

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

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Human Trafficking

Sandra White (Glasgow Kelvin) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what progress has been made in tackling human trafficking in Scotland. (S4O-00067)

Reply from the Lord Advocate (Frank Mulholland): Trafficking in human beings is taken very seriously by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service. It is often committed in furtherance of serious and organised crime. We work closely with the Scottish Government, the police and the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency, with support from other relevant organisations.

Following a review in 2009-10, all human trafficking offences are now referred to the national sexual crimes unit, where they are considered by specialist prosecutors at a very early stage to ensure that a specialist and consistent approach is applied to maximise the quality of the investigation and outcome.

Sandra White: I thank Mr Mulholland for that comprehensive answer. I know that he and the cabinet secretary will be aware of the recent Glasgow operation Andronicus, which has so far reported good success in the fight against human trafficking. I am sure that, like me, he will want to congratulate the great work done by Strathclyde Police in the operation. However, given the apparent difficulties in bringing such cases to court, will the Scottish Government consider launching a review of current guidance and legislation to ensure that, first, good practice is shared and, secondly, conviction rates are increased?

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from the Lord Advocate: I thank the member for her kind words of welcome, not only for the commitment to tackle this odious trade but for operation Andronicus and the work of Strathclyde Police. I associate myself with her remarks but, as she will understand, the operation is live and I cannot say anything more about it.

As I indicated, Scotland's police and prosecutors give this area of criminal behaviour a high priority and high-quality bespoke training and guidance are available. Although there have as yet been few convictions for human trafficking, other offences with a human trafficking background—including trafficking in prostitution, living off immoral earnings, fraud, offences under the Identity Cards Act 2006 and the Immigration Act 1971, and attempting to pervert the course of justice—have been successfully prosecuted. At the end of any prosecution, we review it to see whether we can learn any lessons, and we will use any good practice that we learn to prepare and deal with the next prosecution in this area.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/apps2/business/orsearch/ReportView.aspx?r=6310&mode=html#job_57488

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what timescale she has set for the establishment in Scotland of an inspection system for private providers of higher and further education under the student visa scheme. [60921]

Reply from Damian Green: In line with our commitment to ensure all privately funded Tier 4 sponsors are inspected by a publicly recognised authority by the end of 2012, we announced on 13 June that the Quality Assurance Agency and the Independent Schools Inspectorate would extend their activities to cover privately funded providers. The Quality Assurance Agency already inspect Universities in Scotland and will offer inspections covering privately funded providers of higher education in all parts of the UK, including Scotland. We are currently in discussion with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education on their potential role in the establishment of an inspection system for private providers of further education in Scotland and hope to make an announcement on this shortly.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what dates her Department made (a) written and (b) oral contact with HM Inspector of Education in Scotland to discuss the inspection of private providers of higher and further education; and whether any agreement to inspect private providers will require primary or secondary legislation. [61037]

Reply from Damian Green: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education has been an approved educational oversight body since the inception of Tier 4. On 22 March 2011 we announced a tightening of the list of approved bodies to the eight listed bodies that operate the regulatory framework for publicly funded providers and independent schools. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education, as the statutory authority in Scotland, remained an approved inspection body for Tier 4.

We are currently working closely with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education on their potential role in the establishment of an inspection system for private providers of further education in Scotland and hope to announce on this shortly. Oral contact was first made on 4 April 2011 and first written contact (via e-mail) was on 12 April 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110623/text/110623w002.htm#11062348000008>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost to the public purse of a judicial review of an immigration decision was in the latest period for which figures are available. [61401]

Reply from Damian Green: The estimated average cost of a judicial review up to the permission stage is approximately £1,500 to £2,000. Costs post permission can vary significantly after that according to the complexity of the case.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110623/text/110623w0002.htm#11062348000010>

Immigration: Asylum

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for judicial review of decisions made by her Department in respect of immigration and asylum cases have been initiated in the last 12 months. [61400]

Reply from Damian Green: Figures for England and Wales from the Treasury Solicitor show that, in relation to immigration and asylum cases, 7,620 judicial reviews were opened over the 12 month period between June 2010 and May 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110623/text/110623w0002.htm#11062348000011>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government in what specific ways they intend to improve the quality of first decisions in all immigration and asylum cases; and over what timescale. [HL10033]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): The UK Border Agency is committed to the continuous improvement of quality in both its immigration and asylum decisions. It has a rigorous system of quality sampling and reviews allowed appeals to identify why a decision has been overturned. It works closely with corporate partners and has embarked on a programme of modernising operational guidance. Quality is also subject to scrutiny through departmental audit, the quality assurance framework, the National Audit Office and the Chief Inspector. The Integrated Casework Programme due to be fully implemented by 2015 will introduce a degree of automation into decision making thereby reducing discretion and the scope for errors.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110623w0001.htm#11062331000956>

Immigration: Detainees

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish their response to the recent report from Bail for Immigration Detainees, entitled *Last Resort or First Resort*. [HL10028]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): We have noted the concerns published in the report and officials worked closely with Bail for Immigration Detainees amongst others during the child detention review and took their views and evidence into account in designing the new family returns process. We are not responding formally to the report.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110623w0001.htm#11062331000983>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Detention of Children

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government how the proposed Open Accommodation Pilot in Croydon Asylum Centre will operate; and what safeguards for children there will be.[HL10030]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): Open accommodation in Croydon is one part of the new family returns process introduced nationally on 1 March 2011. Guidance on how open accommodation operates and the new family returns process is in Chapter 45 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance and can be found on the UK Border Agency website at: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/enforcement>.

Open accommodation will only be used following the advice of the independent Family Returns Panel. Families will only be placed in open accommodation with their agreement.

Child safeguarding issues will be central to any advice given by the Family Returns Panel to refer a family to open accommodation. Similarly, any child safeguarding issues that arise while a family is in open accommodation will be referred to the panel for further consideration.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110623w0001.htm#11062331000984>

People Trafficking

Baroness Benjamin: To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the context of the European Directive on Human Trafficking, what they are doing to ensure that the requirement under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to protect the best interests of the child are being adhered to.[HL9997]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): The Government are committed to tackling human trafficking. We are determined to build on the UK's strong track record in supporting victims and fighting traffickers. The Government are a signatory to the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and takes their obligations under the Convention seriously. We will always ensure that the best interests of the child are given primary consideration in decisions concerning children.

The Government will shortly be applying to the European Commission to opt into the European Directive on Human Trafficking. If the application is accepted, Government will then work with the Commission on implementation of the directive. Consideration of our obligations under UNCRC will be an important part of this process.

Baroness Benjamin: To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of Article 8 of the European directive on human trafficking relating to non-prosecution or non-application of penalties to the victim, what action they are taking to ensure that victims of child trafficking are not routinely drawn into the criminal justice system.[HL9998]

Reply from Baroness Browning: The Government will shortly be applying to the European Commission to opt into the directive. If the application is accepted, Government will then work with the Commission on implementation of the directive.

The Government acknowledge that there are safeguarding implications for any trafficked child found working in criminal enterprise and that in these circumstances victims should not be criminalised. Due to the link between cannabis cultivation in the UK and exploitation of Vietnamese victims, the Association of Chief Police Officers has issued comprehensive guidance to officers investigating commercial cannabis cultivation offences on how to deal with and safeguard those found in these circumstances.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Crown Prosecution Service guidance also advises prosecutors on the steps to be taken when prosecuting those who may be trafficked victims. Where evidence obtained supports the fact that the suspect has been trafficked and committed criminal offences while they were under the control of their traffickers or others, the case should be discontinued on evidential grounds.

Baroness Benjamin: To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the acknowledgement in the European Directive on Human Trafficking that it is essential to identify children as victims of trafficking before they go missing, what action they are taking to increase the identification of trafficked children at a local level.[HL9999]

Reply from Baroness Browning: Government take the issue of early identification of child victims as well as the response to missing children very seriously. In addition to work being done at a national level to raise awareness of child trafficking among police and local authority officers, the Government have supported the development of the London Safeguarding Children Board Trafficking toolkit and guidance which was launched on 3 February 2011. The aim of the toolkit is to better aid practitioners in identifying and safeguarding child victims of trafficking.

Government have also widened the list of first responders of the national referral mechanism to include Barnardo's and the National Society for the Protection of Children's child trafficking advice and information line. This will allow more potential victims of this crime to be identified through their specialised work.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110621w0001.htm#11062137000636>

Press Releases

Home Secretary meets remarkable refugees

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/june/43-home-sec-meets-refugees>

World Refugee Day: Need for more EU solidarity

http://www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/news_and_events/infocus11_2006_en.htm

European Commission Statement on the occasion of World Refugee Day

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/423>

European Council: The Commission will take forward and intensify the work on migration and asylum policy

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/781&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

EU leaders endorse Commission's plan for Roma integration

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/789&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

News

Theresa May backs UN Refugee Convention

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Theresa-May-backs-UN-Refugee.6788457.jp>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Migration cut target 'unlikely to be met', report finds

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-13849157>

Record 1m pupils speak English as a second language

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/8591707/Record-1m-pupils-speak-English-as-a-second-language.html>

Cameron to challenge EU plan to amend asylum rule

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/jun/22/cameron-eu-immigration-asylum-europe>

Plans to cut migration 'likely to fail' report finds

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/plans-to-cut-migration-likely-to-fail-report-finds-2300406.html>

EU migration law changes rejected

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/eu-migration-law-changes-rejected-2302294.html>

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Race Relations

New Publication

Interculturalism: Europe and its Muslims. In search of sound societal models

<http://www.ceps.eu/ceps/download/5722>

News

Forget the crown, gypsy king settles for walking stick

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article3074553.ece>

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Equality

New Publications

Religion or belief

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/briefing_paper_1_religion_or_belief.pdf

Equality and Human Rights Commission Annual Report and Accounts 2009/10

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/aboutus/annual_report_and_accounts_2009-10.pdf

Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing: Equality Act 2010

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research/briefings-11/SB11-50.pdf>

Equality

New Publications (continued)

Freedom of Information release: Ethnic diversity and monitoring within the Scottish Parliament

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Corporate/FOI/FOIDisclosureFiles/19304/2011-019304%20reply%209.6.11.pdf>

News

Ethnic students 'need boost for top universities'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Ethnic-students-39need-boost-for.6788468.jp>

Church of England report calls for affirmative action on race

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/jun/20/church-of-england-affirmative-action-race>

Trevor Phillips is muddled on faith and equality

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2011/jun/24/trevor-phillips-ehrc-faith-equality>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

UN World Conference Against Racism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will make it his policy to withdraw from the UN Durban III anti-racism conference; what recent discussions he has had with (a) his EU counterparts, (b) the US Administration and (c) the Government of Israel on this issue; what recent representations he has received (i) supporting and (ii) opposing a withdrawal from the conference; and if he will make a statement; [60656]

(2) what reports he has received of the withdrawal of governmental delegations from the UN Durban III Conference; and if he will make a statement. [60680]

Reply from Jeremy Browne: We voted against the resolution at last year's UN General Assembly which established a High-Level meeting of the UN General Assembly in September 2011 to commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of the Adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The Government recognise that it is common practice for the UN to convene meetings at regular periodic intervals to commemorate the adoption of its various social and human rights-related agendas. For these reasons, we were ready to agree to a limited commemorative event. However, in light of the lengthy and difficult 2009 Durban Review Conference, we felt the proposed size and scope of the 2011 event was inappropriate.

We have not yet taken a final decision on our participation in the 2011 high-level meeting. We will nonetheless work closely with EU and colleagues from other countries in the run-up to the September event to try to ensure that the meeting does not become another platform for the kind of anti-Semitic rhetoric and behaviour that was evident at the 2001 World Conference against Racism and to a lesser extent at the 2009 Durban Review Conference. We will also work to make sure that the meeting addresses all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism, and that any outcome from the meeting includes a clear statement on

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

the need to combat anti-Semitism as part of wider efforts to tackle racism.

We are aware that the Government of the United States of America has recently announced its decision not to participate in the September 2011 event. Their announcement follows that of the Governments of Canada and Israel. To date, we have not received reports that any other government has decided against participation.

The Government's participation and representation at the September meeting will remain under review in light of our efforts to achieve our objectives as set out above. We will also engage with interested British non-governmental organisations in reaching our final decision.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110620/text/110620w0001.htm#11062013000012>

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what information his Department holds on the use of the Working Definition of anti-Semitism; whether he has had recent discussions with universities on the definition; and if he will make a statement; [R] [60422]

(2) what definition of anti-Semitism his Department uses; what recent discussions he has had with the Jewish community on its definition since May 2010; and if he will make a statement; [R] [60423]

(3) whether (a) he, (b) Ministers in his Department and (c) officials in his Department have had recent discussions with the Union of Jewish Students; and if he will make a statement; [R] [60534]

(4) what recent representations he has received from the Union of Jewish Students; what response his Department gave to such representations; and if he will make a statement. [R] [60535]

Reply from David Willetts: The Department does not hold information about the use of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) working definition of anti-Semitism. It is public knowledge that it has been adopted by the National Union of Students. We have not held discussions with universities about definitions of anti-Semitism, or about any specific definition used by the Department with the Jewish community.

The UK Government currently uses the Macpherson definition of a racist incident which is an incident that is perceived as racist by the victim or any other person, and this would include anti-Semitism.

I met with the Union of Jewish Students (UJS) towards the end of last year, alongside the hon. Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann) (as the Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Anti-Semitism), the Community Security Trust and Higher Education (HE) sector bodies such as Universities UK (UUK) and the Equality Challenge Unit (ECU) to discuss the experiences of Jewish students in HE. My officials have met with the UJS to discuss the Prevent strategy, and the recent motion concerning the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC, now the FRA) working definition of anti-Semitism agreed at the University and College Union's annual congress.

The Government's position is clear, anti-Semitism and intolerance have no place in our society and no place in higher education. Staff and students from all backgrounds, cultures and communities must be welcome in our higher education sector.

The UK has in place one of the strongest legislative frameworks to protect people from harassment and abuse, and specifically racial or religious persecution. This framework provides protection to Jewish people alongside other ethnic and

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

religious groups. As independent organisations, higher education institutions are directly accountable for compliance with the law and hold the primary responsibility for ensuring that their staff and students are not subject to threatening or abusive behaviour on campus.

In addition to legal requirements, institutions have access to a range of practical guidance to help them ensure fair treatment of their staff and students, and to help them deal effectively with instances of intolerance, racism and harassment in their institutions. The Government would expect institutions to vigorously tackle intolerance on campus when it arises.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110620/text/110620w0005.htm#1106214000017>

Caste Discrimination

Lord Harries of Pentregarth: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the finding of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research concerning the existence of caste-based discrimination in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Baroness Northover: My Lords, Ministers have been carefully considering the findings of this report on caste discrimination and the wide range of views expressed by interested parties. The Government's red tape challenge currently has a three-week spotlight on equalities. This presents people with a further opportunity to express their views on the possible need for caste legislation. We will announce our intentions once we have had sufficient opportunity to analyse the comments from this exercise.

Lord Harries of Pentregarth: I thank the Minister for her Answer. I appreciate that this report is being given very careful attention. In view of the fact that in August 2003 the UK's record on racial discrimination is to be examined by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, will the Government bring the report mentioned in the Question to the attention of that committee and will they respond to its recommendation in 2003 that caste-based discrimination be included in domestic legislation?

Reply from Baroness Northover: First, I commend the noble and right reverend Lord for all that he and my noble friend Lord Avebury have done to flag up this matter. Caste discrimination, like any other form of discrimination, should not be tolerated. He refers to the UN committee, which is reporting in August this year. We are aware that that is likely to flag up caste discrimination. At the moment, as I said, the spotlight is on equalities. The report is being given very serious attention. The national institute report states that evidence suggested that such discrimination was found, but it also makes clear that putting this conclusion beyond categorical doubt is difficult, which is why this report, the evidence around it and the submissions are receiving such attention at the moment.

Lord Avebury: My Lords, the Equalities Minister told me that the Government would be in a better position to announce their findings on whether to activate the section in the Equality Act on caste discrimination once they had assessed the views that were expressed by stakeholders as part of the red tape challenge, which the noble Baroness has mentioned. As that exercise is about regulations, does my noble friend agree that stakeholders would not know that it was important for them to respond to the challenge until my honourable friend wrote to them? Many of them, including the Anti Caste Discrimination Alliance, have not received the letter, so they will have only a week to respond before the period of consultation ends at the end of this month. Does my noble friend also agree that among the Dalit organisations, there is overwhelming support for caste to be made a protected characteristic under the Act? She will remember that from having heard them in the committee room upstairs when they were first consulted.

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Baroness Northover: I thank my noble friend for that and for his dogged determination to ensure that anyone who is vulnerable will not be discriminated against. I can assure him that officials wrote to 22 caste stakeholders from the pro and anti-legislation lobbies on 10 June, advising them about the red tape challenge and inviting them to participate in the debate by expressing their views on the possible need for caste legislation. That will add to the submissions that are already in.

Lord Lester of Herne Hill: My Lords, is the Minister aware that one of the disadvantages of not exercising the power given to them by the previous Parliament to include caste discrimination as part of race discrimination is that there might be litigation in this country that relies on, for example, the views of the CERD committee to which she has referred?

Reply from Baroness Northover: I hear what my noble friend Lord Lester says, and I should think that anyone hearing that will quake in their boots. If there is indeed caste discrimination, anyone meting that out needs to be wary. That is echoed in what my noble friend says.

Lord Soley: From her general discussions, does the Minister have any idea of the extent to which the relevant community leaders are aware of a problem of caste discrimination? If so, what do they say when asked about it?

Reply from Baroness Northover: My Lords, I think that they are aware of that. Given the debate on the Equality Act and all our discussions over the past few years, it would be a miracle if it had passed them by and they were not aware of it. In my view, all the communities seem to be well aware of the discussion over this. It seems to be generally accepted that caste is there. What is disputed is whether there are practices of discrimination. Whether it is declining or maintained is also disputed.

Baroness Royall of Blaisdon: The red tape challenge is especially important for the Government. However, discrimination is discrimination, and I respectfully suggest that only anti-discrimination legislation would provide real redress for victims.

Reply from Baroness Northover: The noble Baroness makes a cogent point. One of the things that the report sought to identify was whether this could most appropriately be addressed by the legislation or whether it fell outside that. Some issues, such as bullying in schools, may well be dealt with by schools being much more alive to this problem. However, evidence is coming through on both sides about how legislation is required, because this kind of discrimination will not be caught by the current legislation. That is the key in this instance.

Lord Tebbit: My Lords, can my noble friend say when the problem first arose in this country?

Reply from Baroness Northover: Well, there is an interesting one. This is a question that neither the academics nor I can answer. One of the things that is very striking about the issue is how little academic work has yet been done on it. That academic work is increasing and improving, which I welcome.

Lord Dholakia: My Lords, is the Minister aware that there are two major Hindu organisations in this country: the Hindu Forum and the Hindu Council? Will she ensure that those organisations are contacted with a view to seeing how the community in the first instance can look at the issues that have arisen and deal with them as part of the community initiative, and, if that does not work, to see what other actions are necessary?

Reply from Baroness Northover: I know that there is such dialogue, but I will take back his suggestion and urge that further action is taken.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110620-0001.htm#1106203000379>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) **New Publication**

Religious discrimination in Britain - A review of research evidence, 2000-10

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/research_report_73_religious_discrimination.pdf

News

Alex Salmond announces sectarianism bill delay

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-13883763>

U-turn on football hate bill - in 90 minutes

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Uturn-on-football-hate-bill.6790310.jp>

Yes, Scotland does need new legislation now

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/religiousissuesinScotland/Yes-Scotland-does-need-new.6790312.jp>

No, Scotland does not need new legislation now

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/religiousissuesinScotland/No-Scotland-does-not-need.6790311.jp>

Warning over sectarian law

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/warning-over-sectarian-law-1.1107885>

Singing National Anthem 'could be illegal'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Singing-National-Anthem-39could-be.6789109.jp>

We must not demonise universally accepted and legitimate symbols

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Analysis-We-must-not-demonise.6789108.jp>

Unseemly rush leaves Scots law open to ridicule

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/opinion/Leader-Unseemly-rush-leaves-Scots.6789016.jp>

Lord Advocate Frank Mulholland clarifies sectarian laws

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-13877243>

Kirk welcomes Salmond delay on sectarianism bill

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

Primus comments on proposed new Bill to tackle issues surrounding sectarianism in Scotland

http://www.scotland.anglican.org/index.php/news/entry/primus_comments_on_proposed_new_bill_to_tackle_issues_surrounding_sectarian/

Sectarianism and Catholic schools – the taboo we are afraid to discuss

<http://politics.caledonianmercury.com/2011/06/24/sectarianism-and-catholic-schools-%E2%80%93-the-taboo-we-are-afraid-to-discuss/>

It's too easy to ignore the EDL

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/jun/21/edl-march-white-working-class>

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Other Holyrood

New Publication

Scottish Parliament Annual Report 2010 – 2011

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/corporate/anrep-accts/spar/ar-11/22875_TSP_2010-11%20Annual%20Report_WEB.pdf

News

Scottish Human Rights Commission: open letter to MSPs on the Supreme Court

<http://scottishhumanrights.com/news/latestnews/article/supremecourtparliament>

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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>

Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research/briefings-11/SB11-48.pdf>

Justice Committee evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s4/committees/justice/or-11/ju11-0202.htm#Col15>
and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s4/committees/justice/or-11/ju11-0302.htm#Col81>

Emergency Bill Motion

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/apps2/business/orsearch/ReportView.aspx?r=6310&mode=html#iob_57460

Stage 1 debate

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/apps2/business/orsearch/ReportView.aspx?r=6310&mode=html#iob_57462

First Minister's Question Time

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/apps2/business/orsearch/ReportView.aspx?r=6310&mode=html#iob_57474

Stage 1 vote: For 103, Against 5, Abstentions 15

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/apps2/business/orsearch/ReportView.aspx?r=6310&mode=html#iob_57481

Bills in Progress (continued) Westminster

** 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/psc1642106m.2421-2427.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2010-2011/0164/amend/psc1641706a.2399-2405.html>

Third Reading, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110621/debtext/110621-0002.htm#11062160000003>

Report Stage Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2010-2011/0164/pro1642106p.661-667.html>

Bill as brought to the House of Lords from the Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2010-2012/0079/2012079.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2010-2012/0079/en/2012079en.pdf>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

** *closes this week!*

Forced Marriage Statutory Guidance Consultation (1 July 2011)

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

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

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

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

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

** **Equality and Human Rights Commission consultation on strategic plan 2009-12**
(22 July 2011)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/vision-and-mission/our-strategic-plan/consultation-on-our-strategic-plan-2009-12/>

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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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!**

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!**

Ethnic Minorities Third Sector Network

27 June 2011 in Glasgow (10.00 – 2.30)

Launch by BEMIS and CEMVO of the Ethnic Minorities Third Sector Network to promote equality and diversity in Scotland. Speakers: Yvonne Strachan (Equalities Unit, Scottish Government), Hanzala Malik MSP, and Humza Yousaf MSP. For information contact Graham Campbell graham.campbell@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047 or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/11vi_bemis.pdf or

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

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

**** Mixed Identity and the Arts**

5 July 2011 Webinar (11.30 – 1.30)

Runnymede webinar to discuss the idea of mixed and migrant identity in art. For information contact Kamaljeet Gill kam@runnymedetrust.org or see <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/329/273/Webinar-Mixed-Identity-and-the-Arts.html>

**** Race Equality and the Big Society**

20 July 2011 Webinar (11.30 – 12.30)

Runnymede webinar including the premiere of their short film 'Fair's Fair – Equality and Justice in the Big Society' documenting their investigations into how ethnicity effects people views on taking local control. For information contact Kamaljeet Gill kam@runnymedetrust.org or see <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/332/273/Webinar-Race-Equality-and-the-Big-Society.html>

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

Useful Links (continued)

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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