

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Asylum Seekers (Education)

John Wilson (Central Scotland) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what statutory duties local authorities have for the provision of education for those seeking refugee status. (S4O-00028)

Reply from the Minister for Children and Young People (Angela Constance): Under the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, local authorities have a duty to provide adequate and efficient provision of school education for all children residing in their local area. That duty does not distinguish between children and young people on the basis of their asylum or refugee status.

John Wilson: Can I ask that next time the minister—or the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning—sends round a circular to the heads of education in local authorities, they remind heads of education of their duty to provide education for all children throughout Scotland, particularly those seeking refugee status, and that vulnerable minority groups are treated with dignity and respect in relation to placing requests?

Reply from Angela Constance: If Mr Wilson thinks that that would be helpful, I am sure that the cabinet secretary and I would be happy to oblige.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/apps2/business/orsearch/ReportView.aspx?r=6295&m ode=html#job_57355

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Debate

Student Visas

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110616/halltext/110616h0001.htm#11061633000001>

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Changes to the Immigration Rules

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before the House a statement of changes in the immigration rules that will bring about the second of the changes to the student visa system, which the Home Secretary announced on 22 March, and were set out in detail in the statement of intent published on 31 March.

The changes will take effect on 4 July and will tighten the rules on the entitlements of students to work and bring dependants, will tighten the requirements around maintenance funds and require students to show academic progression to get a further visa. The new rules also introduce a streamlined application process for low-risk students.

I can also confirm that we are publishing the impact assessment for the changes to tier 4 on the UK Border Agency website, and I will arrange for a copy to be placed in the House Library.

The Home Secretary has previously announced that from the end of 2012 all tier 4 sponsors will need to have had a satisfactory inspection or audit by one of a number of specified bodies who are involved in the regulatory framework for educational standards in the UK. I am pleased to be able to inform the House that the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) and the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) have agreed in principle to extend their remits to carry out additional inspections to cover privately funded providers. Further information is available on the UK Border Agency website.

This statement of changes also includes changes to the tier 4 rules to extend the list of courses where an academic technology approval scheme (ATAS) clearance certificate is required from the counter-proliferation department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

We are also making some minor amendments to rules laid on 16 March on intra-company transfers and maintenance funds so they achieve the intended policy intention.

There are also minor changes to the immigration rules laid on 1 October 2010 in respect of the English language requirement for spouses and partners of British citizens and persons settled in the UK.

Lastly, the Government are also making new provisions in part 8 of the immigration rules to allow other dependent family members of refugees with limited leave in the United Kingdom to join them from abroad. Currently, only those who have indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom are able to sponsor their other dependent relatives from abroad and those refugees with limited leave must make their applications outside of the rules and these are considered at the Secretary of State's discretion. We want to ensure that refugees with limited leave have the same opportunity to sponsor their other dependent family members as those coming through the normal route and this will also include a requirement that they be able to maintain and accommodate them.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110613/wmstext/110613m0001.htm#1106133000004>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Visas: Olympic and Paralympic Games 2012

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements are being made to ensure the effective administration of visa applications to enter the United Kingdom for competitors and visitors to the Olympic and Paralympic Games of 2012. [HL9675]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): Participants of the London 2012 Olympic Games will receive accreditation cards, which for visa national individuals, will act as a visa waiver. The accreditation cards are valid for travel to the UK, on a multiple-entry basis from the 31 March until 8 November 2012 or six months (whichever is the shorter period).

In advance of the introduction of the accreditation card, the UK Border Agency has introduced a new Olympic/ Paralympic Games visit visa to facilitate entry to the UK in advance of the Games for those who are anticipated to be accredited. Applications for this visa must be supported by a letter from the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG). The visa is valid from the date of issue until 8 November 2012, on a multiple visit basis and costs the same price as a six-month visit visa (currently £76).

Non-accredited visa national visitors travelling to the UK at Games time will be required to apply for a UK visa as per standard immigration controls. Visitors will be encouraged to apply for their visa in good time before they travel to ensure they receive their UK visa. Applicants can apply for a UK visa up to three months in advance of travelling. Overseas staff are anticipating a surge of visit visa applications next summer and resources will be prioritised to ensure they meet existing service standards.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110614w0001.htm#11061456000537>

Repatriation: Families

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 414-15W, on deportation: children, how many of the 230 family groups removed from the UK between 1 May 2010 and 30 April 2011 departed voluntarily. [59177]

Reply from Damian Green: Since my original response of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 414-15W, the figures have been refreshed and now show that there were 236 family groups removed from the UK between 1 May 2010 and 30 April 2011. Of these, 144 departed voluntarily.

The information provided cannot be taken from, or compared to published National Statistics as these report on children rather than family groups. Published National Statistics do not separately identify all enforced removals and all voluntary departures.

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110613/text/110613w0004.htm#11061332000061>

Stateless People

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average time taken to process applications to be recognised as a stateless person; how many such applications are pending; and on what date the earliest of those applications was submitted. [HL9717]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): We have taken "stateless persons" applications to mean applications for a travel document.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

A person who is stateless may apply for a stateless persons travel document under the terms of the 1954 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. This convention defines a stateless person as someone who is not considered a national by any country under the terms of its laws.

The average time taken to process a stateless person's travel document application is 47 working days (9.4 weeks). The UK Border Agency processes 70 per cent of applications within 20 working days (four weeks), and 98 per cent within 70 working days (14 weeks). Applications to replace lost documents can take longer to process than normal applications, as the loss needs to be fully investigated.

As of 7 June 2011, there were 18 applications pending. The earliest date on these applications was 20 May 2010.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110615w0001.htm#11061545000335>

Asylum: Human Rights

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications made by asylum seekers under Article 8 of Schedule 1 of the Human Rights Act 1998 were upheld by the courts in each year since 2000. [58467]

Reply from Damian Green: The information is not available. The United Kingdom Border Agency's Case Information Database does not record the specific reasons why an appeal is allowed and the requested information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost through the examination of a large number of individual case files.

A sample of 401 allowed asylum appeal determinations from across the UK for the period October to December 2010 was recently analysed and cross referenced with computer records. Of the 401, the Immigration Judge presiding over the case upheld the Article 8 claim made by asylum seekers in 33 cases (8.2%).

Figures published in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly statistical summary Q1 2011 show that there were 3,040 asylum appeals determined in the period October to December 2010 of which 805 (26%) were allowed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110615/text/110615w0001.htm#11061550000016>

Asylum: Appeals

Matthew Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether arrangements are in place to restrict eligibility to appeal against asylum judgements in the same way as restrictions are placed on eligibility for legal aid for the general public. [59689]

Reply from Jonathan Djanogly: The Government recently conducted a consultation on proposals for the reform of legal aid in England and Wales, which closed on 14 February 2011.

Currently legal aid can be provided for asylum matters. Before funding is granted, the applicant must satisfy a means test, and a test of the merits of the case. The means test for asylum cases is the same as for other types of case.

We are considering the consultation responses, and will publish the Government response shortly.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110615/text/110615w0003.htm#11061561000024>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on requiring asylum seekers to move location while their applications for asylum are being processed. [58458]

Reply from Damian Green: In circumstances that asylum seekers are moved from supported accommodation to an alternative provider as their applications are being considered, the move must be necessary, reasonable and proportionate. In these circumstances, the UK Border Agency will write to notify the individual affected and provide them with the opportunity to offer information that may inform the relocation arrangements. In a recent exercise involving the expiry of a number of accommodation contracts across the UK Border Agency, re-housing proposals which necessitate a change of schooling proceed only with the approval of the relevant regional director in the UK Border Agency.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110613/text/110613w0004.htm#11061332000042>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Browning on 18 May (WA 328), how many of the 675,000 asylum seekers who have applied for asylum since 1997 have had their applications accepted or been otherwise permitted to remain; and what is their assessment of the criteria for asylum set out in the relevant international conventions.[HL9867]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): Data on the numbers of asylum applications since 1997 that have been accepted or been otherwise permitted to remain are not available, in particular due to a change in the database used to record asylum applications in 2000. Information on applications from later years that have been accepted or been otherwise permitted to remain could only be obtained by the detailed examination of records at disproportionate cost.

Data on numbers of principal asylum applicants between 2004 and 2009, as at May 2010, allowed asylum, humanitarian protection and discretionary leave at initial decision and appeal are available in the published tables of the *Control of Immigration* statistics United Kingdom 2009. This does not include applications accepted at other stages of the process or those permitted to remain outside of the asylum process. This publication is available in the Library of the House and the Home Office science website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics>.

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) remains committed to providing a safe haven for refugees and operates a firm but fair asylum system that is delivering faster decisions to identify those who genuinely need our protection as well as those who do not. All asylum and human rights claims are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the refugee convention and the European Convention on Human Rights against the background of the latest available information on asylum seekers' countries of origin.

However, where it is found by the UK Border Agency and the courts that an asylum seeker does not require international protection and there are no remaining rights of appeal or obstacles to return, we expect that person to return to their country of origin voluntarily. UKBA only returns those who both the agency and the courts are satisfied do not need our protection and refuse to leave voluntarily. We are determined to remove those with no right to be in the UK.

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seeker applicants there have been from each European Union member state in the past 10 years.[HL9869]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Baroness Browning: Numbers of asylum applications from nationals of European Union member states for 2001 to 2010 are in the table below:

To read the lengthy tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110616w0001.htm#11061648000524>

Immigration: Detainees

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children were detained, and where, for immigration purposes on (a) 1 June 2009, (b) 1 June 2010, and (c) 1 June 2011. [HL9674]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): The information is not available for the requested dates. Snapshot figures are available and published by the Home Office on children in detention, but solely under Immigration Act powers as at the end of each quarter, excluding those detained in police cells (for safety reasons or age dispute cases), Prison Service establishments and those detained under both criminal and immigration powers. The tables placed in the House Library shows the figures, nearest to the dates requested, for the number of children detained, solely under Immigration Act powers, by place of initial detention. Information on numbers of children in detention is published quarterly as table 3.7 in the *Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary*, which is available from the Home Office science, research and statistics website at: <http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>.

A copy of the latest bulletin, *Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary Q1 2011* will be placed in the House Library. The Q2 2011 figures, including children in detention as at 30 June 2011, will be available on 25 August 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110614w0001.htm#11061456000528>

Human Trafficking: Children

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General how many (a) men, (b) women and (c) children identified as victims of trafficking have been (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of an offence in each of the last five years; and what the most common offence was in each such year. [58952]

Reply from the Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has no records to ascertain how many people identified as a trafficked victim have been prosecuted or convicted for criminal offences in each of the last five years.

The CPS records indicate the volume of offences, not defendants, prosecuted by the CPS under each Act and Section. The records do not distinguish between men, women or children or whether they might have been identified as a trafficked victim.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General how many (a) prosecutions and (b) convictions there have been of cases involving allegations of trafficking of children in each of the last five years. [59074]

Reply from the Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has no records to identify how many prosecutions and convictions there have been of cases involving allegations of trafficking children in each of the last five years.

The CPS records indicate the volume of offences, not defendants, prosecuted by the CPS under each Act and Section. The records do not distinguish between men, women or children who are the victims of trafficking in each case.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110613/text/110613w0002.htm#11061316000091>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Children: Human Trafficking

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what recent assessment he has made of the capacity of local authorities to support children identified as victims of human trafficking; and if he will make a statement; [58948]
(2) what estimate he has made of the number of children identified as victims of human trafficking that have gone missing from local authority care in (a) each region and (b) Wales in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [58949]
(3) how many children identified as victims of human trafficking were in local authority care in (a) each region of England and (b) Wales in the latest period for which figures are available. [58950]

Reply from Tim Loughton: Local authorities have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area. They work in close co-operation with the police and the UK Border Agency to support and provide protection for potentially trafficked children. This will include assessing their needs and putting in place support packages, which may include the child becoming looked after in the care system. Where a child does become looked after, local authorities must allocate the child a social worker who will draw up a care plan. This sets out how the authority intends to respond to the full range of a child's needs, including the need to safeguard them from contact with traffickers.

The plan will also include arrangements to be followed if the young person goes missing. The National Minimum Standards (NMS) for Children's Homes and Fostering Services require all homes and fostering services to have explicit procedures for when looked after children are missing or absent. "Statutory Guidance on Children who Run Away and Go Missing from Home and Care", issued in July 2009, requires local authorities to collect information on missing from care incidents. Local authorities must make regular reports to council members with responsibility for "corporate parenting" on patterns of children going missing from care. However, information on whether a looked after child has been the victim of human trafficking, or has been trafficked into the country and subsequently goes missing from care, is not collected centrally.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110616/text/110616w0002.htm#11061644000104>

Human Trafficking: Children in Care

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has considered the merits of requiring local authorities to publish figures for (a) the number of trafficked children they have in their care and (b) how long they remain in their care. [58727]

Reply from Damian Green: Local authorities are required to record the numbers of looked after children within their area. These figures are sent to the Department for Education annually for publication. These national figures do not include the detail of those children who may have been trafficked although local authorities have processes in place to identify the numbers of trafficked children within their area. While the Government does not require individual local authorities to publish this detailed information locally at a national level we are building up our intelligence on numbers of trafficked children through the National Referral Mechanism, the work of the UK Human Trafficking Centre and the Child Exploitation and Online Protections Centre's yearly strategic threat assessments. The forthcoming Human Trafficking strategy will include a range of measures aimed at strengthening our ability to combat child trafficking and support those who have been trafficked.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110614/text/110614w0002.htm#11061469000045>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department provides on the length of the recommended support period for victims of human trafficking. [58728]

Reply from Damian Green: Under the National Referral Mechanism, decisions about who is a victim of trafficking are made by trained specialists in designated 'competent authorities'. The detailed guidance issued to competent authorities instructs that a minimum 45-day recovery and reflection period should be granted to identified victims and extended where circumstances warrant.

The guidance is available at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/asylumprocessguidance/specialcases/guidance/competent-guidance>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110613/text/110613w0004.htm#11061332000053>

Human Trafficking

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the inter-ministerial group on human trafficking has met since 6 May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [58951]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government recognises the importance of monitoring the progress of anti-trafficking efforts in the UK and our international obligations.

The inter-departmental ministerial group on trafficking met in February 2011 and will meet twice a year. An officials group will also meet twice a year. Discussions at the group will reflect ongoing developments in trafficking policy.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police authority area of England and Wales are trained to deal with cases involving allegations of human trafficking. [58954]

Reply from Damian Green: Combating human trafficking is part of core police business. All new police officers receive mandatory training on trafficking and existing officers have access to training material.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who have been identified as victims of trafficking have been deported from the UK in each of the last five years. [58956]

Reply from Damian Green: Since April 2009 the UK has had in place a multi-agency framework for identifying and protecting victims of trafficking—the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

There is currently no record of any enforced return of individuals conclusively found to be victims of trafficking under the NRM. However, being a victim does not automatically entitle someone to remain in the UK indefinitely. Where a recognised victim of trafficking does not meet established criteria the expectation must be that they return to their own country. In all cases voluntary departure is the preferred option and repatriation would only be enforced where it was deemed safe and appropriate to do so in accordance with the UK's domestic and international obligations.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the merits of establishing an independent rapporteur on human trafficking; and if she will make a statement. [58958]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK is already compliant with this measure through equivalent mechanisms in the form of the UK Human Trafficking Centre as the central repository for data and the inter-departmental ministerial group for oversight.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

As I made clear in the House of Commons debate on the EU Directive on human trafficking on 9 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 978, the Government recognises that there are concerns that the function should be carried out by an independent body, and will keep these arguments under consideration.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110614/text/110614w0002.htm#11061469000043>

Press Releases

Foreign Secretary and International Development Secretary mark World Refugee Day

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=617752982>

Next set of changes to student visa rules is announced

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/june/17-t4-changes>

Educational oversight of Tier 4 sponsors: enhanced role for QAA and ISI

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/49-oversight-qaa-isi>

Asylum: Persecuted people need more solidarity

<http://www.eu2011.hu/news/asylum-persecuted-people-need-more-solidarity>

Helping victims of trafficking access effective remedies

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Helpingvictimsotraffickingaccessesffectiveremedies.aspx>

The European Asylum Support Office is now fully operational

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/750&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Even One Refugee Forced to Flee, One Refugee Forced to Return to Danger Is One Too Many, Says Secretary-General in Message for World Refugee Day

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2011/sqsm13651.doc.htm>

New Publication

There Are Alternatives: A handbook for preventing unnecessary immigration detention

http://massivefishball.com/IDC_Handbook.pdf

News

Courage on foreign shores

<http://www.thirdforcenews.org.uk/2011/06/courage-on-foreign-shores/>

It's a different world for refugees in Scotland

<http://www.thirdforcenews.org.uk/2011/06/%EF%BB%BFit%E2%80%99s-a-different-world-for-refugees-in-scotland/>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Student migration curbs could cost UK £2.4bn

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-13751446>

Sturgeon attacks moves to shut language support unit

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/sturgeon-attacks-moves-to-shut-language-support-unit-1.1107410>

Foreign student visa numbers to be cut by 230,000 over five years

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/jun/13/foreign-student-visa-numbers-cut>

Foreign student crackdown will cost the economy £2.4bn

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/jun/13/foreign-students-theresa-may-eu>

Foreign nationals resident in UK face benefits clampdown

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/jun/13/clampdown-uk-benefits-foreign-nationals>

Immigration detention firm G4S gets more than 700 complaints

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/jun/17/g4s-immigration-detention-700-complaints>

Immigration detainees held for 'excessively long' periods – watchdog

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/jun/17/immigration-detainees-held-years-harmondsworth>

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Race Relations

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S4M-00340 Sandra White: Glasgow Mela 2011—That the Parliament welcomes the return of Glasgow's biggest multicultural festival, the Glasgow Mela 2011, which this year celebrates its 21st anniversary and runs on 18 and 19 July; believes that this colourful celebration of multiculturalism and diversity is a great reflection of the fabric and make-up of a modern, vibrant and inclusive Glasgow, and congratulates the hard work and dedication of all those who have contributed to making the Glasgow Mela a truly stunning success.

Direct links to Session 4 Motions are still unavailable on the Scottish Parliament website but the above Motion is available in the Business Bulletin at

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-11/bb-06-17f.htm>

News

Trevor Phillips wades into debate on religion in modern society

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/8583922/Trevor-Phillips-wades-into-debate-on-religion-in-modern-society.html>

Christians are more militant than Muslims, says Government's equalities boss

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/8584030/Christians-are-more-militant-than-Muslims-says-Governments-equalities-boss.html>

Race Relations

News (continued)

Multiculturalism – the great divide

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/jun/17/multiculturalism-david-cameron-segregation>

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Equality

News

Black students half as likely as white peers to achieve English Baccalaureate

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/EnglishBacpressrelease.pdf>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Debate

Sectarianism and Anti-Irish Racism

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/ORSearch/ReportView.aspx?r=6291&mode=html>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Tom Blenkinsop (1920) English Defence League March In Middlesbrough On 9 July 2011 - That this House condemns the English Defence League which promotes racism and anti-Semitism and who are planning a march in Middlesbrough on 9 July 2011; notes that this organisation has always been silent on crucial local issues like the closure of Redcar blast-furnace, cuts to local services such as health and education and that they are not from Middlesbrough and have nothing to do with the area; further notes that this march displays a complete disregard and ignorance of the history of the town, which was founded on immigration from a range of countries including Italy, Germany, Ireland and the Baltic countries, which previously had a large Jewish community and now has a large Asian community, and its forefathers like Henry Bolckow, the industrialist and Middlesbrough's first Member of Parliament who was from Germany; further notes that the Cenotaph in Middlesbrough is a commemoration to the brave local men and women who gave their lives to fight fascism; believes that this march is a grave insult to their sacrifice; and calls on all the communities in Middlesbrough to join together in showing solidarity and opposition to this march.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2010-11/1920>

Press Releases

Better protection against discrimination for Roma and victims of caste systems

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/BetterprotectionforRomaandvictimsofcastesystems.aspx>

Racism and Religious Hatred

Press Releases (continued)

Racism may be here to stay if Governments do not act, says the Council of Europe's Anti-Racism Commission

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/89-16_06_2011_AnnualReport2010_en.asp

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights launches its Annual Report

http://www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/media/pr-150611_en.htm

New Publications

Annual Report on ECRI's Activities: 1 January to 31 December 2010

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/Annual_Reports/Annual%20Report%202010.pdf

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights annual report

http://www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/annual-report-2011_EN.pdf

News

Scottish government unveiling new sectarian bill

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-13796044>

Religious hate crime soars

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/Religious-hate-crime-soars.6784779.jp>

Don't rush sectarianism laws in time for football season - Kirk

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Don39t-rush-sectarianism-laws-in.6786448.jp>

Churches warn against hasty anti-sectarianism law

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/churches-warn-against-hasty-anti-sectarianism-law-1.1107192>

Ban on 'gang culture' haircuts in school is 'indirect racial discrimination', judge rules

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/8582079/Ban-on-gang-culture-haircuts-in-school-is-indirect-racial-discrimination-judge-rules.html>

School braids ban 'not justified'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/school-braids-ban-not-justified-2298925.html>

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Other Holyrood

Press Releases

Sectarian and offensive behaviour

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/06/17085318>

Other Holyrood Press Releases (continued)

Summer Cabinet venues announced

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/06/15090755>

Four new partners for Holyrood Community Project

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-11/pa11-024.htm>

Sectarian bill lacks scrutiny and clarity warns Moderator

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/articles/sectarian_bill_lacks_scrutiny_and_clarity_warns_moderator

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Forced Marriage

Lord Alton of Liverpool: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of forced marriages which occur in the United Kingdom annually; and what plans they have to amend the Forced Marriages Act 2007, to make the forcing of a person into a marriage a criminal offence.[HL9291]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): In 2010 the Forced Marriage Unit provided advice or support related to a possible forced marriage in 1735 instances. The Forced Marriage Unit assists anyone facing forced marriage, or already subject to forced marriage, in the United Kingdom and British nationals in this situation abroad.

There were 469 cases of forced marriage, where active assistance was given by the Forced Marriage Unit. Two hundred and forty were assistance cases (84 in the United Kingdom) and 229 were reluctant sponsor cases. This is considered to only represent a small number of actual instances, as research commissioned by the Department for Education has estimated that the national prevalence of reported cases of forced marriage in England was between 5,000 and 8,000.

The Government are currently considering all the recommendations of the recently published House of Commons Home Affairs Committee report on forced marriage, including criminalising forcing or participating in forcing someone to marry, and will publish their response in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110615w0001.htm#11061545000317>

Legal Systems: Islam

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many family law cases have been dealt with by Sharia tribunals under the Arbitration Act 1996 in each year since 1997. [58472]

Reply from David Willetts: The Muslim Arbitration Tribunals (MAT) was established in 2007 in order to provide an alternative route to resolve civil issues in accordance with Sharia principles. The MAT operates according to the principles of the Arbitration Act 1996. We do not have any data on family matters dealt with by these councils or the MAT. Sharia councils do not describe themselves as "tribunals" as they do not have powers to enforce their decisions. Common law has restrictions on what can be arbitrated. Some family law issues such as the custody of a child or marital status cannot be arbitrated although

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

some family financial issues can.

There are no specific provisions in the Arbitration Act 1996 for Sharia council or "tribunals".

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110610/text/110610w0002.htm#11061051000086>

Press Releases

UK Government announces Scotland Bill changes

<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/15561.html>

New Civil Service organisation charts released

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/new-civil-service-organisational-charts-released>

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New Publication

Networked for Good

http://www.btplc.com/mydonate/Networked_for_good.pdf

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Other News

Where are Britain's modern mosques?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2011/jun/17/faith-schools-mosques-britain>

Time to ban male circumcision?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2011/jun/14/circumcision-ban-row-san-francisco>

Ban male circumcision? No, scientific evidence of harm is not strong enough

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2011/jun/15/male-circumcision-ban-health-religion-debate>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Holyrood

**** Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s4/bills/01-offbehfoot/index.htm>

Bill as introduced

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s4/bills/01-offbehfoot/b1s4-introd.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s4/bills/01-offbehfoot/b1s4-introd-en.pdf>

Policy Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s4/bills/01-offbehfoot/b1s4-introd-pm.pdf>

Bills in Progress Westminster

Fixed Term Parliaments Bill

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

**** Scotland Bill**

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

House of Commons, Committee Stage Report

<http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/RP11-49.pdf>

Ministerial Statement

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110613/wmstext/110613m0001.htm#1106133000005>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2010-2011/0164/amend/pbc1641006a.2329.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2010-2011/0164/amend/cob1641406a.2379-2383.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2010-2011/0164/amend/cob1641606a.2397.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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

Consultations (continued)

**** closes this week!**

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Bill
(closing date 24 June 2011)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/Session%204/Inquiries/OffensiveBehaviour/OffensiveBehaviourCall.htm>

**** Disability Hate Crime - Improving our Services** (no closing date given)

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G9WDRD6>

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>

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**

**** Big Lottery Fund Community Spaces Scotland**

closing date 2 December 2011

Community Spaces Scotland supports communities to become more involved in, and to take responsibility for, their local environment, communal spaces and places. This will focus on bringing communities together through sharing activities in a space or place that is fit for purpose. We will do this by providing funding for communities to improve the appearance, functionality, accessibility, effectiveness and sustainability of local spaces and places (including buildings). For information and application forms see

http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_community_spaces_scotland.htm?regioncode=-uk

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**** 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!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

Scottish Football Association Information Session

23 June 2011 in Glasgow (2.00 – 5.00)

Scottish Football Association event to engage with the minority communities and raise awareness about training football coaches through education. In addition, the event will enable sports and youth groups from minority communities to engage with the SFA to make the sport more accessible and to challenge issues such as racism. For information contact Graham Campbell 0141 548 8047 / graham.campbell@bemis.org.uk.

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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>

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/ / 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/>

Useful Links (continued)

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/>

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