

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, and that the Scottish Parliament website has recently been redesigned, so that links published in previous issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on the Scottish Parliament website, copy the details from MEMO into the search facility at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/help/searchadvanced.aspx>.

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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Ministerial Statement

The Draft Immigration (Biometric Registration) Regulations 2012

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The Government are today laying before the House the draft Immigration (Biometric Registration) Regulations 2012. These will complete the roll-out of biometric immigration documents, known as biometric residence permits (BRPs), to all in-country categories of foreign nationals applying to extend their stay in the UK for over six months from 29 February 2012, including settlement, recognised refugees and protection categories.

This is required for the UK to comply with EU regulations (European Council Regulation (EC) No. 1030/2002 of 13 June 2002 Regulation, amended in April 2008 by Council Regulation (EC) No. 380/2008) that the UK opted in to and which lay down a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals. The UK Border Agency has been rolling out biometric immigration documents, known as biometric residence permits, by immigration category since November 2008.

We have made significant progress since the roll-out of biometric residence permits began in September 2008 and will complete the in-country roll-out three months before the EU deadline.

The roll-out to overseas applicants coming to the UK for more than six months and to in-country applications made prior to a biometric registration requirement needs significant infrastructure and system changes. No major technical changes are to be made to systems during the accreditation period of the games which runs from 30 March 2012 to 8 November 2012, to ensure that the integrity and robustness of our systems is maintained during this critical time.

For the overseas roll-out of biometric permits, we will return to Parliament with our plans, including policy proposals, for the final stage of the roll-out which will be after the accreditation period of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. To manage the changes required to roll out to any migrant who applied in-country before a requirement to apply for a biometric residence permit, we will continue to issue a sticker (vignette) as evidence of leave until 1 December 2012. Any migrant granted leave of more than six months from this date will be required by these regulations to apply for a biometric residence permit if they have not done so already.

To manage the increased volumes of applicants registering their fingerprints and digital facial image, I am pleased to announce that the UK Border Agency has awarded the contract for delivering third-party enrolment to the Post Office Ltd.

Biometric residence permits simplify the checks that the UK Border Agency, employers and public service providers need to undertake to confirm immigration status and eligibility to entitlements in the UK. Our plans to introduce an automated online employers checking service for biometric residence permits from spring next year will make it even easier for employers to conduct quick and easy real-time checks on the validity of the document.

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111206/wmstext/111206m0001.htm#11120641000006>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Anna Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that genuine students from overseas will be able to continue to study theology at private colleges. [85197]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Damian Green: My officials continue to discuss implementation of the student visa rules with theological colleges. The Government have been clear that genuine high quality educational institutions have nothing to fear from our reforms of student visas, which ensure that we can continue to attract the best students whose main motivation is study. No permanent limit has been placed on student visas.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111206/text/111206w0002.htm#11120665000017>

Asylum

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have (a) applied for asylum and been refused, (b) appealed to the Immigration Appeals Tribunal against such refusal and (c) had their appeal refused by the Immigration Appeals Tribunal; and of those numbers how many her Department estimates have (i) left the jurisdiction voluntarily and (ii) been subject to enforced removal in each of the last five years. [85207]

Reply from Damian Green: The following tables show the number of people who applied for asylum in a given year and how many subsequently:

(a) were refused asylum and, of which, how many have had a removal or voluntary departure;

(b) appealed to the Immigration Appeals Tribunal/Tribunals Service Immigration and Asylum against such refusal and, of which, how many have had a removal or voluntary departure; and

(c) had their appeal refused and, of which, how many have had a removal or voluntary departure.

Information on whether the departure was voluntary or an enforced removal is not available; instead the departure type has been split into available categories of 'enforced removals and notified voluntary departures' and 'assisted voluntary return and other voluntary departures'.

Data on asylum and removal outcomes are available in the asylum table as.06 of the quarterly Immigration Statistics. The latest release: "Immigration Statistics July - September 2011" is available in the Library of the House and the Home Office Science website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>

<i>Outcome analysis of asylum applications, as at May 2011</i>					
		<i>Refused asylum, HP or DL (a) (i) and (ii)</i>			
	<i>Total main applicants</i>	<i>Refused asylum, HP or DL</i>	<i>Removals and voluntary departures</i>	<i>Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures</i>	<i>Assisted voluntary returns and other voluntary departures</i>
2006	23,608	16,415	4,722	3,752	970
2007	23,431	15,203	4,179	3,238	941
2008	25,932	15,035	3,998	3,013	985
2009	24,487	15,211	3,518	2,583	935
2010	17,916	11,304	2,907	2,117	790

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

		<i>Appeals lodged (b) (i) and (ii)</i>			
	<i>Total main applicants</i>	<i>Appeals lodged</i>	<i>Removals and voluntary departures</i>	<i>Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures</i>	<i>Assisted voluntary returns and other voluntary departures</i>
2006	23,608	11,519	2,247	1,544	703
2007	23,431	10,462	1,975	1,300	675
2008	25,932	11,794	1,738	1,088	650
2009	24,487	12,794	1,705	1,051	654
2010	17,916	8,943	1,391	919	472

		<i>Dismissed appeals (c) (i) and (ii)</i>			
	<i>Total main applicants</i>	<i>Dismissed appeals</i>	<i>Removals and voluntary departures</i>	<i>Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures</i>	<i>Assisted voluntary returns and other voluntary departures</i>
2006	23,608	8,375	2,138	1,481	657
2007	23,431	7,421	1,796	1,208	588
2008	25,932	7,963	1,592	1,014	578
2009	24,487	8,252	1,583	988	595
2010	17,916	5,899	1,273	869	404

Notes: 1. Data relating to applications or decisions made in 2010 and 2011 are provisional figures. 2. Statistics compiled on 9 May 2011. Further initial decisions, appeals and removals and voluntary departures will have occurred since this time. 3. Year relates to the period in which the application was made; the initial decisions and appeals within a 'year of application' may have been made in a later year. 4. Refusals exclude withdrawn applications. 5. Excludes outcomes of cases reconsidered prior to appeal. Excludes cases which were successful after appeal to the Upper Tribunal of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber. 6. 'Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures' figures include asylum removals performed by UK Border Agency officers using in-country powers of removal and a small number of cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls. 7. Since October 2006, 'enforced removals and notified voluntary departures' include people leaving under facilitated return schemes. 8. 'Assisted voluntary returns' may include some on-entry cases and some cases where enforcement action has been initiated. 9. 'Other voluntary departures' are people who it has been established left without informing the immigration authorities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111206/text/111206w0001.htm#11120665000012>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum: Finance

Eilidh Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what emergency facilities are available for users of the section 4 payment card whose weekly resources have been exceeded. [84276]

Reply from Damian Green: There are no such facilities. Supported persons are expected to live within the prescribed weekly credit limit of £35.39 per person.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111206/text/111206w0001.htm#11120665000013>

Press Releases

Biometric residence permits – online checks to simplify the process for employers

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/december/13-brp-online-checks>

Changes to appeals against immigration and asylum decisions from 19 December 2011

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/december/23-appeal-fees>

A common set of rights for foreign workers under the new single permit

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20111205IPR33210/html/A-common-set-of-rights-for-foreign-workers-under-the-new-single-permit>

New Publications

Chinese migrants: Their experiences in their own words

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/chinese-migrant-experience-full.pdf>

World Migration Report 2011

http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main_page=redirect&action=url&goto=publications.iom.int%2Fbookstore%2Ffree%2FWMR2011_English.pdf&zenid=f838c3201667ef014e1754354073f6b5

News

Yarl's Wood detains too many pregnant women, prisons inspector says

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/dec/07/yarls-wood-pregnant-women-report>

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Equality

Press Release

New arrangements for information, advice and support on discrimination and human rights

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/equalities/government-equality/New-service-further-info/>

Equality (continued) News

Trevor Phillips attacks 'bonkers' use of Human Rights Act

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/8949046/Trevor-Phillips-attacks-bonkers-use-of-Human-Rights-Act.html>

Human rights should help us protect the vulnerable

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Society/article841026.ece

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Press Release

People of African descent's experiences of racism need to be recognised

http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/11-12-02_Abolition%20of%20Slavery_Sp.pdf

New Publication

Community Security Trust: Antisemitic Discourse in Britain in 2010

http://www.thecst.org.uk/docs/Antisemitic_Discourse_Report_%202010.pdf

News

Labour outlines its plan to tackle sectarianism

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-16131515>

Teen tells of attack by racist bus thug

http://www.scotsman.com/edinburgh-evening-news/edinburgh/around-the-capital/teen_tells_of_attack_by_racist_bus_thug_1_1991774

Woman filmed allegedly shouting racial abuse on tram will spend Christmas in prison

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2011/dec/06/christmas-prison-women-tram-youtube>

Muslim rioters say police discrimination motivated them

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/dec/08/muslim-rioters-police-discrimination-motivated>

Dolls And Diversity: Fighting Prejudice With Empathy

http://citiesofmigration.ca/good_idea/dolls-and-diversity-fighting-prejudice-with-empathy/

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Other Holyrood

New Publication

MSPs' expenses information published

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/45112.aspx>

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Other Westminster

Press Release

Foreign Secretary marks International Human Rights Day

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=703947382>

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Other News

Moderator's Medal

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/speak_out/education/articles/moderators_medal

Infant male circumcision is genital mutilation

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/the-lay-scientist/2011/dec/06/1>

Where are Britain's black writers?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/dec/05/where-are-britains-black-writers>

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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/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/29678.aspx>

Revised Explanatory Notes

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Offensive%20Behaviour%20at%20Football%20and%20Threatening%20Communications%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b1as4-stage2-en-rev.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Offensive%20Behaviour%20at%20Football%20and%20Threatening%20Communications%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b1as4-stage2-en-rev.pdf)

Subordinate Legislation Committee Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/45058.aspx>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/45068.aspx>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/45126.aspx>

Bills in Progress (continued) **Westminster**

Human Trafficking (Further Provisions and Support for Victims) Bill

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

Scotland Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Migration Advisory Committee: level of the 2012/13 annual limit on tier 2 and associated policies (21 December 2011)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/mac-evidence-document>

Public Focus Strategy (closes 23 December 2011)

http://www.oscr.org.uk/media/279989/public_focus_strategy.pdf

Right to family reunification of third-country nationals living in the EU

(1 March 2012)

http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/consulting_public/consulting_0023_en.htm

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Job Opportunities

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Celebrating International Migrants' Day 2011

14 December 2011 in Glasgow (5.30 – 8.30)

GRAMNet and Migrants' Rights Scotland in partnership with BEMIS, Migrant Voice and Glasgow Human Rights Network celebration of the lives, achievements, courage and resilience of migrants all over the world. For information see

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children & Young People

16th (9.30-4.30pm) & 17th (9.30-12.30pm) January 2012 in Edinburgh

13th (9.30-4.30pm) & 14th(9.30-12.30pm) February 2012in Edinburgh

19th(9.30-4.30pm) & 20th(9.30-12.30pm) March 2012in Edinburgh

Shakti training to increase awareness and understanding of issues facing Minority Ethnic women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse. For information contact Mridul, Lisa, or Aleksandra 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Research, Ethics and Active Citizenship: Towards Guidelines for Ethical Research Practice

18 January 2012 in Glasgow (11.30 – 3.30)

BEMIS and GRAMNet seminar to discuss how changes in social science and humanities research methods have led to a deeper commitment to active citizenship and human rights education. For information contact seminar@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047 or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/12ii_bemis.pdf.

Towards Guidelines for Ethical Research Practice

Week of 13 February – date still to be confirmed – in Edinburgh

BEMIS and GRAMNet consultation on the subject of guidelines for ethical research practice in social sciences and humanities. For information contact seminar@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047 or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/12ii_bemis.pdf.

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 / 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

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

Useful Links (continued)

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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