further congratulates Learning and Teaching Scotland for working with the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities to make this resource available in Scotland, and urges all schools to investigate this new teaching aid in the recognition that education is key to fostering good community relations.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=20951>

Race Relations (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Social Cohesion

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government what proposals they have to achieve racial, ethnic and cultural integration and improved social cohesion.[HL6991]

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Prime Minister's recent speech on multiculturalism, how they plan to tackle the issue of segregated communities in the United Kingdom. [HL6994]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): Integration is an integral part of the big society. As the Prime Minister set out in his recent speech in Munich, integration is fostered by meaningful and active participation in society, which is achieved by shifting the balance of power away from the state and towards the people, and by initiatives such as the national citizen service. DCLG is considering what additional, specific activities are needed to improve integration and to overcome divisions in communities. We are working to develop a cross-government approach.

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government how the Big Society agenda will contribute to racial equality and social justice.[HL6992]

Baroness Hanham: The big society is the Government's vision for communities which are stronger and more involved in public services and which have the power to hold these services to account. Black and minority ethnic communities and community groups already have a strong history of developing innovative solutions to their problems. The work to decentralise power to communities through the new rights in the Localism Bill and open public sector service provision to voluntary sector providers will enable all communities to take control of services and make them more effective and focused on their needs. Support will be put in place to enable communities and community groups to engage with and benefit from these new rights and opportunities.

The Government are piloting national citizen service for 11,000 16 year-olds in summer 2011. National citizen service will bring together young people from different social and ethnic backgrounds, giving them the opportunity to plan and deliver projects that will benefit their local communities and fostering lasting bonds between participants. It should be noted that we have introduced the new public sector equality duty based around the principles of transparency and accountability, which requires public authorities to set clear public objectives on equality and to publish data on the progress that they are making.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110307w0001.htm#1103074000199>

Press Release

Roma: binding EU standards to integrate Europe's largest minority

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/pressroom/content/20110309IPR15166/html/Roma-binding-EU-standards-to-integrate-Europe%27s-largest-minority>

New publication

Experiences of Muslims Living in Scotland

report <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/344206/0114485.pdf>

summary <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/343749/0114332.pdf>

Race Relations (continued) News

Scots can teach English a thing or two about multiculturalism, says baroness

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Scots-can-teach-English-a.6729594.jp>

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Equality

Holyrood Committee

Equal Opportunities Committee

Consideration of the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (Draft) and Equality Act 2010 (Specification of Public Authorities) (Scotland) Order 2011 (Draft)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/or-11/eo11-0502.htm#Col2397>

News

Foxhunting views placed on par with religion after landmark legal ruling

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/8368934/Foxhunting-views-placed-on-par-with-religion-after-landmark-legal-ruling.html>

Background: the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/8369271/Background-the-Employment-Equality-Religion-or-Belief-Regulations-2003.html>

Other odd rulings on equality legislation

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/8370089/Other-odd-rulings-on-equality-legislation.html>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent reports he has received on incidents of Israeli students at universities in (a) London and (b) England being targeted by Islamic extremists; and if he will make a statement; [41710]

(2) what recent (a) meetings he has had with and (b) representations he has received from (i) the Israeli ambassador to Great Britain and (ii) the Government of Israel on (A) the security of Israeli students attending university in the United Kingdom, (B) anti-Semitism against Israeli students on campus and (C) the targeting of Israeli students by Islamic extremists; and if he will make a statement. [41711]

Reply from David Willetts: I have received no reports of incidents of Israeli students attending universities in London, or more widely in England, being targeted by Islamic extremists. I have also had no formal representations from, or

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

held meetings with, the Israeli Government or Israeli ambassador to Great Britain about these issues. However, the broader issue of the treatment of Jewish students was one of a number of subjects I discussed with Alon Roth-Snir, the deputy ambassador of Israel to the UK, at a recent dinner engagement on UK-Israel trade relations. I have also discussed this matter, the experiences of Jewish students in the UK, at a meeting held last October with John Mann MP, the Community Security Trust, the Union of Jewish Students, Universities UK and the Equality Challenge Unit. There is no place for racism of any form, including anti-Semitism, in higher education. Universities have access to a strong legislative framework and guidance to help them deal effectively with instances of intolerance, racism and harassment in their institutions. Government would expect them to vigorously tackle these issues when they arise and has supported institutions with key guidance on promoting good campus relations in the sector.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110308/text/110308w0003.htm#11030892000036>

Anti-Semitism

Baroness Deech: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the report of the Community Security Trust recording the second highest annual total of anti-Semitic incidents in 2010.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): My Lords, the number of anti-Semitic incidents in the United Kingdom is a very depressing reminder that this unacceptable behaviour remains a cause of great concern. In December, the coalition Government published the three-year-on response to the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism, which highlighted the steps we have taken to tackle and reduce anti-Semitism. In addition, the cross-government working party to tackle anti-Semitism will be taking forward future work.

Baroness Deech: I thank the Minister for her constructive reply. Does she agree that this ancient hatred is most pernicious when it takes root in the minds of young people and that she should therefore urge vice-chancellors to take steps, as is their duty under the law, to stop incidents of hate speech on campus? Will she also tell us how she proposes to prevent race and religious hatred material imported from overseas being used in faith schools, including out-of-hours faith schools?

Reply from Baroness Hanham: My Lords, the last place that we want anti-Semitism to take a hold is in our schools or universities. We expect universities to have measures in place to ensure that their students are not subject to threatening or abusive behaviour, and those institutions have a strong legal framework to help them to deal effectively with this. With regard to people coming in from outside and talking on campuses, again, a range of guidance, providing a practical framework, is available to higher education institutions to help them to support tolerance. All these subjects remain part of the work being done by the working party to ensure that, if further guidance is needed, it is provided.

Lord Boswell of Aynho: My Lords, I am a member of the all-party group inquiring into anti-Semitism. Will the Minister have regard to two somewhat different concerns, although they are both about diffuse anti-Semitism rather than specific acts of violence, which are recorded by the Community Security Trust? I have in mind both the plethora of hate speech on the internet, which in a sense is, sadly, publicly available and the recent report by the *Sunday Times* to the effect that the word "Jew" is now being used as a term of abuse and opprobrium in the playground. That kind of conduct cannot be acceptable. Can I have my noble friend's assurance that Her Majesty's Government and all decent-minded people will work their hardest to see that it does not take root?

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Baroness Hanham: My Lords, we must do all we can to ensure that the use of words such as "Jew" in a way that causes people to feel upset or afraid is not taken up for threatening, antagonistic or hatred purposes. Of course, schools must stamp it out at the very earliest stages so that no child ever considers it to be an acceptable way of talking about someone.

The internet is another area of great concern, and it is also quite difficult to handle because we do not always have ways of tackling the problem. The task of removing hate from mass media channels, such as the internet, is daunting and challenging, but we have to look at how we can do so. Many states still view the balancing point differently from the United Kingdom, and that makes the task much more difficult because they do not all see the same pressure and impact. However, we continue to look for opportunities and ways to deal with the problem. In fact, what is on the internet goes beyond hate, and very soon we will have to find a way of obliterating and blotting out such unacceptable material.

Lord McKenzie of Luton: My Lords, does the Minister think that the promotion of multiculturalism will help us to meet these challenges?

Reply from Baroness Hanham: My Lords, there are two ways of looking at multiculturalism. One is the bringing together of communities and cultures, and the other is where disparate groups keep their cultures separate. Whichever way you look at it, I do not think that multiculturalism is going to have anything to do with hatred. My view is that hatred is generated not by culture but by fear, and there is a need for groups to be brought together. If, as I am sure he has done, the noble Lord looks at the report, he will find mention all the way through of incidents in which two or three people get together and are horrible. They use the word "Jew" and then assault or impact in some way on others. Therefore, I do not think that multiculturalism has anything to do with this.

The Lord Bishop of Ripon and Leeds: My Lords, the statistic quoted by the noble Baroness, Lady Deech, is both shameful and deeply worrying for the future. Will the Minister affirm the importance of religious education in schools as being one of the crucial ways in which there can be a deepening of understanding between faiths? Will she also commend the work of the Council of Christians and Jews in tackling issues of anti-Semitism?

Reply from Baroness Hanham: Yes, of course, I confirm our support for that. All education must now ensure that any sense of hatred, any antagonism to any religion, is ruled out.

Baroness Hussein-Ece: My Lords, I declare an interest as the lead commissioner on religion and relations for the Equality and Human Rights Commission. We all agree that it is completely abhorrent that anyone should be intimidated on the grounds of their race, colour, gender, sexuality or religion. That applies also to famous fashion designers. The trust report shows that there are spikes or rises in anti-Semitic incidents that are related to tensions in the Middle East. With current events in mind, will the Minister please set out what is being done to ensure that communities, particularly those of different faiths, are brought together to ensure that we promote the British tradition of tolerance and understanding?

Reply from Baroness Hanham: My Lords, I acknowledge the work that the noble Baroness has undertaken on this matter. We support everything that she has done.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110310-0001.htm#11031058000349>

Racism and Religious Hatred Press Releases (continued)

Funding to tackle bigotry

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/03/08152206>

New publication

A Guide to Fighting Hate Crime

<http://www.thecst.org.uk/docs/Hate%20Crime%20booklet%20-%20Web%20version.pdf>

News

Old Firm fallout saves anti-sectarian groups

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/tfn/news/old-firm-fallout-saves-anti-sectarian-groups/>

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Other Holyrood

Census

Delivery of Scottish Census Day 2011 survey begins

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-12660688>

Census 2011: Shaping Scotland's Future

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

Shaping the nations future – the history of Scotland's Census

[www.scojec.org/memo/files/11ii_census\(2\).doc](http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/11ii_census(2).doc)

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Question

Travellers: Finance

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department gave to (a) Traveller groups and (b) associated representative bodies providing support or assistance to Traveller groups in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and how much and for what purpose in each case. [43854]

Reply from Andrew Stunell: The information is as follows:

2008-09: Nil

2009-10: The Rural Media Company-£112,815.00-to fund publication of the Travellers Times Friends, Families and Travellers-£132,000-to fund support to Gypsy and Traveller groups

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110309/text/110309w003.htm#11030977000155>

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Other News

Gypsies braced for 'war' as bulldozers move in

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/gypsies-braced-for-war-as-bulldozers-move-in-2240974.html>

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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>

Stage 2 consideration of amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/or-11/he11-0402.htm#Col3962>

Supplementary Delegated Powers Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/58-CertDeath/b58as3-stage2-dpm.pdf>

Revised Explanatory Notes

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/58-CertDeath/b58as3-stage2-en-rev.pdf>

Supplementary Financial Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/58-CertDeath/b58as3-stage2-fm.pdf>

**** Forced Marriage etc. (Protection and Jurisdiction) Bill**

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

Subordinate Legislation Committee: Report on Bill as amended at Stage 2

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/58-CertDeath/b58as3-stage2-fm.pdf>

Revised Explanatory Notes

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/53-forcedMarriage/b53as3-stage2-en-rev.pdf>

**** Local Electoral Administration Bill**

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

Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing on the Bill at Stage 3

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research/briefings-11/SB11-24.pdf>

**** Public Records Bill**

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

Revised Explanatory Notes

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/56-PublicRecords/b56as3-stage2-en-rev.pdf>

Bills in Progress

Westminster

**** Fixed Term Parliaments Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/040/amend/am040-b.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/040/amend/am040-c.htm>

and

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/040/amend/am040-d.htm>
and
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/040/amend/am040-e.htm>

** Scotland Bill

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

Westminster Ministerial Statement

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110304/wmstext/110304m0001.htm#11030449000012>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/115/amend/pbc1150703m.1549-1555.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/115/amend/pbc1150703a.1579-1582.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/115/amend/pbc1150803a.1583-1584.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/115/amend/cwh1151103a.1587-1593.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/115/amend/cwh1151403m.1607-1613.html>

Committee Stage, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110307/debtext/110307-0002.htm#11030711000001>

Public Bill Committee Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/115/pro1150703p.405-411.html>

Scottish Parliament debate

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/apps2/business/orsearch/ReportView.aspx?r=6174&mode=html#iob_55772

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Consultations

(closing date)

** new or updated this week

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/>

Consultations (continued)

Strathclyde Police Equality and Diversity Strategy (30 April 2011)

<http://www.strathclyde.police.uk/index.asp?locID=1596&docID=-1>

Changes to Immigration-Related Home Office Statistical Outputs (4 May 2011)

[http://uk.sitestat.com/homeoffice/rds/s?rds.immigration-consultation-2011-pdf&ns_type=pdf&ns_url=\[http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/immigration-consultation-2011.pdf](http://uk.sitestat.com/homeoffice/rds/s?rds.immigration-consultation-2011-pdf&ns_type=pdf&ns_url=[http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/immigration-consultation-2011.pdf)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator Corporate Plan (24 May 2011)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=e66c5cf8-36b4-421c-93e1-f4aceffa7ec>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities ** new this week

** European Year of Volunteering

Closing date for applications: 15 April 2011

VAF is making available small grants to promote and celebrate the work of volunteers in Scotland. The majority of grants will be around £500 but grants of up to £1,000 may be awarded for exceptional projects. For information and application forms see http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/5,858/grants/european_year_of_volunteering_eyv_grant/

Call for proposals - European Refugee Fund 2011

Closing date for applications: 21 April 2011

A call for proposals for the European Refugee Fund is aimed at organisations involved in setting up projects that assist in the resettlement of refugees through the Gateway Protection Programme. Eligible applicants include non-governmental organisations, charities, local government, inter-governmental organisations, limited companies and any partnership made up of these organisations. Project proposals from local, regional and national organisations will be considered. For information see

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/40-erf-gateway>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

** *this week!*

Supporting Resilient Communities

17 March 2011 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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Hijab - The Light Behind the Veil

23 March 2011 in Glasgow

Amina launch of a short film about Scottish Muslim women. For information contact info@mwrc.org.uk / 0141 585 8026.

**** Election Hustings**

24 March 2011 in Glasgow (5.30)

In the run-up to the Scottish Parliament election, the STUC's Black Workers' Committee, whose key objective is to encourage the engagement of black and minority ethnic people with the political process in Scotland, are holding a "hustings event" to debate issues of importance to black and minority ethnic people in this election campaign. For information contact 0141 337 8100 / info@stuc.org.uk

Advancing Scotland as a Learning Society: a Community Learning and Development perspective

25 March 2011 in Inverness (9.30 – 5.00)

28 April 2011 in Dundee (meeting focusing on faith issues) (9.30 – 5.00)

16 May 2011 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 5.00)

Series of seminars to explore views on advancing of Scotland as a Learning Society. We hope that you will all be part of this national conversation. For information see [http://www.cldstandardscouncil.org.uk/CLD Standards Council/The Standards Council Conversations](http://www.cldstandardscouncil.org.uk/CLD_Standards_Council/The_Standards_Council_Conversations) or contact Kirsty Horne k.horne@ltsotland.org.uk.

**** Migrants' Rights - More than just talk!**

30 March 2011 in Glasgow (10.00-4.30)

Launch of the second phase of the Migrants' Rights Scotland Communication Strategies Project which aims to strengthen information exchange and collaborative action of migrant communities and supporting organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/6xh8pz2>

**** BEMIS AGM**

5 April 2011 in Glasgow (5.30 – 8.00)

The BEMIS AGM will be held at the GO Business and Training Centre, 36 North Hanover Street, Glasgow, G1 2AD. For information contact Sue Barnes 0141 548 8047 / mail@bemis.org.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.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

OSCR Outreach Programme: Completing OSCR Returns

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

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Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

BBC Parliament online

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

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The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charity SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. <http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>