

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with **BEMIS - empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities**. It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.*

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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Debate

Migrant Domestic Workers

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110608-gc0001.htm#11060868000076>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the contribution to the UK economy arising from the issuing of Tier 4 student visas. [57050]

Reply from Damian Green: Changes to the student visa route were announced on 22 March. An Impact Assessment has been prepared and will be published shortly.

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many colleges or schools in the UK (a) holding and (b) not holding the Highly Trusted Sponsor rating for Tier 4 student visas were recorded as having allowed a violation of the terms of Tier 4 visas in each of the last three years. [57051]

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Damian Green: The information required is not centrally recorded in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. All Tier 4 sponsors are regularly visited to monitor their compliance with their Tier 4 sponsor obligations. Those sponsors found to have violated their obligations may be downgraded to a B rating with an action plan or have their licence suspended which may also lead to revocation.

Louise Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the effects of the implementation of requirements for students to meet level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages on the number of prospective students with university offers who may have such offers withdrawn. [58062]

Reply from Damian Green: Changes to the student route were announced on 22 March following a public consultation. Amendments to the Immigration Rules were laid on 31 March, coming into force on 21 April. These amendments introduced some changes to the requirements in English language proficiency needed to obtain a student visa.

The new rules do not apply to Certificates of Acceptance of Studies issued before 21 April. The new rules contain a number of important flexibilities for students at universities, and should not prevent genuine students from taking up their offers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110607/text/110607w0009.htm#11060864000021>

Immigration: UK Border Agency

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what dates she expects the UK Border Agency to complete its work on immigration legacy cases. [55491]

Reply from Damian Green: The “legacy” case load dates back to July 2006. The UK Border Agency has completed its review of all the outstanding “legacy” cases. A small unit has been set up to continue concluding those cases that have been reviewed but not concluded. They will also monitor the controlled archive and take forward any cases that come to light.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110607/text/110607w0009.htm#11060864000027>

Visas: Appeals

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to removing the right of appeal for people who have been refused visas to enter the UK for up to six months; and what assessment she has made of the effect of implementation of such a measure on the number of people who will reapply. [57983]

Reply from Damian Green: The refusal of a visa to enter the UK for up to six months attracts a full right of appeal only where the applicant is applying to visit a family member. In all other categories of temporary entry clearance the right of appeal is limited to human rights and race relations grounds. Bringing the right of appeal for persons seeking to visit family members into line with all other temporary visit visas is clearly an important area where we would want to seek wide views and on which we would wish to consult formally.

It is open to someone who has been refused a visa to visit a family member to apply again and provide further information in support of their application that addresses the reasons why their initial application was refused, which are set out in a comprehensive written refusal. Entry clearance staff work to a service standard of concluding 90% of visit visa applications within 15 days (performance was 95% in 2010-11), so the outcome of a second application will be known much

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

sooner than the outcome of an appeal. We have not carried out an assessment of whether all those who currently appeal would reapply, were the appeal right in this category removed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110609/text/110609w0001.htm#11060955000047>

Asylum: Appeals

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time is for an unsuccessful application for asylum to be heard at a first tier tribunal. [57261]

Reply from Damian Green: The average waiting time for an unsuccessful application for asylum to be heard at a first tier tribunal is 74 calendar days.

All figures quoted are provisional, based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics and may be subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110607/text/110607w0009.htm#11060864000009>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to recommence normal procedures in dealing with asylum applications and returns to Greece if the decision of the European Court of Human Rights on returning asylum seekers there is that there is no breach of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights; and how they are addressing the decision of the Court of Justice of the European Union on the matter.[HL9533]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): The UK suspended the removal of asylum seekers to Greece under the Dublin Regulation on 20 September 2010. The decision to suspend removals was taken pending the outcome of the case of NS referred to the Court of Justice of the European Union by the Court of Appeal. The UK has provided written observations in the case of NS and others to the Court of Justice and we await further information on how that Court intends to proceed.

Subsequently on 21 January 2011, the European Court of Human Rights ruled in the case of MSS v Belgium and Greece that Greece had violated Article three of the European Convention on Human Rights that prohibits inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment both because of the applicant's living conditions in Greece and the failure by the Greek authorities to properly consider his asylum claim. The Government accept that these findings prevent the return of asylum seekers to Greece under the Dublin Regulation until the situation there has improved.

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many deportations to European Union countries occurred last year; to which countries; how many were of asylum seekers; how many were for other reasons; and what were those reasons.[HL9534]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): It is UK Border Agency policy not to disclose information on deportations to specific countries as this could jeopardise our diplomatic relations.

Deportations are a specific subset of removals which are enforced either following a criminal conviction or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good. Failed asylum seekers are normally removed administratively and not deported from the UK. As such, no breakdown on deported asylum seekers is available.

Last year, the UK Border Agency removed or deported 5,235 foreign national

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

offenders from the UK. Approximately 15 per cent of these were nationals from within the European Economic Area.

The only "other" reasons for a deportation would be on the basis on not being conducive to the public good. No individuals were deported last year on that basis.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110607w0001.htm#11060753001487>

Asylum

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many new asylum cases initiated in each year are awaiting resolution. [53756]

Reply from Damian Green: The following table shows the number of pending asylum applications (made since 1 April 2006) as at 31 March 2011, by year of application. These data include cases with no decision to date and those with an outstanding appeal. They do not include figures relating to cases that are appeal rights exhausted or are awaiting judicial review.

Pending applications received for asylum since April 2006 in the United Kingdom as at 31 March 2011^(1, 2, 3), by year of application⁽⁵⁾

	<i>Total pending</i>	
<i>Year of application</i>	<i>Total (including dependants)</i>	<i>Of whom: Principal applicants</i>
2006 ⁽⁴⁾	315	265
2007	915	725
2008	1,830	1,410
2009	2,370	1,860
2010	4,405	3,305
2011	4,615	3,630
Total	14,450	11,190

⁽¹⁾ Figures rounded to the nearest 5 ('—' = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding. ⁽²⁾ For the figures which include dependants further disaggregations by age, gender and nationality will be available on the EUROSTAT website:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search_database ⁽³⁾

Numbers pending either initial decision or further judicial appeal, but excluding those who have lodged a judicial review ⁽⁴⁾ Applications received for asylum since 1 April 2006. ⁽⁵⁾ Provisional figures.

Further information on asylum is available from the Control of Immigration publications which are available in the Library of the House and the Home Office Science website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics>

In addition, from this summer information on our new asylum performance framework will be published on a regular basis—with key statistics disaggregated by gender—so that the House and any member of the public can scrutinise what we are achieving and hold us to account. It is my intention that these data will include all unconcluded cases. These will include those that are appeal rights exhausted and those whose discretionary leave has expired—in addition to those awaiting a decision or appeal outcome as identified above.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110609/text/110609w0001.htm#11060955000041>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Deportation: Asylum

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) failed asylum seekers and (b) foreign national prisoners have sought to challenge a deportation decision under the provisions of the European convention on human rights since 1998. [54545]

Reply from Damian Green: The information is as follows:

(a) In relation to failed asylum seekers, deportation has been taken to mean removals, as deportations are a specific subset of removals which are enforced either following a criminal conviction or when it is judged that a person's removal from the United Kingdom is conducive to the public good. Information regarding challenges to the removal of failed asylum seekers would require a case by case search of individual records and is not held centrally.

(b) Information regarding challenges to the deportation of foreign national prisoners would also require a case by case search of individual records and assessment of grounds for appeal. This information is not held centrally by the UK Border Agency.

Rule 39 of the European convention on human rights permits an application for interim relief from someone who domestically has exhausted their appeal rights. According to internal management information, approximately 180 foreign national prisoners liable for deportation applied rule 39 to their deportation decision between the period January 2008 to December 2010. However, rule 39 does not become a barrier to deportation until the European Court issue a rule 39 indication. Please note these figures are based on internal management information and should be treated as provisional and subject to change. They have not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and may not agree with published figures. Data before 2008 is not available.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110607/text/110607w0009.htm#11060864000018>

Illegal Immigrants

Michael Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent estimate has been made of the number of people who remain in the UK for (a) one to five and (b) more than five years beyond the length of stay permitted by their visa; [57565]

(2) what recent estimate has been made of the number of asylum seekers who remain in the UK (a) between one and five and (b) more than five years after having had their application turned down; and how many such asylum seekers appealed (i) once and (ii) twice and were unsuccessful. [57566]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is not able to provide the information requested. It is not possible to accurately quantify the number of individuals currently in the UK in breach of immigration controls, as some deliberately evade immigration control in order to remain in the country illegally.

The e-Borders system enables checks to be made on individuals arriving or exiting the country at a majority of the points of entry to the UK but is not yet fully rolled out. e-Borders is currently tracking around 55% of inbound and 60% of outbound passenger movements to and from the UK. This equates to approximately 126 million passengers a year on over 2,800 routes, and includes over 90% of non-EU aviation passengers. The Government are committed to ensuring that the number of UK ports undertaking exit checks is increased to ensure a more complete travel history is recorded on passengers: This will enable provision of the information requested to be developed as e-Borders is progressively rolled out.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110607/text/110607w0009.htm#11060864000026>

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Child Trafficking

Baroness Massey of Darwen: To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the adoption of the European directive on human trafficking, what specific measures they will take to combat the trafficking of children and to support those trafficked.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): My Lords, the UK already has a comprehensive system in place to combat this terrible crime and to ensure that child trafficking victims are identified and receive the necessary support. The Government will shortly be applying to the European Commission to opt into the directive. If the application is accepted, Government will work with the Commission on implementation of the directive. Arrangements will also be strengthened further through measures in the forthcoming human trafficking strategy.

Baroness Massey of Darwen: I thank the Minister for that response and I am delighted by the news that the Government are going to try to opt into the European directive. However, does she agree that there are issues that still need to be looked at and explored? One of these is guardianship. Will the Government support the article in the directive that requires a child victim of trafficking to have a legal representative, advocate or guardian to support them-as they do in Scotland?

Reply from Baroness Browning: I can assure the noble Baroness that we have studied very carefully the situation in Scotland, and we are continuing to monitor it-although so far, it looks from what happens in Scotland as though the term "guardian" is probably more represented by the term "advocate". A "guardian" has a slightly different connotation to "advocate", but we are continuing to look at this matter. Our view is that the UK is already compliant with the directive in terms of child guardians. Local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that they safeguard and promote the welfare of children. However, I must tell the noble Baroness that while I have been encouraged by what we will do when we are able to opt into the directive and by what is coming forward in the new strategy, I am fully aware that in the welfare of children there is a need for a holistic overview, over and above issues such as the roof above their heads, security, food on the table, education, and those core things that statutory agencies of course supply. I will be following this very carefully to make sure that the holistic view is represented.

Baroness Benjamin: My Lords, the assistance and support measures set out in Article 10 of the directive include the provision of, "appropriate and safe accommodation". However, at Barnardo's, in which I declare an interest as vice-president, we have found that trafficked children are still being placed in unsafe hotels, hostels and bed-and-breakfast accommodation. As the study by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection agency showed, this is likely to be the main reason why a high proportion of trafficked children still go missing, when they really should be safe in local authority care. What do the Government intend to do to ensure that the practice of putting vulnerable children into unsafe accommodation is stopped as soon as possible?

Reply from Baroness Browning: My noble friend is quite right. The number of children in inappropriate care, resulting in children who have been identified as being trafficked going missing, is a very serious problem on which we must bear down. My noble friend mentioned CEOP. I hope that she will take comfort that CEOP will have a new role in this area. It will provide a national focus on the issue of missing children, and its role will in particular include education and training for the police; supporting police operations through targeted research and analysis; operational support for forces in searching for missing children; and ensuring that co-ordination arrangements and capability are placed to manage complex or high-profile missing cases. I would expect the new, enhanced role of CEOP in this area

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

to address some of the problems which my noble friend mentioned, which are serious and need addressing urgently.

Baroness Young of Hornsey: Will the Government undertake to set up a system of cross-checking custody documents to ensure that those who purport to have legal custody of children actually do so?

Reply from Baroness Browning: My Lords, I can give that assurance. It is something that we are already looking at. As a new Minister, I had my initial briefing from the UK Border Agency. One of the first questions I asked was: what happens at passport control for children coming into this country who are not accompanied by a parent? Of course, there are quite legitimate reasons why children would come in from overseas with an adult relative, but we are aware of some of the case histories—the Victoria Climbié case comes to mind in particular. It is very difficult to say how we address in the short term the passport arrangements for other countries, but we should focus on it to ensure that we pick up those children at that early stage, at the border when they come into this country, rather than later when so much damage has been done.

Lord Rosser: My Lords, the Government have just announced proposals to merge the highly effective Child Exploitation and Online Protection agency into a new national crime agency. Of course, the previous head of CEOP resigned from the agency after seeing the Government's plans and has said that the submerging of CEOP within a far greater entity will not allow the critical child protection focus that we need. Where will responsibility for combating child trafficking lie within the proposed national crime agency? Does the fact that the Government have said that the cost of the new national crime agency will not exceed the aggregate cost of its predecessors, when the Child Exploitation and Online Protection agency is to suffer a 10 per cent reduction in its budget, simply confirm that it is highly vulnerable children who are likely to be in the firing line from the Government's decision to ram through cuts that are too fast and too deep?

Reply from Baroness Browning: My Lords, I quite disagree with the noble Lord. The announcement yesterday of the national crime agency means that we will set up a body which will have four pillars—which will not be silos; they will work together—of which child protection is a key part. The whole agency will be responsible for gathering intelligence, analysis of that intelligence and a crime-fighting force that will not just be based in the capital but will interact with police forces around the country.

The problems that we face in areas such as trafficking do not confine themselves to local police force borders. Children and adults who have been trafficked are moved around. They are, in effect, in slavery and may not be in the place where they came into the country. That is organised crime and it recognises no borders. I believe that the national crime agency will bear down on that, as it will in other areas of organised crime.

Lord McColl of Dulwich: My Lords, we have already had First Reading of my Bill to implement the human trafficking directive. When will we have Second Reading so that we can get transposition under way?

Reply from Baroness Browning: My Lords, I would have to consult the usual channels on the timetabling of any legislation in this House. I hope that my noble friend will be reassured by the fact that, in opting into the directive, if that is accepted, we have already identified several changes that will need to be made in order to be compliant with the directive. They include: widening one existing offence of trafficking for forced labour; amending existing trafficking offences to confer extra-territorial jurisdiction over UK nationals who commit trafficking offences anywhere in the world; making mandatory some measures which are currently good practice—for example, appointing special representatives to support

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

child witnesses during police investigations and criminal trials; and setting out the rights of victims to assistance and support.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110609-0001.htm#11060954001017>

Press Releases

Visa guidance in local languages

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/8200.aspx

Fighting illegal immigration at the frontline

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/june/fighting-illegal-immigration>

New family returns procedure published

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/june/14-family-returns>

Government sets out proposals for breaking the link between temporary and permanent migration

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/june/12government-migration-proposals>

UK Government announce public consultation on reforms to visas

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=611914582>

Acquisition of citizenship in the EU EU27 Member States granted citizenship to 776 000 persons in 2009

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/11/83&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Are 30,000 immigrants all it takes to put an end to freedom of movement in the EU?

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2011-06-09.pdf>

Refugee Week Scotland Media Awards 2011 - Shortlist Announced

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/1185_refugee_week_scotland_media_awards_2011_-_shortlist_announced

New Publications

Evaluation of the Family Return Project Glasgow City Council UKBA and the Scottish Government

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/296503/evaluation-family-return-project>

Forced labour in Northern Ireland

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/forced-labour-Northern-Ireland-full.pdf>

Council Conclusions on Borders, Migration and Asylum Stocktaking and the way forward

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/122508.pdf

Immigration and Asylum (continued) News

Scots justice branded too slow to safeguard trafficked children

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Scots-justice-branded-too-slow.6781435.jp>

Police identify Scots human traffic gangs

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/police-identify-scots-human-traffic-gangs-1.1105727>

Joint action to block migrants

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Joint-action-to-block-migrants.6780736.jp>

Call to tighten foreign marriage rules

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Call-to-tighten-foreign-marriage.6780759.jp>

Campaigners call for stricter marriage visa rules

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/campaigners-call-for-stricter-marriage-visa-rules-2294006.html>

Migration settlement rights to be cut says Home Office

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-13714028>

Immigration: Theresa May pledges to stop exodus from Arab Spring coming to UK

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/8559833/Immigration-Theresa-May-pledges-to-stop-exodus-from-Arab-Spring-coming-to-UK.html>

UK immigration cap on resettling skilled workers criticised

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/jun/09/immigration-cap-resettling-skilled-workers>

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Race Relations

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council: 19 May 2011

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Andrew Stunell): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council met on 19 May 2011 in Brussels. The United Kingdom was represented by the UK deputy permanent representative to the EU, Andy Lebrecht.

This was a single-issue Council on the subject of Roma integration. On 5 April, the European Commission published a communication on an EU framework for national Roma integration strategies up to 2020. Based on this, the presidency invited the Council to hold an exchange of views and adopt a set of Council conclusions and an opinion from the Social Protection Committee.

The presidency stressed the importance of member states taking effective action to tackle Roma exclusion, while emphasising the added value of EU-level action. The presidency noted that the situation of the Roma differed considerably between member states and so the conclusions provided latitude to member states to tailor their approaches to national needs by committing them to preparing either national strategies or sets of policy measures. The chair of the Social Protection Committee underlined the Social Protection Committee's willingness to continue work on this issue.

Race Relations

Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

The European Commission emphasised the need to step up efforts against discrimination. They said that strong commitment was needed by all member states, but acknowledged that member states' efforts to promote Roma inclusion should be proportionate to the size and situation of the Roma population on their territory. The Commission also emphasised the link with the EU2020 strategy and underlined the importance of member states' strategies or policy approaches, focusing on the four priority areas identified in the Commission's communication—health, housing, education and employment. They called on member states to submit their strategies or policy approaches by end of 2011. The Commission would then report annually to the European Parliament and Council on progress made.

The UK outlined the fact that in this country we have a strong and well-established legal framework to combat discrimination and hate crime and that this protects all individuals, including Roma, Gypsies and Travellers, from racial and other forms of discrimination, and racially motivated crime. We also acknowledged that the UK's Gypsies and Travellers none the less experience inequalities. We summarised the policy approaches being undertaken in the different parts of the UK to deal with this, including, in England, the ministerial working group on reducing Gypsy and Traveller inequalities, chaired by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

We also acknowledged the importance of co-ordination between member states to tackle organised crime, particularly the issue of human trafficking, which can affect Roma, especially Roma children, and we noted the opportunity that EU funds provide to member states to add value to their policies to improve the situation of Roma and other disadvantaged people.

Other member states welcomed the conclusions and highlighted the need for concerted action to improve the situation of the Roma. Some said they already had national or regional Roma strategies or programmes; others said they tackled Roma issues through mainstreaming into wider social inclusion programmes; while others had specific initiatives designed to address particular issues. Though most member states focused exclusively on socio-economic issues, some also made specific reference to the problem of human trafficking. Several member states, including the UK, highlighted the fact that different member states faced different situations both in terms of the size and situation of their Roma populations. Closing the debate, the presidency noted, among other things, that some member states had developed national Roma strategies while others were dealing with the issue through general inclusion policies.

Following the debate, the Council adopted conclusions on an EU framework for national Roma integration strategies. It also endorsed the opinion of the Social Protection Committee on an EU framework for national Roma integration strategies. The presidency will now seek endorsement of a Roma presidency progress report at the June European Council.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110608/wmstext/110608m0001.htm#11060847000003>

News

40 years' worth of Runnymede race relations material available to view

http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/325/272/40-years-worth-of-Runnymede-race-relations-material-moves-to-Brixton.html?utm_source=The+Runnymede+Trust&utm_campaign=ddf937376e-JuneUpdate2011&utm_medium=email

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Equality

Press Release

Red Tape Challenge to Equality Regulation

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/media/press_releases/red_tape_challenge_to_equality.aspx

New Publication

The impact of counter-terrorism measures on Muslim communities

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/counter-terrorism_research_report_72.pdf

News

Religious freedom doesn't stop at the prison gate

<http://ukhumanrightsblog.com/2011/06/07/religious-freedom-doesnt-stop-at-the-prison-gate/>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Debate

Anti-Semitism

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110608-gc0001.htm#1106091000228>

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Caste Discrimination

Lord Harries of Pentregarth: To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the review in 2011 of the United Kingdom by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and its recommendation in 2003, whether they will legislate against discrimination on the basis of caste.[HL9476]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: In March 2010 the Government commissioned an independent report on caste prejudice and discrimination in Great Britain from the National Institute for Economic and Social Research. One of the purposes of the report was to help consideration of whether they should legislate against discrimination because of caste.

The Government are still considering the report carefully, together with the various representations that they have subsequently received from a range of interest groups, and will announce their conclusions on whether or not to legislate against discrimination because of caste in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110609w0001.htm#11060940000149>

News

Sectarianism - 'First step in dropping the old baggage'

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/opinion/Sectarianism--39First-step-in.6782826.jp>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Ham stuffed in shoes of muslim worshippers

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/8559151/Ham-stuffed-in-shoes-of-muslim-worshippers.html>

Heathrow terror police 'shook Koran in Muslim's face'

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Society/article646147.ece

Racism will go on rearing its ugly head until we shout stop

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/yasmin-alibhai-brown/yasmin-alibhaibrown-racism-will-go-on-rearing-its-ugly-head-until-we-shout-stop-2293521.html>

Million-pound bill for taxpayer after race activist sues anti-racism groups

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/8569956/Million-pound-bill-for-taxpayer-after-race-activist-sues-anti-racism-groups.html>

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Other Holyrood

New Publications

Your MSPs: leaflets containing details of the MSPs elected to represent each of the eight regions, including their photographs and email addresses. They also outline what MSPs do and how to find out more about their work

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/vli/publicInfo/yourmsps.htm>

What's On at the Scottish Parliament Summer 2011

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/vli/publicInfo/documents/WhatsOnleafletSummer2011.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Press Release

New Prevent strategy launched

A radically different strategy to prevent people being drawn into terrorism was unveiled today by the Home Secretary.

The new [Prevent programme](#) will:

- deal with all forms of terrorism and target not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit
- ensure government funding and support cannot reach organisations with extremist views who do not support mainstream British values
- challenge the ideology that supports terrorism and those who promote it
- support sectors and institutions, including universities and prisons, where there are risks of radicalisation
- draw on existing successful programmes to protect vulnerable individuals from being drawn into terrorism

Other Westminster Press Release (continued)

- crucially, all new programmes will be evaluated rigorously to ensure effectiveness and value for money ...

The new strategy will see:

- a greater effort to tackle extremist ideologies, including work with mainstream individuals to make sure moderate voices are heard
- tough action to exclude foreign hate preachers
- work to tackle terrorist use of the internet for radicalisation, including the filtering of unlawful content by public bodies such as schools and libraries; and work with industry and international partners to crack down on unlawful content hosted in the UK and overseas
- action to build upon the success of the multi-agency Channel programme, which identifies and supports people at risk of radicalisation
- work with schools, including a more effective inspection regime to ensure that extremists are not participating in the education of young people
- greater support for universities and colleges, training staff to recognise the signs of radicalisation and improving awareness of help available to them
- renewed efforts in prisons to stop people becoming radicalised and to de-radicalise those who have been involved in extremism before being jailed
- extra support, where appropriate, to help faith organisations reach people vulnerable to radicalisation
- closer work with the Charity Commission to investigate allegations of terrorist activity or links

To read the full press release see

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/prevent-strategy>

New Publication

Evaluation of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Women Councillors Taskforce

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/BAME%20report%20FINAL.pdf>

News

Ministers rethink anti-extremism strategy

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/ministers-rethink-antiextremism-strategy-2293997.html>

Cabinet split on Islamic extremist crackdown

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/cabinet-split-on-islamic-extremist-crackdown-2293493.html>

'Easy and simplistic': Theresa May's campus extremism strategy condemned

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2011/jun/06/theresa-may-extremism-university-islamists>

Plans to curb influence of sharia courts to be unveiled

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/8561979/Plans-to-curb-influence-of-sharia-courts-to-be-unveiled.html>

The state cannot curb sharia law alone

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2011/jun/09/sharia-law-bill>

Other Westminster News (continued)

Bill limiting sharia law is motivated by 'concern for Muslim women'
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2011/jun/08/sharia-bill-lords-muslim-women>

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Other News

Muslim women's group launches 'jihad against violence'
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/jun/06/muslim-womens-group-jihad-violence>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Bills in Progress Westminster

Fixed Term Parliaments Bill

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

**** Scotland Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2010-2011/0164/amend/psc1640906a.2279-2280.html>

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Consultations ** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Reform of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (15 June 2011)

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/what_we_do/ehrc_reform.aspx

Practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (21 June 2011)

The UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Mr. Githu Muigai, will receive contributions for a forthcoming report to the General Assembly. Contributions should be sent to racism@ohchr.org

Forced Marriage Statutory Guidance Consultation (1 July 2011)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/347416/0115668.pdf>

Planning for traveller sites (England and Wales) (6 July 2011)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1886164.pdf>

Consultations (continued)

**** Employment related settlement, Tier 5 and overseas domestic workers** (9 September 2011)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/consultations/employment-related-settlement/>

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Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities

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Funding Opportunities

**** new or updated this week**

50th Anniversary Robertson Trust Awards

Closing date for applications: 31 July 2011

Organisations that have ever received a grant from the Robertson Trust are invited to apply for grants between £10,000 and £100,000 for projects that will enhance, expand or develop their core activities, and make a difference to life in Scotland: locally, regionally or Scotland-wide. For information and application forms see

<http://www.therobertsontrust.org.uk/index.php/50th-anniversary-awards/>

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Events/Conferences/Training

**** new or updated this week**

**** this week!**

Refugee Stories at the Kelvingrove

until 2 July 2011 in Glasgow

Exhibition to illustrate the stories of three refugees who rebuilt their lives in Scotland, from the 1940s to the present day, including film, newspaper articles, photographs and objects illustrating the lives of Henry Wuga from Germany, Carlos Arredondo from Chile and Patience Tsungu from Zimbabwe. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/3spddpb>

**** this week!**

Celebrate 60 Years of Sanctuary

16 June 2011 in Edinburgh (6.00 – 8.00)

Refugee Survival Trust networking evening to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the right to asylum as set out in the UN Refugee Convention. For information see

<http://tinyurl.com/3v9sn2m>

**** this week!**

“Mainstreaming” of Race Equality in Scotland

17 June 2011 in Glasgow (9.45 – 1.00)

CEMVO seminar to explore a collective approach between public bodies and ethnic minority groups. For information see

http://www.cemvoscotland.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=118:mainstreaming-of-race-equality-seminar-date-17-06-11&catid=55:current-events&Itemid=81

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

Glasgow Mela

18 - 19 June 2011 in Glasgow

A weekend of live music, dance, entertainment and arts. For information see <http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/events/mela/Pages/default.aspx>

Refugee Week

20 – 26 June 2011

A wide range of events to celebrate the contributions refugees have made to Scotland in the 60 years since the signing of the UN Refugee Convention. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/445whqu>

Sixty Years of the Refugee Convention

20 – 28 June 2011 in Glasgow

A short film produced by the Scottish Refugee Council and Media Co-op depicting some of the extraordinary stories of those forced to flee their home countries who forge new lives in Scotland. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/3w3s6nn>

The Past, Present and Future of Sanctuary and Asylum

21 June 2011 in Glasgow (6.00pm)

Anthropologist and human rights activist, Linda Rabben, discusses the history of sanctuary and asylum, present-day asylum policies and the future of both institutions. For information see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/events_calendar/1013_the_past_present_and_future_of_sanctuary_and_asylum

Some Words for Home

21 June 2011 in Glasgow (7.45pm)

The story of two Jewish refugees who escaped the atrocities of World War II to make a home for themselves in Scotland. For information see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/events_calendar/1088_some_words_for_home_by_oliver_emanuel

**** Opening Doors: Innovative Strategies for Immigrant Student Success**

22 June 2011 – webinar (3.00 – 4.00)

Integration Learning Exchange webinar to learn about winning educational strategies and practical lessons for immigrant student success. For information see

<http://tinyurl.com/66h6m5x>

Scottish Refugee Council's Women's Morning

23 June 2011 in Glasgow (10.00 – 12.30)

Information and advice on asylum support, housing, volunteering, opportunities for children and young people. Female interpreters will be available. For information see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/events_calendar/1080_scottish_refugee_council_s_women_s_morning

Personal Stories

23 June 2011 in Glasgow (10.30 – 12.30)

Glasgow Integration Network launch of a booklet containing personal accounts of asylum seekers and refugees living in North Glasgow. For information see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/events_calendar/1081_personal_stories_booklet_launch

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Human Rights and Wrongs

23 June 2011 in Glasgow (7.00pm)

Talk by journalist Billy Briggs about the themes illustrated in the Human Rights and Wrongs Exhibition. For information see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/events_calendar/1002_human_rights_and_wrongs_exhibition_talk_by_billy_briggs

One Scotland Many Voices Film Festival

24 June 2011 in Glasgow (7.00 – 9.00)

Interactive evening of short films, discussions and live entertainment. For information see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/events_calendar/1035_one_scotland_many_voices_film_festival

Refugees and Employment in Scotland

25 June 2011 in Glasgow (3.00 – 6.00)

Opportunity to meet representatives from a variety of employment support agencies to learn what employment and volunteering opportunities. For information see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/events_calendar/1054_refugees_and_employment_in_scotland

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

30 June 2011 in Glasgow

2 August 2011 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training providing a comprehensive understanding of core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland. It is particularly relevant for those working in social work, housing, welfare, education, employment, health, community development or the justice system. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/3gnyvmm> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

The needs and experiences of refugee women

5 July 2011 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide a thorough understanding of fundamental issues affecting women seeking asylum in Scotland. It is appropriate for those working in social work, housing, welfare, education, employment, health, community development or the justice system. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/4x62hfa> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Youth Interfaith Conference

21 June 2011 in East Kilbride (10.00 – 3.00)

ACPOS conference in partnership with the Scottish Inter Faith Council for 16 to 26 year olds to explore interfaith in Scotland including the role of the media in portraying faith, faith and identity in Scotland, and hate crime. For information contact Anton Stephenson Anton.Stephenson@centralscotland.pnn.police.uk / 01786 456 993.

OSCR Outreach Programme: Supporting Charities in Financial Difficulties

21 June 2011 in Inverness (2.00 – 4.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training for charity advisors only. For information see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/EventItem.aspx?ID=e7fa2654-8add-46f3-b8c5-2694d484ff50>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Working Together for Equality**

29 June 2011 in Glasgow (9.30 – 2.00)

EveryoneIN seminar to provide an update on work to bring people together from across the equality strands of race, faith, gender identity and sexual orientation. For information contact Sam Rankin [sam@equality-network.org/](mailto:sam@equality-network.org) / 07747040355 or Lynne Davies lynne@equality-network.org / 0131 467 6039

BA in Community Development programme

Applications accepted until mid August 2011, Course begins September 2011

The University of Glasgow's BA in Community Development is sponsored by BEMIS as part of its programme for capacity building strategy for the ethnic minority's voluntary sector. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/adds/11iv_bemis.pdf and http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/adds/11iv_bemis2.pdf or contact Tanveer Parnez tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

**** Scotland's People – Past, Present & Future**

26 October 2011 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.00)

National Records of Scotland conference to discuss how population and household statistics are increasingly important to help inform policies and planning in central and local government, and the third sector. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/11x_nrs_conference.doc

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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>

Useful Links (continued)

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/>

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