

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)

[Other Holyrood](#)

[Other Westminster](#)

[New Publications](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Events/Conferences/Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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

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

The Scottish Parliament is now in recess until 5 September 2011.

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Tier 4 Visa Requirements

Julian Huppert: What estimate she has made of the potential cost to the economy of her planned changes to tier 4 visa requirements. [61841]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The impact assessment estimated the net cost to the economy of the student and post-study work proposals to be £2.4 billion. There will be additional compensating benefits from reducing abuse, ensuring cohesion, and increasing public confidence in the immigration system, but it is not possible to quantify the impact of these changes.

Julian Huppert: I thank the Minister for his clear response. He refers to a cost of £2.4 billion. The best case scenario is a cost of £1 billion, and the worst case £3.5 billion, for a problem that the Home Affairs Committee struggled to find anybody, other than the Minister, to say was a really serious problem; even Migrationwatch UK was not that bothered. Given that we do not want to lose £2.5 billion from the economy, will he rethink these proposals?

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Damian Green: It would be absurd to say that there are no problems with the student visa system. It represents two thirds of the amount of immigration into the system, and it has become the biggest single loophole in our immigration system. On the slightly arcane theology of impact assessments, my hon. Friend will know that some strange assumptions have to be made by Government economists. For instance, this has to be costed on the assumption that if migrant students are no longer able to work here as before, not a single one of the jobs that they vacate will be taken up by a UK citizen, particularly one who may be currently unemployed. If there is replacement, which is intuitively very obvious, then the cost to the economy will be significantly lower. That is why we have asked the Migration Advisory Committee to investigate this assumption, and we expect it to report in November.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110627/debtext/110627-0001.htm#1106279000019>

Arts: Immigration Control

Michael McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people entered the UK under each approved Tier Five Government-authorized exchange scheme in each year between 2000 and 2010. [60023]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government Authorised Exchange sub-category of Tier 5 of the Points Based System was introduced in November 2008. The available statistics relate to the number of journeys made by passengers given leave to enter the UK in 2008, 2009 and January to June 2010 in the Points Based System Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange sub-category. Figures for July to December 2010 will be published on 25 August 2011.

The statistics are given in the following table. It is not possible to separately identify data relating to individual schemes nor is such data available for previous periods.

<i>Passengers ⁽¹⁾ given leave to enter the United Kingdom under the PBS ⁽²⁾ Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange ⁽³⁾ category, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals, 2008-10</i>	
	<i>Number of journeys</i>
2008 November to December	—
2009 ⁽⁴⁾	350
2010 January to June ⁽⁴⁾	135

⁽¹⁾ Figures rounded to five. ⁽²⁾ Points Based System(PBS) ⁽³⁾ The Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange category was introduced in November 2008. ⁽⁴⁾Provisional figures *Source:* Migration Statistics, Home Office Statistics.

Statistics on journeys made by passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom by purpose of journey are published half yearly in the quarterly Home Office Statistical Bulletin, "Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary". These publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110628/text/110628w0002.htm#11062877000002>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in view of the introduction of the New Asylum Model, they will abolish the detained fast track procedure. [HL10188]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): The detained fast-track process is a fundamental part of our immigration system as it allows fast, fair and sustainable decisions and saves the taxpayer money. There are no plans to end the detained fast-track process. The UK Border Agency is making improvements to the asylum system to ensure that cases are concluded faster, making better quality decisions and reducing costs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110627w0001.htm#1106277000381>

Immigration: Detention

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average cost per person per night of immigration detention.[HL10229]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): The current average cost of detaining an individual at an immigration detention centre is £102 per night.

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many persons released from immigration detention are de facto stateless because the state of which they were citizens prior to their arrival in the United Kingdom will not acknowledge them or issue them with travel documents; what is the breakdown of these persons by their original nationality; what is the cost to the taxpayer of support provided to those persons under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999; and whether they will grant those persons temporary leave to remain in the United Kingdom with permission to work. [HL10231]

Reply from Baroness Browning: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) does not hold the data requested.

The United Kingdom is a signatory to the 1954 UN Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. The Government are satisfied that the UK meets its obligations under those conventions.

The UKBA is satisfied that those who find themselves at the end of the asylum process without having been granted protection status (or any other form of leave) have no need of protection in the UK and can return home.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110629w0002.htm#11062967001557>

Immigration: Detainees

Lord Tebbit: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will desist from using the word "detainees" to describe persons who whilst debarred from entering the United Kingdom are free to go to other jurisdictions when they wish.[HL10150]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): The UK Border Agency uses the word "detainee" to describe anyone who is detained in this country at one of its immigration removal centres or at a prison under immigration powers. To the UK Border Agency's knowledge it is not used to refer to anyone who is prohibited from entering the country.

Lord Judd: To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Bail for Immigration Detainees about their recent report Last Resort or First Resort?; and what action they are taking in response to the concerns expressed in that report.[HL10182]

Reply from Baroness Browning: We have noted the concerns published in the report and officials worked closely with Bail for Immigration Detainees among

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

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.

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was spent in 2010-11 on special payments to migrants and asylum applicants who had been wrongly or unlawfully detained.[HL10186]

Reply from Baroness Browning: The UK Border Agency does not record the information on compensation payments in a way which allows these payments to be disaggregated by cause.

The UK Border Agency's annual resource accounts will be published in July 2011 and will disclose by way of a note the total value of compensation payments made by the agency in the 2010-11 financial year.

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will establish an independent inquiry into immigration detention with the aim of ending unlawful detentions and of preventing the detention of vulnerable persons, in particular survivors of torture.[HL10187]

Reply from Baroness Browning: The Government do not consider that such an inquiry is necessary.

Decisions to detain persons under Immigration Act powers are taken after careful consideration by the UK Border Agency, taking full account of the individual circumstances of the persons concerned. The UK Border Agency's published guidance to staff involved in authorising detention makes it clear that individuals considered vulnerable should only be detained in exceptional circumstances. This includes individuals for whom there is independent evidence that they have been tortured.

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to instruct the UK Border Agency on the transfer of immigration detainees to a different detention centre when they have a pending hospital appointment.[HL10194]

Reply from Baroness Browning: The UK Border Agency takes health and well-being of those in its care very seriously. Where it is known that a detainee has a referral for a hospital appointment or treatment, he or she will not be transferred to another immigration removal centre in advance of that appointment unless in exceptional circumstances or in their best interests.

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Somali citizens are in immigration detention following a sentence of imprisonment.[HL10195]

Reply from Baroness Browning: The UK Border Agency does not publish information relating to the nationalities of those it detains following a sentence of imprisonment. However, according to our quarterly publication of *Control of Immigration Statistics* figures of 31 March 2011, there were a total of 2,655 persons detained in immigration removal centres solely under Immigration Act powers, of which 50 were of Somali nationality.

These are individuals we are seeking to remove or deport from the UK and will include some form of foreign national prisoners.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/control-immigration-q1-2011-t/control-immigration-q1-2011-main?view=Binary>.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110627w0001.htm#1106277000382>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Detainees

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many citizens of Iran, Palestine, Eritrea and Somalia have been held in immigration detention in the United Kingdom for (a) longer than one year, and (b) longer than two years, at the latest date for which figures are available.[HL10304]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): The table below shows the number of nationals of the specified countries who were detained solely under Immigration Act powers as 31 March 2011, having been held in detention for (a) 12 months to less than 24 months and (b) 24 months or more. This is the latest date for which published statistics are available.

<i>Nationals of Eritrea, Iran, Occupied Palestinian Territories and Somalia in detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers as at 31 March 2011 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ who had been held for a year or longer ^{(3)(M)}</i>		
	No of detainees	
Length of detention ⁽³⁾	12 months to less than 24 months	24 months or more
Nationals of:		
Eritrea	-	-
Iran	10	5
Occupied Palestinian Territories	*	-
Somalia	10	5

⁽¹⁾ Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (- = 0, = 1 or 2), may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding and exclude persons detained in police cells, Prison Service establishments and those detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants.

⁽²⁾ Figures include dependants.

⁽³⁾ Relates to most recent period of sole detention. The period of detention starts when a person first enters the UK Border Agency estate. If the person is then moved from a removal centre to a police cell or Prison Service establishment, this period of stay will be included if the detention is solely under Immigration Act powers.

^(M) Management information.

The Home Office publishes statistics on those detained as at the last day of each quarter solely under Immigration Act powers, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Science, Research and Statistics website at:

<http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/researchstatistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>. Figures for those detained as at 30 June 2011 will be published on 25 August 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110629w0002.htm#11062967001556>

Immigration: Detainees

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the quality of legal advice and aid available to immigration detainees; and what are the proportions of successful applications for bail granted to detainees respectively with and without representation.[HL10193]

Reply from the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): The quality of legal aid advice and the administration of legal aid is the responsibility of the Legal Services Commission (LSC) through the award of contracts with solicitors firms and not for profit organisations. All legal aid providers are subject to a quality assurance framework, their contract work is monitored by the LSC, and

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

they are subject to a number of supervisory requirements.

Caseworkers that carry out immigration legal aid must be registered with the Solicitors Regulation Authority or the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner and comply with the terms of the Law Society's Immigration and Asylum Accreditation Scheme, which directly tests the competence of individuals in immigration and asylum law.

The table below shows the number of bail applications and their outcomes for clients in immigration detention for the year 2009-10, split between those with and without legal representation. Legal representation covers both those that are funded by legal aid and those who are privately represented.

	Total	Completed*	Granted	Refused	Withdrawn/ Abandoned
Bail Applications (Detained)	7,200	7	173	4,175	2,845
Not Represented	2,616	6	57	1,690	863
Represented	4,584	1	116	2,485	1,982

* completed is where the bail issue is no longer applicable

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110628w0001.htm#11062885000648>

Immigration: Detainees

Julain Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of those in immigration detention have (a) an appointed legal representative, (b) a legal representative they selected and (c) no legal representative. [61441]

Reply from Damian Green: The information requested is not held centrally and would require examination of each individual file to answer the question. Each detainee with a legal representative would also have to be asked if he or she chose their representative themselves. This would be at disproportionate cost.

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in immigration detention (a) have been diagnosed with serious mental health conditions, (b) are torture survivors, (c) are pregnant, (d) are children and (e) are elderly. [61442]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not hold information centrally about those who have a serious mental health condition or who are torture survivors. Specifically in relation to mental health conditions, this information is held on an individual's medical file which is confidential.

Medical practitioners who work in immigration removal centres are required to report to the UK Border Agency where they have concerns a person's health is likely to be injuriously affected by continued detention, including where a person may have been the victim of torture.

Where the UK Border Agency accepts that a person's health is likely to be injuriously affected by continued detention, they are normally released.

However, there are a number of circumstances when detention may nonetheless be appropriate. These are for reasons of public protection, where a person has been convicted of a crime, those who have persistently failed to abide by the terms of their release conditions, and in order to effect removal.

If a pregnant woman chooses to inform the UK Border Agency of her condition, the detail would be held on her medical file which is confidential between patient and doctor. The agency was holding no children and 12 people over 65 years of age on 18 June 2011. This data is taken from management information, is subject to change and does not form part of national statistics.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people in immigration detention who are unlikely to be deported to their country of origin in the next 12 months. [61443]

Reply from Damian Green: It is the expectation of UK Border Agency that detained individuals will be removed from the UK when their immigration case has been completed. Immigration detention powers are mainly used to secure removal and intention and ability to remove are intrinsically linked to the decision to detain. There will inevitably a small number of detainees who for a variety of reasons, such as having won an appeal against a decision to remove them, are granted some form of leave to remain.

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in immigration detention have been detained at more than (a) one centre, (b) three centres and (c) five centres on the immigration estate. [61444]

Reply from Damian Green: The information requested is not held centrally and would require an examination of each individual record in order to provide the answer, which would be at disproportionate cost.

The UK Border Agency aims to keep the number of transfers between its places of detention to a minimum, but inevitably detainees are sometimes moved for a variety of different reasons, including because their behaviour requires them to be held in a more secure environment, because they are required for an interview at a particular centre, or because they are being moved close to an airport for their removal from the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110628/text/110628w002.htm#11062877000018>

Immigration: Detention of Children

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children were detained under the Immigration Acts as part of families in 2010.[HL10232]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): Local records indicate that 367 children who were part of a family group left immigration detention between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2010.

These figures are based on local management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for national statistics. They are provisional and may be subject to change.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of children detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110629w0002.htm#11062967001558>

Immigration: Detention of Children

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to improve current provision for children involved in immigration and asylum processes. [HL10032]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): The UK Border Agency has introduced a number of arrangements as a result of implementing Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 that will improve current provision for children within the immigration and asylum process. There are now around 60 safeguarding co-ordinators throughout the UK Border Agency with the role of raising awareness of and embedding best practice on children's issues throughout the agency. More than 13,000 staff members have

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

now taken part in an online programme of training on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Improved arrangements have been introduced in the way that we work with children and families, such as our approach in asylum screening, closer engagement with local authorities, improvements in our culture of care, and facilities such as child-friendly areas. Last year we announced the ending of detention of children for immigration purposes. This is now being put into effect by the introduction of a new process which focuses on engagement with families. There is now the opportunity for these stages of the immigration and asylum process to be adapted to the circumstances of individual families in an appropriate way.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110627w0001.htm#1106277000383>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Stoddart of Swindon: To ask Her Majesty's Government why, in light of their policy of not opting in to the European Union common asylum policy, they intend to engage with the development and functioning of the European Asylum Support Office; and what will be the nature of such engagement.[HL10318]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): The Government are not persuaded of the need for a common EU asylum policy. We believe that by focusing its energies on unnecessary legislation, the current EU work programme misses the opportunity to take more practical steps that will help member states now with the real challenges they face on the ground.

Engaging with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) allows us to further our commitment to tangible, practical co-operation at EU level, in particular by providing technical assistance to build capability in member states that are facing particular migration pressures. Effective border and asylum systems in other member states are firmly in the UK's national interest as they deter illegal migration and asylum shopping. The UK has recently deployed a number of asylum experts to Greece as part of EASO operations and expects to send at least three more in the next few months.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110629w0001.htm#11062967001535>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will give priority to families with children, in particular those with children born in the United Kingdom, when extending legal advice to migrants and asylum applicants, especially those facing deportation. [HL10029]

Reply from the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): On 21 June we published the Government's response to the consultation on *Proposals for the Reform of legal aid in England and Wales*. We have decided that asylum matters will be kept within the scope of the legal aid scheme and that all immigration matters will be removed from scope, except for where the person is detained.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110628w0001.htm#11062885000612>

Asylum

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Dublin 2 process for the handling of asylum seekers' cases; and if he will make a statement. [62678]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Damian Green: The Government strongly supports the Dublin Regulation (“Dublin II”). The Regulation ensures that just one member state—generally the first one in which the individual claimed asylum or entered unlawfully—is responsible for considering an asylum claim made in the EU.

This makes it more difficult to abuse asylum processes in the EU by making multiple claims in different member states, or by delaying an asylum claim until the individual has reached his or her preferred destination. It also provides certainty for the asylum seeker by ensuring that a specific member state is obliged to consider his or her claim.

Between 2006 and 2010, the UK removed 6,034 people to other member states under the Dublin Regulation and accepted 1,849 transfers from other member states. These figures are based on management information that is not quality assured under National Statistics protocols. The figures do not constitute part of the National Statistics and should be treated as provisional.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110629/text/110629w0002.htm#11062979000003>

Press Release

Refugee Week Media Awards winners announced

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/1268_refugee_week_media_awards_winners_announced

New Publication

Housing migrants and refugees

www.housing-rights.info/Housing-Migrant-Workers-And-Refugees.pdf

News

Employers defend hiring migrants with 'stronger work ethic' than British people

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Employers-defend-hiring-migrants-with.6794579.jp>

Tories' British jobs for British workers plan 'is racist', employers warn

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics-news/2011/07/02/tories-british-jobs-for-british-workers-plan-is-racist-employers-warn-86908-23241910/>

Migrants 'take the jobs from young Britons'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/8609827/UK-jobs-Migrants-take-the-jobs-from-young-Britons.html>

Iain Duncan Smith appeals to businesses to employ young Britons

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/jul/01/duncan-smith-appeals-businesses-employ-young-britons>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

The more people come to the UK, the better it is for us all

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/sean-ogrady-the-more-people-come-to-the-uk-the-better-it-is-for-us-all-2305203.html>

New trafficking laws 'will not care for slavery victims'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/jul/02/human-trafficking-laws-immigration-control>

Labour must fashion a new patriotism

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/jul/01/labour-patriotism-immigration-identity>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone): On 5 April 2011 the Government brought into force the public sector Equality Duty, contained in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, for public authorities in Great Britain.

The Equality Duty requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations. It supports good decision-making by ensuring that public authorities understand how different people will be affected by their activities, so that services are appropriate and accessible to all, and meet different people's needs.

To assist public authorities in the better performance of the Equality Duty, the Government have today laid before Parliament for approval the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011. These regulations will promote the better performance of the Equality Duty by requiring those public authorities to publish:

- equality objectives, at least every four years;
- information to demonstrate their compliance with the Equality Duty, at least annually.

The latter will need to include, in particular, information relating to their employees (for authorities with 150 or more staff) and others affected by their policies and practices, such as service users. ...

With the exception of schools, public authorities will be required to publish relevant information demonstrating their compliance by 31 January 2012, and their first equality objectives by 6 April 2012. Schools will be required to publish both their information and their equality objectives by 6 April 2012.

The Government will work closely with the Equality and Human Rights Commission to ensure that clear non-statutory guidance is available to public authorities to help them to comply with these regulations.

The Government are committed to reviewing the working of these regulations in two years' time, to check they are delivering the transparency and accountability that we are seeking, and driving the better performance of the Equality Duty.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110628/wmstext/110628m0001.htm#11062832000005>

Equality (continued) New Publication

Promoting Equality in Employment: Monitoring Diversity

http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/publications/2nd_adHocreport_final.pdf

News

Medics to record patients' ethnicity to cut inequalities

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/Medics-to-record-patients39-ethnicity.6793025.jp>

Chief Rabbi: Equality laws leading to new Mayflower exodus

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/8609531/Chief-Rabbi-Equality-laws-leading-to-new-Mayflower-exodus.html>

Chief Rabbi was right to speak out on equalities culture, says Christian lawyers

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/8609607/Chief-Rabbi-was-right-to-speak-out-on-equalities-culture-says-Christian-lawyers.html>

Chief Rabbi 'should be grateful' to live in Britain, says secular president

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/8609555/Chief-Rabbi-should-be-grateful-to-live-in-Britain-says-secular-president.html>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Press Release

Anti-Semitism Summary overview of the situation in the European Union 2001-2010

http://www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/research/publications/publications_per_year/pub-antisemitism-update-2011_en.htm

New Publication

Anti-Semitism - Summary overview of the situation in the EU 2001-2010

<http://www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/Antisemitism-update-2011.pdf>

News

Bus passenger unleashes 'vile' racist tirade at baby

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/Bus-passenger-unleashes-39vile39-racist.6794256.jp>

EU Journalist Award – Together against discrimination!

<http://journalistaward.stop-discrimination.info/>

[TOP](#)

Other Holyrood

Opening of the 4th Session of the Scottish Parliament

Watch the Opening of the 4th Session of the Scottish Parliament

http://www.holyrood.tv/videoshare/010711_Opening_Ceremony_session_4.wmv

Presiding Officer's Speech

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-11/pa11-032.htm>

Queen's Speech

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/LatestNewsandDiary/Speechesandarticles/2011/TheQueensAddressstotheScottishParliament1July2011.aspx>

First Minister's Speech

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Speeches/scotparlopngJuly1-2011>

News

Queen officially opens fourth Scottish Parliament term

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-13975323>

Alex Salmond tells Queen that independence is 'looming'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Alex-Salmond-tells-Queen-that.6794705.jp>

Queen's speech: Holyrood 'has truly come of age'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Queen39s-speech-Holyrood-39has-truly.6794704.jp>

Tricia Marwick: Testing times ahead for all

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Tricia-Marwick-Testing-times-ahead.6794707.jp>

The right mix of formality and friendliness

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/opinion/The-right-mix-of-formality.6794708.jp>

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Debate

Female Genital Mutilation

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110630-0001.htm#11063052000909>

New Publication

Traveller Caravan Count - 27 January 2011

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/caravancountjan2011>

Other Westminster (continued) News

Every Gypsy and Traveller caravan site in England mapped and listed

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2011/jun/29/gypsy-sites-england-local-authority>

[TOP](#)

New Publication

Scottish Human Rights Commission Annual Report

<http://scottishhumanrights.com/application/resources/documents/SHRCAnnualReport2011Digital.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Other News

Muslims and Jews unite to protest ban on ritual slaughter

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Muslims-and-Jews-unite-to.6792757.jp>

Dutch MPs effectively ban ritual slaughter of animals

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-1394716>

[TOP](#)

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>

Bills in Progress Westminster

Scotland Bill

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

[TOP](#)

Consultations ** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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

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

Consultations (continued)

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

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

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/>

Scotland-specific sections of the consultation

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/Scotland/The_Commission_in_Scotland/scotland-specific_consultation_areas_for_focus_pdf.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/>

**** VAT: Cost Sharing Exemption** (30 September 2011)

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/downloadFile?contentID=HMCE_P ROD1_031398

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

**** new or updated this week**

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

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>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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>

**** Jashn-e Melal (Festival of Nations)**

24 July 2011 in Glasgow Concert Hall

Glasgow Inter-Cultural Arts Group festival in partnership with Awards for All, Strathclyde Police, Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Life. Featuring poetry, music, dance, film, arts, crafts with the best of international and local performers, and artists. For information contact Tom Harrigan 07778 745 630 / tommbe@googlemail.com.

**** Forced Marriage Road Show**

29 July 2011 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 12.30)

Shakti Women's Aid and Karma Nirvana event for all professionals in the voluntary or statutory sectors to provide information about the Forced Marriage Act, Lothian and Border's Police response to Forced Marriage, and specialist services provided by the organisers. For information contact Ola 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk. Or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/11vii_shakti.pdf

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

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

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.parnes@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

[TOP](#)

Useful Links

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

Useful Links (continued)

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

BBC Parliament online

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

[TOP](#)



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



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



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

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.