

## 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

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions

#### Visas

**Lord Laird:** To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Browning on 11 July (WA 123-24), how many applicants for naturalisation last year quoted time spent in the United Kingdom on a student visa for all or part of the qualifying period for naturalisation as a British citizen; and whether time spent in the United Kingdom for educational purposes merits award of citizenship.[HL11283]

**Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Browning):** The information requested could only be obtained by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

The residence requirements for naturalisation as a British citizen are in Schedule 1 to the British Nationality Act 1981. These provide that a person should have been in the United Kingdom for a qualifying period of three or five years, with a limit on the number of days that should have been spent outside the UK. That schedule provides that residence in the United Kingdom should have been legal, but does not specify that a person should have been here in a particular capacity. There are

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

no plans to amend the requirements for naturalisation at the current time.

**The Earl of Clancarty:** To ask Her Majesty's Government under what circumstances an artist who is not a citizen of a European Union member state can come to the United Kingdom and work on a self-generated project such as painting pictures or taking photographs without being attached to an official event, an arts organisation in the United Kingdom, or having United Kingdom sponsorship.[HL11439]

**Reply from Baroness Browning:** There are no specific arrangements within the Immigration Rules for artists to work in the UK without requiring a sponsor. Where their activities are solely recreational, they are able to do so under the route for visitors.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldtoday/writtens/01082011.htm#hdg-Visas>

## Press Releases

**UK Border Agency publishes Common Travel Area report**

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/august/02-cta>

**We need a better way to assess the age of lone asylum seeking children**

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/latest\\_blog/1305\\_we\\_need\\_a\\_better\\_way\\_to\\_assess\\_the\\_age\\_of\\_lone\\_asylum\\_seeking\\_children](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_blog/1305_we_need_a_better_way_to_assess_the_age_of_lone_asylum_seeking_children)

**Courage gets a new audience thanks to BSL translation**

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/latest\\_news/1295\\_courage\\_gets\\_a\\_new\\_audience\\_thanks\\_to\\_bsl\\_translation](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/1295_courage_gets_a_new_audience_thanks_to_bsl_translation)

## New Publications

**Common Travel Area: Review of New Arrangements at Northern Ireland Sea Ports**

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/review-ni-sea-ports/cta.pdf?view=Binary>

**Migrants, minorities and employment - Exclusion and discrimination in the 27 Member States of the European Union**

[http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/pub-migrants-minorities-employment\\_EN.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/pub-migrants-minorities-employment_EN.pdf)

## News

**Scottish population hits its highest level since 1970s**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/scottish-population-hits-its-highest-level-since-1970s-1.1116091>

**Perception is all when it comes to immigration**

[http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk\\_news/National/article697157.ece](http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/National/article697157.ece)

**Students hit as 'visa factories' shut**

[http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk\\_news/Education/article695786.ece](http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Education/article695786.ece)

**Detention centre deaths spark police investigations**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/aug/05/detention-centre-deaths-police-investigations>

## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

**The asylum seekers facing a Kafkaesque legal nightmare**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/aug/04/asylum-seekers>

**UK proposes tougher English language test for family migration**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2011/aug/02/uk-proposes-toughermigration-rules>

**UK immigration analysis needed on Turkish legal migration, say MPs**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/aug/01/turkish-immigration-possibilities-assessed>

**Crackdown targets fake providers of education**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/crackdown-targets-fake-providers-of-education-1.1117176>

**Asylum housing tycoons cash in**

[http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk\\_news/Society/article700531.ece](http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Society/article700531.ece)

**Asylum life: the trials of women refugees, through their own eyes**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/aug/14/asylum-seekers-home-photography>

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## Race Relations

### New Publications

**Scottish Social Attitudes survey 2010: Attitudes to discrimination and positive action**

Summary <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/355763/0120175.pdf>

Report <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/355716/0120166.pdf>

**'Suspect Communities'? Counter-terrorism policy, the press, and the impact on Irish and Muslim communities in Britain**

<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/londonmet/fms/MRSite/Research/iset/Suspect%20Communities%20Findings%20July2011.pdf>

**Rising Restrictions on Religion**

<http://jrcb-lar.byu.edu/common/files/RisingRestrictions-web.pdf>

### News

**For black Britons, this is not the 80s revisited. It's worse**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/aug/11/black-britons-80s-mps-media>

**David Starkey claims 'the whites have become black'**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/aug/13/david-starkey-claims-whites-black>

**UK riots: 'Those who seek to racialise this problem are taking us backwards'**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/aug/10/uk-riots-racial-dimension>

**David Lammy: Prejudices of the few eclipsed by civic pride**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/david-lammy-prejudices-of-the-few-eclipsed-by-civic-pride-2337446.html>

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## Equality

### New Publications

#### **Evaluation of the Equality Act 2010: Evidence Dossier**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/equalities/research/EDF-evidence-dossier>

#### **All things being equal? Equality and Diversity in careers education, information, advice and guidance**

[http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded\\_files/research/71\\_careers\\_information.pdf](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/71_careers_information.pdf)

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## Racism and Religious Hatred

### Holyrood Parliamentary Question

#### **Gypsy/Travellers**

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive how it measures the prevalence of racism against Gypsy/Travellers. (S4W-1587)

**Reply from Michael Matheson:** The Scottish Executive measures attitudes towards discrimination against Gypsy/Travellers using the Attitudes to Discrimination module of the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey. The latest available results are from 2006. The 2010 results will be published on 11 August 2011.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s4/bills/documents/DailyWrittenAnswerWednesday4August2011265KBpdf.pdf>

### Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

**S4M-00578 Margaret McDougall: Scottish Defence League Protest in Irvine—** That the Parliament wholly and completely condemns the Scottish Defence League and the protest that it chose to hold in Irvine town centre on 30 July 2011; considers this to be an affront to the vast majority of tolerant Scots who do not agree with the views of the Scottish Defence League; considers it to be a mark of disrespect to those who lost their lives in Norway, and calls on all political parties in the Parliament to unite against the Scottish Defence League and its views.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/MAQASearch/QAndMSearch.aspx?referencenumber=S4M-00578&isinanything=true&resultsperpage=10>

### Westminster Parliament Early Day Motion

**Mark Durkan (2121) Equality and Human Rights Commission application to the European Court of Human Rights** That this House welcomes the application by the Equality and Human Rights Commission to intervene in four cases at the European Court of Human Rights which involve alleged religious discrimination in the workplace; notes the Commission's concern that UK and European Courts have created a body of confusing and contradictory case law making it difficult for employers to know what they should be doing to protect people from religion- or belief-based discrimination; acknowledges its hope that it is possible to accommodate expression of religion alongside the rights of people who are not religious and the needs of business; further

## Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliament Early Day Motion (continued)

notes that the Commission thinks that there is a need for clearer legal principles to help the courts consider what is and what is not justifiable in such cases, which might help to resolve differences without resorting to legal action and that it hopes to propose ideas on reasonable accommodations in that context; recognises that the Commission is acting under its statutory duty in section 30 of the Equality Act 2010 and that it would act as an independent party providing expert advice to the court; and stresses that any clarification or development of employment case law must not threaten any rights to goods or services which all citizens should enjoy from all providers - commercial, voluntary or public sector - free from any discrimination on any grounds including the religious or conscientious belief of any employee.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2010-12/2121>

## New Publication

### **EU Education Policies and their Impact on Racism in Education**

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/FS45%20-%20Education%20EN%20final.pdf>

## News

### **Man arrested over 'Neil Lennon sectarian hate' websites**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-14380910>

### **Police arrest 'creator' of website used to post Neil Lennon hate messages**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Police-arrest-39creator39-of-website.6811997.jp>

### **Far-right plots 9/11 flashpoint**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/politics/Farright-plots-911-flashpoint.6813143.jp>

### **Postman fined for racial abuse of Andy Murray**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Postman-fined-for-racial-abuse.6812022.jp>

### **Police praise 'good response' to anti-sectarian initiative**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/News/Perthshire/article/16216/police-praise-good-response-to-anti-sectarian-initiative.html>

### **Comrie man is fined for playing sectarian songs on his computer**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/News/Perthshire/article/16275/comrie-man-is-fined-for-playing-sectarian-songs-on-his-computer.html>

### **Race row scientist loses 'absurd' case**

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/Race-row-scientist-loses-39absurd39.6812794.jp>

### **Home Secretary bans Telford EDL march**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-shropshire-14506941>

### **English Defence League march banned**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/english-defence-league-march-banned-2336558.html>

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### Parliamentary Questions

#### Gypsy/Travellers

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive what guidance it provides to local authorities on the education of young Gypsy/Travellers. (S4W-1576)

**Reply from Angela Constance:** The Scottish Government provides core funding to the Scottish Traveller Education Programme (STEP) including the eLearning and Traveller Education Scotland (eLATES) programme which provides distance learning with “anytime, anywhere” access via the internet.

Within STEP’s remit was the production of guidance for local authorities, schools and support services *Inclusive Education Approaches for Scotland’s Travelling Communities within the context of interrupted learning* which was published in March 2011. The guidance was disseminated through the Traveller Education Network (TNET) in which 22 Scottish local authorities are members of and is now available as an online resource at:

[http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/publications/i/publication\\_tcm4651543.asp](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/publications/i/publication_tcm4651543.asp).

Furthermore, the Scottish Government believes that all children and young people should benefit from an education system that is engaging, relevant, tailored to their needs, and best prepares them for their future lives irrespective of their social, economic or ethnic background. Certainly the education system in Scotland, Curriculum for Excellence, supports this aspiration. The system puts the learner at the centre of the curriculum which will lead to improved quality of learning and teaching and increased achievement and attainment for all children and young people, regardless of where that learning takes place.

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004, (as amended), provides the legal framework for identifying and addressing the additional support needs of children and young people who face a barrier, or barriers, to learning including Gypsy/Traveller children in Scotland. The Act aims to ensure that all children and young people are provided with the necessary support to help them work towards achieving their full potential. It also promotes collaborative working among all those supporting children and young people and sets out parents’ rights within the system.

HMIe also produced a publication in 2005 which builds on self evaluation guidance given in *How good is our school?*, entitled *Taking a closer look at: Inclusion and Equality – meeting the needs of Gypsies and Travellers*. This guide can be used by schools to evaluate the quality of their approaches to inclusion and equality relating to Gypsy/Travellers, and also provide examples of best practice.

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive how it is promoting adult learning among the Gypsy/Traveller communities. (S4W-1578)

**Reply from Angela Constance:** The Scottish Government believes in a Scotland where all Scots should benefit from an education system that is engaging, relevant, tailored to their needs, and best prepares them for their future lives irrespective of their social, economic or ethnic background.

We expect that approach to be followed by learning providers everywhere. A number of adult learning providers also engage directly with these communities at a local level.

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive what site management guidance it provides to local authorities that support the rights of Gypsy/Travellers. (S4W-1567)

**Reply from Michael Matheson:** The existing site management guidance was published in January 1998 by the then Secretary of State’s Advisory Committee

## Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

on Scotland's Travelling People. We are presently considering a review of the guidance on site management. An exact date of publication cannot be confirmed at the current time.

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive whether it is reviewing the Gypsy/Traveller site management guidance provided to local authorities and, if so, when new guidance will be issued. (S4W-1568)

**Reply from Michael Matheson:** The Scottish Government is presently considering review of the guidance on site management. An exact date of publication cannot be confirmed at the current time.

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive what it estimates to be the size of the Gypsy/Traveller communities, broken down by local authority area. (S4W-1571)

**Reply from Michael Matheson:** The estimated total population of Gypsy/Traveller communities for Scotland is 2,120. Estimated figures by local authority areas are shown in the table below.

Local Authority	Estimated Number of Households	Estimated Gypsy/ Traveller Population
Aberdeen	34	105
Aberdeenshire	20	62
Angus	14	43
Argyll and Bute	17	53
Clackmannanshire	4	12
Dumfries & Galloway	63	195
Dundee	20	62
East Ayrshire	16	50
East Dunbartonshire	0	0
East Renfrewshire	0	0
East/ Midlothian	6	19
Edinburgh	31	96
Eilean Siar	0	0
Falkirk	31	96
Fife	91	282
Glasgow	0	0
Highland	66	205
Inverclyde	23	71
Moray	14	43
North Ayrshire	10	31
North Lanarkshire	2	6
Orkney	0	0
Perth and Kinross	41	127
Renfrewshire	11	34
Scottish Borders	12	37
Shetland	0	0
South Ayrshire	9	28
South Lanarkshire	92	285
Stirling	4	12
West Dunbartonshire	23	71
West Lothian	30	93
Estimated Total	684 (a)	2,120 (b)

(a) The estimated household figures in the table are based on a count undertaken by the Scottish Government in July 2009.

## Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

(b) The average household size across all council/registered Social Landlord sites was 3.1. This average of 3.1 has been applied as a working assumption to the number of caravans on unauthorised encampments and private sites to estimate the total population of Gypsies/Travellers living on sites in Scotland.

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive how many pitches there are on each (a) local authority-managed and (b) privately run site for Gypsy/Travellers, broken down by local authority area. (S4W-1572)

**Reply from Michael Matheson:** (a) The number of pitches within each local authority-managed sites is shown in the following table.

Local Authority	Number of Pitches
Aberdeen	21
Aberdeenshire	20
Angus	18
Argyll and Bute	32
Clackmannanshire	16
Dumfries & Galloway	32
Dundee	20
East Ayrshire	0
East Dunbartonshire	15
East Renfrewshire	0
East/ Midlothian (i)	20
Edinburgh	20
Eilean Siar	0
Falkirk	15
Fife	50
Glasgow	10
Highland	48
Inverclyde	0
Moray	0
North Ayrshire	16
North Lanarkshire	0
Orkney	0
Perth and Kinross	20
Renfrewshire	0
Scottish Borders	10
Shetland	0
South Ayrshire	8
South Lanarkshire	28
Stirling	18
West Dunbartonshire	20
West Lothian	21
Total (ii)	478

Notes: (i) East and Midlothian Councils jointly operate a site.

(ii) The figures in the table are based on a count which was undertaken by the Scottish Government in 2009.

(b) Information on the number of pitches on privately run sites for Gypsy/Travellers is not collected centrally by the Scottish Government.

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive what guidance it provides to the police on moving on Gypsy/Travellers from unauthorised sites. (S4W-1574)



## Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Reply from Michael Matheson:** The Scottish Government guidelines on managing unauthorised camping aim to help the police and local authorities to develop their own strategies for managing encampments.

The guidelines discuss the importance of suitable site provision for Gypsies/Travellers as an alternative option to unauthorised camping. The guidelines also set out the relevant legislation and powers available to local authorities and the police. Please find the following link to the guidelines for your information <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/publications/2004/12/20417/48825>.

Further, the Police role in the management of unauthorised encampments is clearly specified within the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS) guidance on the issue.

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive what action the NHS is taking to increase GP registration and ensure better access to healthcare for Gypsy/Travellers. (S4W-1575)

**Reply from Nicola Sturgeon:** NHS boards are responsible for providing primary medical services and for ensuring that these services recognise cultural diversity and respond to the healthcare needs of all ethnic groups and communities.

There should be no barriers to Gypsy/Travellers accessing or receiving health services and the GP registration regulations apply equally to members of the travelling and settled populations.

A GP practice can only refuse an application if it has reasonable grounds for doing so which do not relate to the applicant's race, gender, social class, age, religion, sexual orientation, appearance, disability or medical condition. A patient does not need to be resident in a practice area to be accepted and the regulations specifically provide for applications from temporary residents who are moving from place to place. The regulations also provide for health boards to assign a patient to a GP practice as necessary.

The Scottish Government has funded and been involved in a number of programmes and initiatives to engage with the Gypsy/Traveller communities to improve access and to tackle their health inequalities. These include the introduction of a patient hand held record to improve their access to healthcare; an action research project in Lothian on mental health and wellbeing; a strategy in West Dunbartonshire to improve access to health services, and a multi agency action plan in Highland.

NHS Health Scotland works with health boards to advise and support in delivering equality and diversity, eliminating discrimination and reducing health inequalities. The Gypsy/Traveller group has now been specified within the standard ethnicity classifications for Scotland and the results of the 2011 census and increased ethnic monitoring in NHSScotland will further enhance understanding of Gypsy/Travellers' health needs and experiences, and inform boards' future service developments and outreach initiatives for this group.

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will conduct a needs-based analysis for the future provision of (a) sites and (b) services for Gypsy/Travellers. (S4W-1583)

**Reply from Michael Matheson:** The Scottish Government has no plans to conduct a national needs-based analysis focused on Gypsy/Traveller communities

Assessment of housing need by local authorities is carried out through a Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA). Scottish Government Guidance on this was issued in March 2008 and refers local authorities to UK Government Guidance *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment Guidance Communities and Local Government, October 2007*.

## Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Many Scottish local authorities have commissioned additional research into the accommodation needs of Gypsies/Travellers within their areas, as part of preparing their Local Housing Strategies.

Guidance on preparing Local Housing Strategies, issued by the Scottish Government in June 2008, includes advice on how to assess the needs of all minority ethnic communities.

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive what steps are being taken to ensure the involvement and engagement of the Gypsy/Traveller communities with the (a) Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and (b) 2014 year of homecoming. (S4W-1585)

**Reply from Michael Matheson:** The Scottish Government takes seriously our responsibility to equalities and inclusion. For example, to help shape the Scotland-wide games legacy plan, *A games legacy for Scotland*, we consulted widely and held a series of public meetings across the country to which all groups and individuals were invited to contribute. Two of the five underpinning principles of the legacy plan are around ensuring equality and enabling diversity.

We continue to work with partners to look for opportunities to ensure that the voices of all of Scotland's diverse communities, including the Gypsy/Traveller communities, are heard during the planning through to the delivery stages of the Commonwealth Games and Homecoming 2014.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s4/bills/documents/DailyWrittenAnswerWednesday4August2011265KBpdf.pdf>

### Gypsy/Travellers

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive what the average level of occupancy is on local authority-managed Gypsy/Traveller sites. (S4W-1579)

**Reply from Aileen Campbell:** The latest figures available, based on a count undertaken by the Scottish Government in July 2009, showed that there were a total of 478 pitches on local authority / registered social landlord sites. Of these, 345 pitches (72%) were let and 61 pitches (13%) were available for let but not tenanted. The remaining 72 pitches (15%) were not available for let. Site reports indicate that unavailable pitches were due to vandalism and refurbishment.

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive whether it considers that there is sufficient capacity on local authority-managed sites to accommodate all Gypsy/Travellers who apply for a pitch. (S4W-1580)

**Reply from Aileen Campbell:** The latest figures available, based on a count undertaken by the Scottish Government in July 2009, showed that there are 31 local authority/registered social landlord (RSLs) managed sites across Scotland. Of these, 15 sites were fully let and 15 sites had available pitches for let. The remaining site was empty but had no available pitches.

In order to address the demand for available pitches on local authority / RSL managed sites, we are working with local authorities in key areas to promote identification of short stay sites. Short stay sites are temporary stop-offs used by Gypsies and Travellers who are simply passing through an area for a specific period of time. There are currently no short stay sites in Scotland.

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive what guidance it issues to local authorities on the use of unauthorised sites by Gypsy/Travellers and how it defines an unauthorised site. (S4W-1582)

**Reply from Aileen Campbell:** The Scottish Government issued Guidelines for Managing Unauthorised Camping by Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland in December 2004. These guidelines aim to strike a balance between the needs and legitimate

## Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

expectations of members of the settled community, local businesses and landowners and the Gypsy/Traveller community.

The guidelines are aimed primarily at local authorities and the police who share responsibility for managing unauthorised camping. Please find the following link to the guidelines for your information:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/publications/2004/12/20417/48825>.

An unauthorised site is one where a camp has been set up without seeking permission. Unauthorised encampments are set up on a typically short-term basis by Gypsies/Travellers when travelling through or visiting an area. Unauthorised sites can also arise when families are having difficulty finding somewhere to settle, either because there are no available pitches on a council/registered social landlord or they are refused entry to privately owned/holiday sites.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s4/bills/documents/WA20110810.pdf>

## Press Release

### First Minister's Ramadan Message

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/08/01105526>

## News

### Applications requested for the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Equality Advisory Group

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/corporate/spcb/documents/EqualityGroupRemit2011.pdf>

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## Other News

### Commission launches human rights resource for public sector

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2011/august/commission-launches-human-rights-resource-for-public-sector/>

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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](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/>

## Consultations (continued)

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

[http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/downloadFile?contentID=HMCE\\_P ROD1\\_031398](http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/downloadFile?contentID=HMCE_P ROD1_031398)

**\*\* Do we need a UK Bill of Rights?** (11 November 2011)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/about/cbr/cbr-discussion-paper.pdf>

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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!**

### **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>

**\*\* this week!**

### **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](http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/adds/11iv_bemis.pdf) and [http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/adds/11iv\\_bemis2.pdf](http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/adds/11iv_bemis2.pdf) or contact Tanveer Parnez [tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk](mailto:tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk) / 0141 548 8047.

**\*\* Asylum Support – the essentials**

2 September 2011 in Glasgow (

Scottish Refugee Council course for people supporting those going through the asylum process. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. Special offer - two delegate places for the cost of one on all Scottish Refugee Council training courses throughout September and October. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / [train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/934\\_ukba\\_asylum\\_support - the essentials](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/934_ukba_asylum_support_-_the_essentials)

**\*\* Using the Public Sector Equality Duty – a tool for the voluntary sector**

8 September 2011 in Glasgow (10.00 – 3.30)

Equality and Human Rights Commission conference to discuss the new Public Sector Equality Duty, and help voluntary and community organisations plan how to use the duty to ensure that public services meet the diverse needs of communities. For information see [http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/11ix\\_ehrc.pdf](http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/11ix_ehrc.pdf) or contact David Reilly [equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com](mailto:equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com) / 0141 228 5967

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **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. Special offer - two delegate places for the cost of one on all Scottish Refugee Council training courses throughout September and October. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / [train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see [http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1011\\_working\\_with\\_interpreters](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1011_working_with_interpreters)

### **An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees**

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. Special offer - two delegate places for the cost of one on all Scottish Refugee Council training courses throughout September and October. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/3gnyvmm> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / [train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **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. Special offer - two delegate places for the cost of one on all Scottish Refugee Council training courses throughout September and October. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / [train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see [http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1103\\_an\\_introduction\\_to\\_working\\_with\\_separated\\_children](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](mailto: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](http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/11x_nrs_conference.doc)



## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **\*\* New Muslim Cool**

22 March 2012 in Glasgow (all day)

Faith Matters event about the work of Hamza Perez a Muslim Hispanic American whose multi-faith work has seen Christians and Jews support him during difficult times post 9/11. For information contact [pa@faith-matters.co.uk](mailto:pa@faith-matters.co.uk) / 0207 554 8847 or see <http://faith-matters.org/images/stories/Faith%20Matters%20New%20Muslim%20Cool%20UK%20Tour%20March%202010.pdf>

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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](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](http://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](http://www.acas.org.uk)

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

**Volunteer Development Scotland** [www.vds.org.uk](http://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](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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