

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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The Scottish and UK Parliaments are now in recess until 5 September 2011. During the summer MEMO will be issued fortnightly on 1, 15, and 29 August, and 12 September.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S4M-00546 John Finnie: Anti-Slavery Day—That the Parliament notes the designation of 18 October 2011 as the second annual Anti-Slavery Day; further notes that, this year, the day will focus on child victims of trafficking; is saddened to understand that, despite the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade two centuries ago, people continue to be victims of the modern slave trade, and supports the call on the UK Government by ECPAT UK to provide greater protection for the victims of child trafficking.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/MAQASearch/QAndMSearch.aspx?referencenumber=S4M-00546&isinanything=false&isinmotion=true&isinfmq=false&isinoralquestion=false&isintwrittenquestion=false&resultsperpage=10>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Ministerial Statement

English for Speakers of Other Languages

The Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning (Mr John Hayes): I am today publishing the equality impact assessment of provision of English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) training, which I ordered earlier this year. I did so because of my determination that necessary additional cost-effectiveness should not unduly disadvantage vulnerable individuals in vulnerable communities.

Furthermore, I have asked the Association of Colleges to advise on developing with key providers an effective methodology for targeting funds at settled communities in which language barriers inhibit individual opportunity and community cohesion. Given the respective work that Lord Boswell and Baroness Sharp are doing on adult literacy and colleges in communities I have asked that they are involved in this work.

Simultaneously, we will devise means by which the quality of ESOL can be measured more effectively with a new emphasis on familiar benefits, progression to further learning and employment. I will discuss measurements of quality with Ofsted.

By targeting public funding on those in greatest need, and setting higher standards for providers, our reforms will make ESOL provision work better for learners, employers, and taxpayers.

Between 2001 and 2005 ESOL enrolments tripled, and Government spending peaked at £271 million. Despite policy introduced in 2006-7 to limit automatic fee remission to those on income-related benefits, by 2008-9 spending had only fallen to £250 million. We are, therefore, determined to continue to regain control of spending by introducing the further measures.

From August this year, full Government funding for ESOL courses will be available only for people on jobseeker's allowance and employment support allowance (work related activity group) to help them find work. As part of a broader move towards rebalancing the investment in skills between Government, the employer and the learner, other eligible learners will be expected to make a contribution towards their course fees.

It is unacceptable that the public purse pays for free English language training for people who have come here to take up work—companies that recruit abroad must take full responsibility for that decision.

But I know that, in particular, there are women and families who rely on community-based English language to help them communicate with their children's schools, as well as opening the door to other public services.

I am, therefore, pleased to announce that we will work in partnership with the Department for Communities and Local Government on developing new forms of support for those who need informal, community-based learning of English.

I am placing a copy of the impact assessment in the Libraries of both Houses.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110718/wmstext/110718m0001.htm#110718200002>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration Advisory Service

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Immigration Advisory Service regarding the status of the current clients of the service and their on-going legal cases. [66851]

Reply from Jonathan Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) has been working closely with Immigration Advisory Service (IAS) for some time now following an audit which raised concerns around the company's financial management and claims irregularities and as such, the Trustees of the IAS decided that the organisation had to enter into administration on 8 July 2011.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The primary concern for the Government and the LSC now is to ensure clients of IAS continue to get the help they need. The LSC expects that the administration of IAS will allow a managed close down process of IAS's activities and an orderly transfer of clients to new providers. Provisional arrangements have been made to ensure that any emergency cases are dealt with speedily.

Meanwhile the LSC is identifying alternative advice provision in the areas affected and arrangements for case transfer will follow as soon as possible. Three IAS hub centres will be kept open for the moment: in Manchester, Birmingham and Bradford which will help facilitate the transfer of these cases.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure repayment of money which the Immigration Advisory Service claimed in error to the Legal Services Commission. [66852]

Reply from Jonathan Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is working with the administrators to establish the value of claims for work that had not been submitted for payment when Immigration Asylum Service (IAS) entered administration, following a decision by its Trustees on 8 July 2011. These claims will be set off against any sum that is confirmed as being owed to the LSC as a result of the Contract Compliance Audit, which has not yet concluded.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110718/text/110718w0008.htm#11071951000090>

Entry Clearances: Entertainers

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many applications to enter the UK with an entertainment visa under Section 46S of requirements for leave to enter have been (a) received and (b) refused since 2005; [67023]

(2) how applications to enter the UK with an entertainment visa under Section 46S of requirements for leave to enter are assessed in respect of (a) family ties to the home country and (b) earnings threshold in pounds sterling equivalent. [67024]

Reply from Damian Green: The amendment of the Immigration Rules to include provision for leave to enter as an Entertainer Visitor (Paragraph 46S) came into effect on 27 November 2008. The number of visa applications in this category that were (a) received; and (b) refused, to 31 December 2010 were 9,075 and 1,999, respectively.

All non-EEA nationals seeking leave to enter as a visitor, including as an Entertainer Visitor, must show, amongst other things, that they:

- (a) intend to come to the UK for a limited period not exceeding six months;
- (b) will either (i) be able to adequately maintain and accommodate themselves, or (ii) be adequately maintained and accommodated, during their stay without recourse to public funds; and
- (c) will be able to meet the cost of their return or onward journey.

The onus is on the applicant to provide evidence to show that these and the other requirements for entry are met.

All visa applications are assessed on their individual merits. It is standard practice to take into consideration an applicant's personal and family circumstances overseas when assessing their intentions. There is no earnings threshold which Entertainer or other categories of visitor must meet but they will be expected to show that they or their sponsors have sufficient funds for the trip.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110719/text/110719w0001.htm#110719112000035>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum: Sexuality

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum claims were made on the basis of sexual orientation or sexual identity in each of the last six quarters. [66498]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not routinely collect data on the basis of asylum claims; however, following the HJ and HT Supreme Court ruling in July 2010, arrangements were made to record data manually, but the resulting figures were initially not robust. Improved manual data were subsequently collected for the period April to June 2011 inclusive, as part of an internal audit of sexual orientation claims. Since 1 July, cases involving sexual orientation have been recorded on the agency's electronic case information database and this will provide a better basis for published data.

Data on claims based on sexual identity are not recorded.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to remove sexuality asylum cases from the Detained Fast Track category; and if she will make a statement. [66500]

Reply from Damian Green: Entry to the detained fast track procedure is determined by reference to published policy. There are no plans to exclude applicants from the detained fast track process solely because their asylum claim is sexuality-related. However, published policy already stipulates that cases may enter and remain in the process only if they are amenable to a quick, fair and sustainable decision. If at the time of application it is apparent that this condition cannot be fulfilled in a sexuality-related persecution claim, or indeed in a claim with any other basis, the applicant will not be entered into the process.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110719/text/110719w0001.htm#110719112000016>

Immigrants: Detainees

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time an individual awaiting an upper tribunal hearing was kept in detention in the latest period for which figures are available. [65264]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency's Case Information Database indicates that for detained subjects, between the months of March 2010 and February 2011, the average length of time between an application for permission to appeal and the Upper Tribunal hearing outcome was 32.65 weeks. The figures are provisional and have not been subject to the detailed checks that apply to our National Statistics.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110719/text/110719w0001.htm#110719112000039>

Deportation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the UK Border Agency takes prior to setting removal directions to ensure that the removal is not inconsistent with any change in (a) law, (b) policy and (c) any court or tribunal decision arising (i) after the decision that a person is to be removed and (ii) after any appeal against such a decision to remove has been finally decided. [66499]

Reply from Damian Green: UK Border Agency staff are provided with comprehensive guidance on the information to be considered and assessed when making a decision to remove individuals from the UK. Each case will be considered on its individual merits, which will include any extenuating compassionate circumstances, together with any recent changes to law, policy, or court or tribunal decisions.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The procedures to be followed and the factors to be considered when setting removal directions can be found in the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance (EIG) manual at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/enforcement/detentionandremovals/>

Separately UK Border Agency Staff are notified as and when important policy changes or court or tribunal decisions might impact on a decision to remove.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which unit of her Department is responsible for (a) accompanying, (b) monitoring and (c) reporting on the treatment of those to be removed from the UK during each stage of the removal process. [67114]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government expect that those with no right to stay in the UK leave voluntarily. Many do so but for those who fail to leave we have to enforce their departure. Our arrangements for doing so can extend to individuals being escorted on to an aircraft or, for a smaller number, overseas. The UK Border Agency's Criminality and Detention Group is responsible for arranging the escort of individuals who are detained prior to removal from the UK and for monitoring and reporting on their treatment immediately prior to and during removal.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedure her Department follows to accredit private security escorts responsible for enforced removals; and whether an assessment of the training in the use of handcuffs and other mechanical restraints is a mandatory element of the accreditation process. [67115]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) has used private sector escorting companies to undertake enforced removals for nearly 20 years. These companies operate within a clear framework set out in legislation and in a set of operating standards and instructions which are published on the Agency's website.

Individuals employed to work as detention custody officers (DCOs) must be certified before they can undertake duties on behalf of the UK Border Agency. The process, which includes gaining security clearance and completing mandatory control and restraint training, is set out in Detention Service Order 04-2011, entitled Detainee Custody Officer Certification, available on the UK Border Agency website:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/detention-services-orders/>

All DCOs are trained in control and restraint techniques accredited by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), and receive refresher training every 12 months as a mandatory condition of their individual certification to work as a DCO. The control and restraint training includes the use of two types of handcuffs and a leg restraint which takes the form of a velcro strap. The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) also provides UKBA contracted escorting staff with additional training in the use of rigid bar handcuffs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110719/text/110719w0001.htm#110719112000031>

Immigration: Deportation

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will undertake a review of the ways in which private security companies carry out enforced removals of individuals from the United Kingdom, in the light of complaints that have arisen. [HL11010]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): Private sector escorting companies operate within a clear framework set out in legislation

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

and in a set of operating standards and instructions which are published on the UK Border Agency's website. The role of escorts is also subject to oversight by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons, who undertakes both announced and unannounced inspections.

The UK Border Agency expects escorts to carry out their work with the utmost professionalism and sensitivity and has, over the past few years, introduced a number of measures to ensure the protection of staff and detainees. These include the use of contract monitors at the main airports used for departures, and an independent monitoring board at Heathrow Airport.

Detainee custody officers (DCOs) are accredited by the UK Border Agency to fulfil their functions, which includes using reasonable force as a last resort to ensure an individual complies with their removal. All DCOs are trained in control and restraint techniques accredited by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), and receive refresher training every 12 months as a condition of their individual accreditation to work as a DCO. Restraint training is delivered by professionals and we are satisfied that the techniques are safe. We have, however, asked NOMS to conduct a fundamental review of the techniques used in order to see whether they can be made even safer. This review is ongoing.

We are satisfied that private sector escorting companies have acted professionally, ensuring that those in their custody are treated with dignity and care. Where detainees complain that the use of force has been excessive, the matter is investigated by the UK Border Agency's professional standards unit. If a complainant is unhappy with the response they can ask for the issue to be re-examined by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman, whose role was extended in 2006 to investigate complaints by immigration detainees.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110720w0001.htm#110720126001398>

Deportation

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what oversight mechanisms are in place to ensure that enforced removals from the UK are monitored by an independent body. [67624]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has used private sector escorting companies to undertake enforced removals for nearly 20 years. These companies operate within a clear framework set out in legislation and in a set of operating standards and instructions which are published on the agency's website. The role of escorts is subject to oversight by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons, who undertakes both announced and unannounced inspections. The agency has, over the past few years, introduced a number of measures to ensure the protection of staff and detainees. These include the use of contract monitors at the main airports used for departures, and an Independent Monitoring Board at Heathrow airport.

We are satisfied that escorts act professionally, ensuring those in their custody are treated with dignity and care. Where detainees complain that the use of force has been excessive, the matter is investigated by the UK Border Agency's Professional Standards Unit. If a complainant is unhappy with the response, they can ask for the issue to be re-examined by the prisons and probation ombudsman, whose role was extended in 2006 to investigate complaints by immigration detainees.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110720/text/110720w0005.htm#1107211000052>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what responsibility he has for contributing to Government action against human trafficking; and what recent action he has taken in this regard. [65773]

Reply from Andrew Stunell: The Noble Baroness Hanham represents the Department for Communities and Local Government on the inter-departmental ministerial group on human trafficking.

The inter-departmental ministerial group on human trafficking co-ordinates work on trafficking across Government. The Group brings together Ministers from key Departments to provide oversight and to strengthen our efforts to tackle human trafficking by ensuring that input and expertise from all Departments is shared.

The Government will shortly be publishing its strategy on human trafficking.

The strategy will reiterate the UK's intention to take a comprehensive approach to combating trafficking—both by focusing on tackling traffickers and maintaining effective care for victims. It will also mark a greater focus on combating the organised crime groups behind this crime.

The Government's approach will be based on four key principles:

- improved victim care arrangements;
- enhancing our ability to act early, before the harm has reached the UK;
- smarter, multi-agency action at the border; and
- a more co-ordinated policing effort at home.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110719/text/110719w0002.htm#110719115000041>

Press Releases

Highly Trusted Sponsorship for Tier 4 Sponsors - proposed criteria

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/july/28-hts-proposed-criteria>

Confirmation of educational oversight arrangement for Tier 4 sponsors

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/july/50-tier-4-sponsors>

UK opens its doors to exceptionally talented migrants

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/july/31-t1-et>

New payment method for premium appointments in Glasgow and Cardiff

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/july/29-payment-glasgow-cardiff>

Human trafficking strategy

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/human-trafficking-strategy/>

Action plan to help refugees re-build their lives in Wales

<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/equalityanddiversity/2011/100728refugeeplan/?lang=en>

Libya: advice to Libyan visa holders

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/july/37libya-extend>

European Agenda for the Integration of Migrants – frequently asked questions

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/530&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

European Agenda for Integration - well integrated migrants enrich the EU economically and culturally

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/911&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Eurobarometer on Migrant Integration

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/529>

New Publications

Human Trafficking: The Government's Strategy

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/human-trafficking-strategy?view=Binary>

House of Commons Scottish Affairs Committee: The Student Immigration System in Scotland

vol 1 <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmsscotaf/912/912.pdf>

vol 2 <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmsscotaf/912/912vw.pdf>

House of Commons Home Affairs Committee: Student Visas: Follow-up

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmhaff/1445/1445.pdf>

Monthly asylum application tables - May 2011

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

Children entering detention held solely under Immigration Act powers June 2011

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/child-detention-jun2011?view=Binary>

European Agenda for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals

http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/intro/docs/110720/1_EN_ACT_part1_v10.pdf

Eurobarometer: Migrant Integration

http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/intro/docs/110720/Aggregate_report_5969_Migrant_Integration_FINAL-19072011.pdf

Satisfying Labour Demand through Migration

http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/intro/docs/110720/Satisfying%20Labour_Demand_through_Migration_FINAL_8July2011.pdf

Making integration a win-win situation

http://ec.europa.eu/news/justice/110725_en.htm

News

Coalition accused of forgetting Scotland

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/coalition-accused-of-forgetting-scotland-1.1113675>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Immigration loophole set to be closed

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/8643483/Immigration-loophole-set-to-be-closed.html>

Asylum seekers furious at rush to hit deportation deadline

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-furious-at-rush-to-hit-deportation-deadline-2319054.html>

End to free language classes for immigrants

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/end-to-free-language-classes-for-immigrants-2329186.html>

Spouse English tests for migrants racist, court told

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-14298352>

Immigration: ban on husband who cannot speak English is a breach of human rights, court told

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/8663188/Immigration-ban-on-husband-who-cannot-speak-English-is-a-breach-of-human-rights-court-told.html>

Language of integration

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/telegraph-view/8668703/Language-of-integration.html>

If you don't speak English you can't belong in Britain

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/8666450/If-you-dont-speak-English-you-cant-belong-in-Britain.html>

'Inhumane' act of taking deportation reserves to airport condemned

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/jul/26/deportation-reserves-airport-condemned>

Theresa May's overseas student curbs 'will cost economy £3.6bn'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2011/jul/26/theresa-may-overseas-student-curb-economy>

Visa system could put new students off Scotland

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Visa-system-could-put-new.6807619.jp>

Visa plans 'a risk to Scots universities'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/visa-plans-a-risk-to-scots-universities-1.1113975>

Student visa clampdown ignores Scotland's needs

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-view/student-visa-clampdown-ignores-scotland-s-needs-1.1113921>

Student visa restrictions rushed, MPs say

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-14282538>

Inspectors find Tinsley House removal centre 'improved'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-14284095>

'Glasgow John' tragedy lands on Cameron's desk

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/glasgow-john-tragedy-lands-on-cameron-s-desk-1.1114959>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

How we're helping support refugees in Scotland

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_blog/1286_how_were_helping_support_refugees_in_scotland

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

New Publication

Runnymede Trust Summer Bulletin

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/bulletin/pdfs/366-BulletinSummer11W.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Press Releases

The UK Government Equalities Office is inviting organisations to register their interest in bidding for the Equality Duty toolkit for Voluntary and Community Sector organisations contract. Interested organisations must register by Wednesday 3 August. To register interest in bidding for the contract contact huw.pearce@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk / 01633 813950. (Organisations that register their interest are under no obligation to bid for the contract.)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/equalities/>

EHRC: Statement of the Commission on the Red Tape Challenge

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2011/july/statement-of-the-commission-on-the-red-tape-challenge/>

New Publication

Fair's Fair: Equality and Justice in the Big Society

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/FairsFair-2011.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Sectarianism

James Kelly (Rutherglen) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Executive what discussions it has had with football supporters' clubs regarding sectarianism. (S4W-1295)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government recognises the

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

importance of engaging with football supporters on this agenda. That is why, following the Football Summit in March, we provided further funding to Supporters Direct in Scotland to engage directly with football supporters to seek their views on how best to positively influence behaviours in and around football matches. This included a focus on tackling sectarian behaviours.

Supporters Direct used their extensive range of contacts with fans and supporters' groups to establish four focus groups including female fans, younger fans, older, male fans and disabled fans. This direct engagement with supporters has helped to explore when unacceptable behaviour occurs and how best to positively influence behaviours exhibited both within and outwith the football stadium. This project also considered potential policy and practice implications for football clubs, football authorities and the Government.

The report of this project is currently in the process of being finalised and the final report will be shared with the Joint Action Group to inform the next phase of the work of this group.

James Kelly (Rutherglen) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will include representatives from football supporters' clubs in the Joint Action Group on Football set up following the Old Firm summit on 8 March 2011. (S4W-1296)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: The Joint Action Group (JAG) has representation from the Scottish Football Association (SFA), the Scottish Premier League (SPL), the Scottish Football League (SFL), Rangers Football Club, Celtic Football Club and Strathclyde Police.

At the final JAG meeting before the start of the 2011-12 Season on 11 July 2011, it was agreed that the JAG will continue until the end of November with a focus on:

Informing the further development of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Bill;

Considering and agreeing measures to tackle unacceptable supporter conduct;

Considering and agreeing campaigns and initiatives which can best use the positive influence of football to change negative behaviours and attitudes – in particular around violence, bigotry and alcohol misuse.

The JAG is committed to engaging formally with supporters, and with all SPL and SFL clubs, on these important issues during the next phase of their work.

James Kelly (Rutherglen) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Executive what discussions it has had with football supporters' clubs regarding new criminal offences relating to sectarian and offensive behaviour at football matches. (S4W-1297)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: No individual meetings have taken place with supporters clubs to date regarding the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Bill. However, a stakeholder engagement event on the Bill on 17 June 2011, was attended by representatives of a number of Supporters Trusts. Also in attendance were Supporters Direct Scotland who represent the interests of football supporters across the country.

The change to the timetable for this Bill being passed will allow for further evidence gathering and consultation to build consensus around this legislation.

We will be seeking the views of football supporters during this period of engagement and consultation.

Individual links to written answers are still unavailable on the new Scottish Parliament website. The answers below can be read at

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s4/bills/documents/WA20110720_000.pdf

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Gypsy/Travellers

Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Executive what action it is taking to reduce racism against Gypsy/Travellers. (S4W-1569)

Reply from Michael Matheson: The Scottish Government acknowledges that Gypsy/Traveller communities are amongst the most disenfranchised and discriminated against in Scotland. Our Race Equality Statement identified Gypsies/Travellers as a priority group, who are ethnically distinct and we encourage others to do the same.

Through our Race, Religion and Refugee Integration funding stream, we have allocated funding to voluntary organisations to develop projects specifically targeting the Gypsy/Traveller Community.

The previous Minister for Housing & Communities, Alex Neil MSP also chaired a Working Party which brought forward an interim strategy designed to improve and sustain relationships between gypsies/travellers and the settled community in the north east of Scotland. The strategy was published in March this year and can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/16342/management/gt/wpstrategy>

Individual links to written answers are still unavailable on the new Scottish Parliament website. The answers below can be read at

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s4/bills/documents/WA20110727.pdf>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Schools: Anti-Semitism and Homophobia

Baroness Deech: To ask Her Majesty's Government what further steps they will be taking to tackle the risk of anti-semitism and homophobia in part-time and alternative school provision.[HL10930]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): The Government are committed to tackling all forms of bullying, particularly that motivated by prejudice of any kind. We recently published updated advice on preventing and tackling bullying. It is aimed at all teaching staff including professionals working in pupil referral units (PRUs) and other alternative provision. We would expect all providers to have regard to it when developing their anti-bullying strategies.

In addition to maintained schools, PRUs are required to have a behaviour policy. The teacher in charge of a PRU must determine a behaviour policy with a view to encouraging good behaviour and in particular preventing all forms of bullying among pupils.

The Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation-for example, on the grounds of race, disability and sexual orientation. Schools, including PRUs, are now required to comply with the duty.

We are working with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organisations and the cross-Government working group on anti-Semitism to ensure that the concerns of the gay and Jewish communities are reflected in our approach.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110719w0001.htm#11071998000673>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) **Westminster Early Day Motion**

Dr Julian Huppert (2109) Equality and non-discrimination legislation - That this House welcomes legislation on equality and non-discrimination as vital for the protection of people of all faiths and none; notes that the Supreme Court has not found any evidence of discrimination against Christians by the operation of equality laws in the workplace; recognises the importance of the Ladele judgment in setting a precedent in support of protecting gay and lesbian people from discrimination by religious public service workers; and calls on the Government to base any proposed changes to legislation on equality and non-discrimination on evidence rather than the opinions of a vocal minority.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2010-11/2109>

New Publication

The legal implications of multiple discrimination

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/FS44%20-%20The%20legal%20implications%20of%20multiple%20discrimination%20final%20EN.pdf>

News

Extremists hold talks over return to city's streets

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/Extremists-hold-talks-over-return.6803340.jp>

Nick Griffin re-elected BNP leader ahead of Andrew Brons

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-14286110>

Celtic fan Michael Bailey admits sectarian abuse

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-14222785>

Court hears Celtic fan wrote racist and sectarian rants on Facebook

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Court-hears-Celtic-fan-wrote.6804851.jp>

Bigoted fan pleads guilty to web hate

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/bigoted-fan-pleads-guilty-to-web-hate-1.1113159>

Celtic fan who wrote on Facebook El Hadji Diouf should be 'sent back to the jungle' ends up in court

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2011/07/21/celtic-fan-who-said-el-hadji-diouf-should-be-sent-back-to-the-jungle-on-facebook-ends-up-in-court-86908-23286067/>

Dunoon rocked by racism row

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/news/Dunoon-rocked-by-racism-row.6806575.jp>

The British far-Right is nothing but a rabble

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/8660011/The-British-far-Right-is-nothing-but-a-rabble.html>

Outcry over role of English Defence League

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/outcry-over-role-of-english-defence-league-2319895.html>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Endorsement by mass murderer exposes EDL to fresh scrutiny

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/endorsement-by-mass-murderer-exposes-edl-to-fresh-scrutiny-2326471.html>

Tentacles of the far right

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/tentacles-of-the-far-right-1.1114922>

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Other Holyrood

Press Release

£7 million for third sector

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/07/18120453>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Female Genital Mutilation

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government what programme of public education is undertaken for refugees who arrive in the United Kingdom from countries where female genital mutilation is prevalent.[HL11005]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) provides advice to newly arrived refugees on accessing NHS services. All individuals entering UKBA-arranged accommodation are offered health screening.

Temporary United Kingdom residents (refugees and asylum seekers whose application is still being considered, and anyone who has been lawfully living in the UK for 12 months immediately prior to treatment) are afforded the protections available to permanent UK residents, including access to 15 specialist clinics in the NHS which treat women and girls who have been subjected to female genital mutilation (FGM). These clinics all have trained and culturally sensitive staff who offer a range of confidential healthcare services for women and girls including reversal surgery. These clinics are open to women to attend without referral from their own doctors. These clinics are funded by local primary care trusts.

The Government have also distributed 40,000 leaflets and posters to public sector partners within the UK, highlighting the issue of FGM.

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they publish information in languages other than English so that refugees and others are aware of the law in relation to female genital mutilation in the United Kingdom.[HL11006]

Reply from Baroness Browning: The Government have distributed leaflets and posters to British embassies across Africa to raise awareness among individuals applying to come to the UK that female genital mutilation is illegal here. At present the Government do not publish such information in languages other than English.

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial and other support

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

they make available for female genital mutilation women's groups and advocacy groups in the United Kingdom.[HL11007]

Reply from Baroness Browning: The Government chair and run the female genital mutilation (FGM) forum, which allows the voluntary and community sector to meet with policy officials, raise any concerns and discuss current issues. No direct financial support has been made available in this financial year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110718w0001.htm#11071815000551>

Female Genital Mutilation

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to collate statistics on the levels of female genital mutilation in the United Kingdom.[HL10964]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to prosecute those who perform female genital mutilation in the United Kingdom.[HL10965]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to protect temporary United Kingdom residents from female genital mutilation.[HL10966]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what they are doing to combat female genital mutilation in the United Kingdom.[HL10967]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made as to whether to launch a nationwide campaign highlighting the dangers of female genital mutilation in the United Kingdom.[HL10968]

To ask Her Majesty's Government who will be responsible for commissioning female genital mutilation services under proposals for general practitioner commissioning of healthcare services.[HL10969]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning): Female genital mutilation is an illegal and unacceptable form of child abuse and a form of violence against girls and women that the Government are committed to eradicating. We want to protect current and future generations of girls from this abuse and to ensure that those girls and women living with the consequences of FGM are given the care and support they deserve.

Our focus is prevention. The Government have recently (February 2011) launched multi-agency practice guidelines for front-line professionals such as teachers, GPs and nurses. The guidelines aim to raise awareness of FGM, highlight the risks that people should be aware of and set out clearly the steps that should be taken to safeguard children and women from this abuse. Legislation alone cannot eliminate the practice so our resources will be aimed at raising awareness of the law on FGM and the health implications with communities and front-line practitioners. The guidelines are a key step in ensuring that professionals are able and confident to intervene to protect girls at risk. In addition, more than 40,000 leaflets and 40,000 posters on the prevention of FGM have been circulated to schools, health services, charities and community groups around the country.

FGM's prevalence is difficult to estimate because of the hidden nature of the crime. However, a study based on the 2001 Census suggested that over 20,000 girls under the age of 15 could be at high risk of FGM in England and Wales each year, and nearly 66,000 women in England and Wales are living with the consequences of FGM.

FGM has been explicitly illegal since 1985 when the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act 1985 was passed. The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (which came into force on 3 March 2004) repealed and replaced the 1985 Act and made it an offence for the first time for UK nationals or permanent UK residents to carry out FGM abroad, or to aid, abet, counsel or procure the carrying out of FGM abroad, even in countries where the practice is legal. To reflect the serious harm

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

that FGM causes, the Act also increased the maximum penalty from five to 14 years' imprisonment. There have so far been no prosecutions under the 2003 Act. Research suggests that the most likely barrier to prosecution is the pressure from family or wider community that leads cases to go unreported. The CPS is due to publish new legal guidance on FGM later this summer to ensure that it is able to prosecute cases of FGM that satisfy the evidential and public interest tests within the Code for Crown Prosecutors.

Temporary United Kingdom residents (refugees and asylum seekers whose application is still being considered, and anyone who has been lawfully living in the UK for 12 months immediately prior to treatment) are afforded the protections available to permanent UK residents, including access to 15 specialist clinics in the NHS which treat women and girls who have been subjected to FGM. These clinics have trained and culturally sensitive staff who offer a range of confidential healthcare services for women and girls including reversal surgery. These clinics are open to women to attend without referral from their own doctors. These clinics are funded by local PCTs.

In relation to responsibility for commissioning female genital mutilation services, the consultation paper *Healthy Lives, Healthy People: consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health* proposed that local authorities should be responsible for working in partnership to tackle issues such as social exclusion including violence prevention. This could include supra-local commissioning of services such as female genital mutilation (FGM) clinics. The consultation closed on 31 March 2011 and the Government will be publishing their response shortly.

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government why there have been no prosecutions for Female Genital Mutilation in the United Kingdom; and what discussions they have held with officials from other countries where successful prosecutions have taken place.[HL11002]

Reply from the Advocate-General for Scotland (Lord Wallace of Tankerness): The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) prosecutes cases that have been investigated and referred to it by the police. Every case that is referred to the CPS for a charging decision is reviewed in accordance with the full code test set out in the Code for Crown Prosecutors (the code). This requires that there is sufficient evidence and that it is in the public interest for a prosecution to proceed. To date, there have been no prosecutions of cases involving female genital mutilation (FGM) as there has been insufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction. A case that does not pass the evidential stage of the full code test must not proceed no matter how serious or sensitive it may be. However, agencies are working closely together to raise awareness and encourage reporting of FGM, so that they can be thoroughly investigated and evidence gathered.

The CPS is a member of the Cross-Governmental Female Genital Mutilation Steering Group to help tackle this practice, but it has not held discussions with officials from other countries on this issue. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is in regular dialogue with their counterparts in other countries on wider FGM matters. In January 2011, the UK's Cross Government FGM Co-ordinator visited Ethiopia and highlighted a number of areas for improving our work on FGM, particularly in community engagement and international diaspora relations, so that the practice of FGM can be eradicated.

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government who, other than general practitioners, will be responsible for commissioning Female Genital Mutilation Services under their proposals for reform of the National Health Service.[HL11003]

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The department proposed in Healthy Lives, Healthy People: consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health that female genital mutilation (FGM) clinics should be commissioned by local authorities. The consultation closed on 31 March and the department published its response to the consultation feedback on 14 July. The response makes clear that on the basis of feedback from stakeholders, the department has changed its position and can now confirm that the FGM services will be commissioned by the National Health Service. Further details on arrangements for this commissioning will be announced in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110720w0001.htm#110720126001378>

Press Releases

Public petitions website goes live

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/public-petitions-website-goes-live/>

The Department confirms the Government is not considering legalising multiple marriages

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/issuesandresponses/newsroom/1950293>

Prime Minister's Message for Ramadan

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/prime-ministers-message-for-ramadan-2/>

Foreign Secretary's Ramadan message

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=637353182>

New Publication

The Government Response To The Eighth Report From The Home Affairs Committee: Forced Marriage

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm81/8151/8151.pdf>

News

MPs set to debate public's petition demands

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-14326218>

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New Publication

Wearing of religious symbols in public areas

<https://wcd.coe.int/wcd/com.intranet.InstraServlet?command=com.intranet.CmdBlobGet&IntranetImage=1888159&SecMode=1&DocId=1766996&Usage=2>

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Other News

Scots keenest to volunteer and best fundraisers in UK

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/news/Scots-keenest-to-volunteer-and.6806522.jp>

Christian and atheist children least likely to go to university

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/8655201/Christian-and-atheist-children-least-likely-to-go-to-university.html>

Coalition rules out legalising multiple Islamic marriages after Whitehall leak

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/8653300/Coalition-rules-out-legalising-multiple-Islamic-marriages-after-Whitehall-leak.html>

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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>

Bills in Progress Westminster

**** Scotland Bill**

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

UK Parliament Constitution Committee Report

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201012/ldselect/ldconst/184/184.pdf>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** Refugee integration and professional identity: refugee doctors and teachers in the UK (no closing date given)**

http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/11viii_refugee_doctors.pdf

Scotland Bill (9 September 2011)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-comm-11/scotbill11-s4-003.htm>

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

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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!**

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

2 August 2011 in Glasgow

15 September 2011 in Glasgow

7 October 2011 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training to identify fundamental issues facing asylum seekers and refugees today, and highlighting current legislation and entitlements. 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

**** this week!**

Domestic Abuse and Minority Ethnic Women, Children and Young People

4 August 2011 (9.30 – 4.30) and 5 August 2011 (9.30 – 12.30) in Edinburgh

Shakti Women's Aid course aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of issues facing Minority Ethnic women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse. For information see <http://www.shaktiedinburgh.co.uk/training&events.html> or contact Mridul, Lisa, or Aleksandra 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

Festival of Politics

20-27 August 2011 in Edinburgh

Series of events at the Scottish Parliament with a theme of *Re-newing Politics in the Age of New Media*. It will feature a number of events looking at how politics, and the wider world, is progressing with social media, new technologies and interaction with each other. For information see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/index.htm>

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.

Working with Interpreters

8 September 2011 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training to address practical, professional, and ethical issues about working with interpreters. Includes a briefing on legal obligations and the client's entitlement to communication support. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1011_working_with_interpreters

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

An Introduction to working with separated children

20 September 2011 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training for those who work with separated children and need to know about the process of seeking international protection in Scotland. Covering the impact of the asylum process on children, trafficking, and age assessment. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1103_an_introduction_to_working_with_separated_children

Access to Universal Healthcare in the Age of Migration

23 September 2011 in London

Migrants' Rights Network conference to highlight experiences from NHS services in working to provide migrant communities with health services, and discuss country-wide initiatives. For information see <http://health4migrants.info/>

**** Domestic abuse – together we can stop it**

29 September 2011 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 1.00)

Faith communities networking event to build and add to the capacity of faith groups to address and respond to domestic abuse through connecting people, providing resources, and building activism. For information contact Fiona Buchanan 0131 226 6606 / fiona.buchanan@scottishwomensaid.org.uk.

Scotland's People – Past, Present & Future

26 October 2011 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.00)

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

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Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

Useful Links (continued)

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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