

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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The Scottish Parliament is in recess from 10 to 20 February 2012, the UK Parliament House of Commons from 9 to 20 February 2012, and the House of Lords from 16 to 27 February 2012.

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Debate

Human Trafficking

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120208/halltext/120208h0002.htm#12020837000001>

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Immigration and Nationality Services

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): I am announcing proposals to change the fees for immigration and nationality applications made to the UK Border Agency. The

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

Government review these fees on a regular basis and make appropriate changes as necessary. I am today laying regulations for fees that are set at levels above the estimated administrative costs of the service. We have continued with our strategic approach to charging; setting certain fees above cost on the basis of the value of the service.

Given the ongoing need to reduce public spending, we believe it is right that we continue to seek to reduce the burden on UK taxpayers of delivering the border and immigration system by asking migrants to make a greater contribution to the funding of the UK Border Agency. The UK Border Agency has given careful consideration to its fee levels, to ensure it can maintain good service levels to customers and secure the border for the general public.

Some fees are set above the administrative cost of providing the service to generate the revenue which is used to help fund the UK immigration system and which enables others to be set below cost recovery to support wider Government objectives. The revenue generated will contribute towards securing the UK's border and controlling migration for the benefit of the UK. These fees must be set out in regulations before both Houses of Parliament and are subject to the affirmative legislative procedure. In addition, I will shortly lay another set of regulations in Parliament for the fees for immigration and nationality services that are set at or below the administrative cost of the service. Further details of all fees changes will be outlined in the explanatory memoranda accompanying both sets of regulations. Subject to parliamentary approval the Government hope to bring the new fees into force from 6 April 2012.

Details of all the proposed increases are set out in the table attached (new fees are shown in italics). The table includes indicative unit costs for each application for financial year 2012-13. The unit cost is the estimated average cost to the UK Border Agency of processing each application. Although these unit costs are not fixed over the course of the financial year, the unit costs are published so it is clear which fees we set over cost and by how much.

In developing these proposals, the UK Border Agency has sought to limit most increases to approximately 2%. In addition, the fees paid by dependants, for applications made within the UK, are being maintained at the current level of 50% of a main applicant's fee. In future the UK Border Agency will look to charge the same fee in the UK for dependants and main applicants, as currently already happens for visa applications made overseas. Full details on how to apply for all of these services will be provided on the UK Border Agency's website, www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk.

To read the table of fees see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120209/wmstext/120209m0001.htm#12020944000009>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

NHS: Foreign Nationals

Lord Stoddart of Swindon: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to implement a requirement for up-front payments by foreign nationals before treatment in the National Health Service except in the case of emergencies incurred in the United Kingdom, in the light of reports that foreign nationals are failing to pay for treatments carried out by the National Health Service.[HL15306]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): Entitlement to free National Health Service hospital treatment is based on ordinary residence in the United Kingdom (lawful, properly settled residence), or exemption from charge under the NHS (Charges to Overseas

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Visitors) Regulations 2011. These regulations place a legal obligation on NHS hospitals to identify overseas visitors that are not exempt from charge and to make and recover charges from them. Guidance to the NHS makes clear that the full cost of non-urgent treatment should be recovered in advance from patients who are neither ordinarily resident in the UK nor exempt. The guidance is also clear that immediately necessary and urgent treatment must be provided even if payment has not been received in advance.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120207w0001.htm#12020784000513>

Migrant Workers: Bulgarians and Romanians

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government when self-employed Romanian and Bulgarian nationals who have paid no national insurance contributions or income tax become eligible to claim social security benefits; and under what circumstances they are currently eligible for housing benefit.[HL15099]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): In considering any application for welfare benefits, a range of information and evidence to confirm an individual's status must be provided. In the case of self-employed people, including Romanian and Bulgarian nationals, this will include proof of the work they are undertaking and the amount they are earning. If they are exempt from paying tax and national insurance contributions they should provide their small earnings exemption certificate issued by HMRC to confirm that they are not required to pay as their earnings are below the tax and national insurance threshold. Self-employed Romanian and Bulgarian nationals, like any other self-employed person in Britain, may claim housing benefit while they are working.

During periods of unemployment Romanian and Bulgarian nationals who are normally self-employed only have a right to reside in the UK if they are self-sufficient. They are not able to claim jobseeker's allowance if they have not previously completed 12 months' work under the worker authorisation scheme.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120206w0001.htm#12020626000474>

Immigration

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government what effect the Zambrano ruling of the Court of Justice of the European Union in March 2010 on the granting of citizenship to "third country" parents of EU citizen children has had in the United Kingdom; and how many such parents have been granted residency here as a result.[HL15247]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): The Court of Justice of the European Union (ECJ) handed down the judgment in the case of Ruiz Zambrano (C-34/09) in March 2011. The Home Office is considering the implications of this judgment and its effect on the rights of third country nationals with a dependent Union citizen and is in the process of finalising its policy, including possible changes to the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') that would be required in order to enable the issue of documentation on this basis. To date no documentation confirming a right of residence on the basis of the Ruiz Zambrano judgment has therefore been issued. However, a certificate of application (CoA) will be issued to persons who can demonstrate that they potentially meet the scope of the judgment. This will in turn enable a person to work and reside in the UK whilst their application is pending and final Home Office policy is established.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120206w0001.htm#12020626000470>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration

The Earl of Sandwich: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people were detained in United Kingdom immigration and removal centres on 1 January 2012; what was the total number of those detained during 2011; and how many of those detained during 2011 have been removed and to which countries.[HL15295]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): The requested information is unavailable.

A figure for the number of people detained as at 1 January 2012 could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. The equivalent figure for 31 December 2011 will be published on 23 February 2012. Figures are published annually on 31 March, 30 June, 30 September.

The number of people entering detention in 2011 and the number of people removed on leaving detention in 2011, by country of nationality, will be published on 23 February 2012.

Published figures on people in detention relate to those solely detained under Immigration Act powers in immigration removal centres, short-term holding facilities and pre-departure accommodation and exclude those recorded as entering police cells, prison service establishments and short-term holding rooms at ports and airports (for less than 24 hours), those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants.

The Home Office publishes statistics on detention, solely under Immigration Act powers on a quarterly and annual basis, within Immigration Statistics, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Science, Research and Statistics website at: <http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/>.

2011 figures will be available on 23 February 2012 in Immigration Statistics October-December 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120209w0001.htm#12020951000558>

Child Detention (UK Ports)

Jo Swinson: What assessment she has made of child detention for immigration purposes on arrival at UK ports; and if she will make a statement. [93255]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): We always need to hold some families at the border, either until the next available return flight or until further inquiries are made, or, in the case of unaccompanied children, until alternative accommodation is arranged. Not to do so would weaken border security, and would not meet our duty of care to keep children safe.

Jo Swinson: I thank the Minister for his reply and warmly welcome the Government's efforts to end the detention of children in immigration removal centres such as Dungavel in Scotland. As he has said, some detention of children at ports and airports is necessary, and the average period of detention for children is currently about 10 hours. What is the Home Office doing to minimise the amount of time that children are detained for, and thus minimise the distress caused to the children involved?

Reply from Damian Green: I am grateful for my hon. Friend's support for our general approach of ending the detention of children for immigration purposes. She asked specifically about ports, and we have introduced tighter governance, which means that a greater level of authorisation is now required for the detention of a family in a removal centre or when detaining them for more than 25 hours or overnight. Family cases at ports of entry are specifically prioritised and dealt with as quickly as possible in order to minimise the time that families are held in short-term holding facilities.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Tom Brake: Can the Minister confirm that detailed statistics on children at ports of entry are now being kept? Will he tell us what type of accommodation they are required to be detained in, and whether the Government have any specific plans to reduce the number of children being detained in that way?

Reply from Damian Green: As I have already explained, we detain children largely for their own protection. In practical terms, if an unaccompanied child arrives at Heathrow in the early hours of the morning, keeping them in the room at Heathrow that is set aside for them is a lot more sensible than allowing them to roam the streets of London. I hope that my right hon. Friend will recognise that the accommodation in which they are kept is being improved, and that they are kept there for the minimum amount of time that we need before moving them on to somewhere where they can be safe.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120206/debtext/120206-0001.htm#1202063000010>

Asylum Seekers

Baroness Goudie: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied children who applied for asylum between 2005 and 2010 and were granted discretionary leave to remain have since applied to extend their leave to remain; and how many of these were (1) granted an extension to their leave to remain, or (2) refused an extension.[HL15137]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): The UK Border Agency records this information but it is not held in a format compatible with National Statistics protocols.

However, published statistics are available on a quarterly and annual basis which covers the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children granted discretionary leave. Between 2005 and 2010 the number of grants was 10,501.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120209w0001.htm#12020951000526>

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: What steps the police are taking to tackle human trafficking; and if she will make a statement. [93270]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): Police forces deal with trafficking as part of core business. Every one of the UK's 55 police forces has had an investigator trained in running human trafficking operations, and human trafficking is now part of mandatory training for all new police officers.

Fiona Mactaggart: Does the Minister accept that targeted police operations such as Golf and Pentameter led to some 1,000 arrests under the previous Government? His human trafficking strategy has no targets for police operations, apart from reporting that the National Crime Agency will lead to better co-ordination. Does that mean we will have to wait until 2013 and after the Olympics for effective police action against trafficking?

Reply from Damian Green: No. Moving on from only targeted operations to making anti-trafficking measures part of core police business was absolutely right and something I imagine the hon. Lady's party would have wanted to do if it had stayed in office. She will be aware, I am sure, of the importance of the "Blue Blindfold" awareness-raising campaign, which has now been spread to all police forces, and "Stop the Traffik" cards have been issued to 10,000 front-line neighbourhood police officers. That kind of practical action will make anti-trafficking measures by the police much more effective and widespread.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120206/debtext/120206-0001.htm#1202063000020>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking (Child Victims)

Sharon Hodgson: What steps she plans to take to reduce the number of child victims of human trafficking who go missing. [93256]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The Government's new missing children and adults strategy provides a core framework for local areas to put in place better arrangements to prevent children and adults from going missing. The strategy highlights examples of good practice that have reduced the number of missing trafficked children, and we are working to spread that good practice.

Sharon Hodgson: Does the Minister agree with ECPAT UK that the provision of an appointed guardian would ensure that child victims of trafficking would receive all the support that they needed, and that that would vastly reduce the number of children who are going missing? If he does agree with that, why are the Government still refusing to legislate on guardianship, despite such legislation having been called for in an EU directive and by many child welfare groups?

Reply from Damian Green: I do not think that making statutory provision for adding a guardian is necessary, because every looked-after child is already allocated a social worker and an independent reviewing officer, and is provided with access to an advocate. Those children are therefore already given a considerable amount of support. Also, in factual terms, the number of such children who are going missing, while still too high, is considerably lower than it was a few years ago. Local authorities are therefore getting to grips with that underlying problem as well.

Peter Bone: I haven't the foggiest idea how the Minister can say that, because local authorities do not identify trafficked children. I have the greatest respect for what he is doing in regard to trafficked children, but this is none the less the biggest hole in the Government's strategy. Child victims of human trafficking are looked after less well than adult victims. That cannot be right, and it has to be changed.

Reply from Damian Green: Let me explain to my hon. Friend how I arrived at those figures. They are not my figures; they are figures from the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, a body that is specifically involved in the protection of children. It said that, in 2007, 55% of such children went missing from care. That was an appalling figure, but it has most recently come down to 18%. I agree with my hon. Friend that that is still far too high, but he can see that local authorities are making considerable progress. In that respect, I particularly commend Hillingdon council, which is one of the most experienced councils in this regard, as it covers Heathrow. In 2009, 12% of unaccompanied children were going missing from its care; it has now reduced that number to 4%.

Chris Bryant: Tackling human trafficking undoubtedly requires strong international organisations and, in some cases, an international power of arrest to apprehend these criminals. Will the Minister answer a very simple question? Will he guarantee that he, unlike many of his party's Back-Bench Members who have called for it, will not withdraw from the European arrest warrant—yes or no?

Reply from Damian Green: I commend the hon. Gentleman's ingenuity in putting that question. As he will recognise, the vast majority of trafficking comes from outside the European Union, so his question, though ingenious, is not strictly relevant.

Henry Smith: What specific support can be given to local authorities with children's services responsibilities that have major ports, such as Gatwick airport in West Sussex, within their boundaries, particularly with respect to supporting 16 to 18-year-olds who are so often those who go missing?

Reply from Damian Green: My hon. Friend makes a good point in that local

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

authorities that have major ports within them tend, obviously, to face bigger problems with trafficked children but also tend to develop greater expertise as well. That is why bodies like CEOP and the United Kingdom Border Agency do their best to spread best practice around the country so that every local authority can know that it is performing as well as possible in this important area—

Ann Coffey: Does the Minister agree that if we are to prevent children from being trafficked within the UK, local agencies and parents need to be more aware of the early symptoms of sexual grooming, including repeated missing episodes? What more can he do to raise such awareness?

Reply from Damian Green: I agree completely, and I know the hon. Lady rightly takes a great interest in this area. As I say, it is a question of spreading best practice around all the agencies—not just local authorities but the police as well. We try hard to ensure that all police forces are much more aware of the specific symptoms of these types of problem so that they can treat anyone affected in the appropriate way.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120206/debtext/120206-0001.htm#1202063000011>

Press Releases

Illegal working: publishing details of employers who don't comply

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/february/23-illegal-working>

Guardianship scheme helps lone young asylum seekers rebuild their lives in Scotland

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/1499_guardianship_scheme_helps_lone_young_asylum_seekers_rebuild_their_lives_in_scotland

Nansen Refugee Award (nominations close on 29 February 2012)

<http://www.unhcr.org/nansen/49c3646c461.html>

New Publication

Operation Integration: the making of new citizens

<http://bit.ly/xjzCyX>

News

Roma community clean up city streets as they try to integrate into Scottish society

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2012/02/10/roma-community-clean-up-city-streets-as-they-try-to-integrate-into-scottish-society-86908-23743321/>

Employers named and shamed over illegal staff

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/employers-named-and-shamed-over-illegal-staff-1-2111088>

Security firm set for refugee housing deal

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/security-firm-set-for-refugee-housing-deal-6699783.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

NHS [England] translation bill tops £23m, says 2020 Health

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-16905491>

How Britain's migrants sewed the fabric of the nation

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/feb/05/britain-migrants-history-risky-state>

GPs profit from illegal immigrants

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Health/article871560.ece

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Race Relations

Welsh Assembly Government

Written Statement - Investigation Report on Funding of the All Wales Ethnic Minority Association

<http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2012/awema/?lang=en>

Investigation report of funding of the All Wales Ethnic Minority Association

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/caecd/publications/120209finalawemareportdated8Feb.pdf>

Press Releases

Recommendations of the European Roma Information Office to the Danish EU Presidency

<http://t.ymlp243.net/yweataehsqanauehagaey/s/click.php>

United States to Join the Decade as an Observer

http://www.romadecade.org/united_states_join_decade_feb_2012

New Publication

Multiculturalism: a Christian Retrieval

<http://theosthinktank.co.uk/files/files/Reports/Multiculturalism.pdf>

News

'Orderly exit' for Awema after ministers axe funding

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-16971352>

Lord Carey warns 'Christianity marginalised'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-16995239>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Gypsy Travellers

Siobhan McMahon: To ask the Scottish Executive how many offences against Gypsy Travellers have been recorded in the last 12 months. (S4O-00669)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Kenny MacAskill): That information is not held centrally. Police recorded crime figures are based on an aggregate data return from each of the eight police forces, which does not include information on victims or their ethnic group.

Siobhan McMahon: I hope that we can look at ways of recording such information in the future, because we do not have information about offences that have been taking place for a considerable time.

Does the cabinet secretary agree that Gypsy Travellers remain at considerable risk of racially aggravated crime and that more needs to be done to protect them? He will be aware of the latest social attitudes survey, which indicates that 37 per cent of the population still hold prejudicial attitudes to Gypsy Travellers and that 92 per cent of young Gypsy Travellers experience some form of bullying because of their ethnic origin. We can infer from that that prejudicial attitudes to Gypsy Travellers are still prevalent. What action will the cabinet secretary take to offset that?

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: Siobhan McMahon raises an interesting and important question. The information is not recorded because it is not straightforward. The recording category of “other ethnic white” would include many in the Gypsy Traveller community, but it also includes many from an eastern European background. We are happy to look at such matters. The Gypsy Traveller community incorporates not just Scottish and Irish Travellers but Gypsies and the Roma community.

The fundamental point that Ms McMahon raises is not so much about the importance of recording crime, although we view that as important and the police and the prosecution take it on board, as about the discrimination that—sadly—exists against the travelling community, whether they are ethnic Scottish and Irish Travellers or are from the Roma community and have come in with east European immigration. The Government takes action to provide support through Article 12 in Scotland, the Minority Ethnic Carers of Older People Project and the Scottish Traveller education programme. I am happy to discuss matters and engage further with Ms McMahon and those who represent the Gypsy Traveller community. I assure Ms McMahon that we take any prejudice against the Gypsy Traveller community seriously. Such matters are incorporated in the Race Relations Act 1976 and we recognise our obligations under other portfolios to look after the community and protect its interests. Whether people are from the travelling community or are different from others in our community, they are still citizens of this land and they are entitled to the dignity, respect and treatment that everybody else receives.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6823&mode=html#iob_61832

News

Train sectarian cases soar

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/transport/train-sectarian-cases-soar.16690590>

Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt warns on football racism

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17001503>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Archbishop of York gets racist emails over gay marriage views

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-16908955>

David Cameron hosts 'anti racism' football summit at Downing Street

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9076946/David-Cameron-hosts-anti-racism-football-summit-at-Downing-Street.html>

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Other Holyrood

Press Releases

HM The Queen

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/02/TheQueen06022012>

Rules governing Cross-Party Groups to be examined

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/46881.aspx>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Police Custody: Ethnic Groups

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged 18 to 24 years old were held in custody in each year since 2008; and what proportion and how many such people were (a) women and (b) black and ethnic minorities. [93040]

Reply from Crispin Blunt: The following table shows the number of 18 to 24-year-olds in prison in England and Wales, and the proportions that are (a) female and (b) from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups, as at 30 June in each year since 2008.

June	Total aged 18-24	of which : female		of which : BME	
		Number	%	Number	%
2008	22,218	1,070	5	6,533	29
2009	22,824	959	4	6,702	29
2010 ⁽¹⁾	22,852	994	4	6,507	28
2011	21,974	903	4	6,325	29

⁽¹⁾ Due to the introduction of a new prison IT system, prison population data from 2010 onwards is taken from a different source.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120206/text/120206w0001.htm#12020610000058>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Crime: Ethnic Groups

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of (a) people, (b) women and (c) black and minority ethnic people aged 18 to 24-years-old who received a criminal conviction had previously been convicted of one or more criminal offences in the 12 months preceding their offence in each year since 2008. [93042]

Reply from Crispin Blunt: The following table gives the number and proportion of sentencing occasions where an offender, aged between 18 and 24, had received a criminal conviction for an indictable offence and had been convicted of one or more criminal offences in the 12 months preceding their sentence, in each year since 2008, by gender and ethnic group.

These figures are a further breakdown of Table A7.9 of "Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly update to December 2010" published by Ministry of Justice on 26 May 2011. The full report can be found at the following link:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice-stats/criminal-stats-quarterly-dec10.pdf>

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Number and proportion of sentencing occasions, for indictable offences, where the offender was aged 18 and 24 and had received at least one conviction in the previous 12 months, by gender and ethnicity, 2008 to 2010

	<i>All sentencing occasions for indictable offences</i>	<i>Sentencing occasions where the offender had been convicted in the previous 12 months</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
<i>2008</i>			
All ⁽¹⁾	97,563	50,836	52.1
Male	85,653	45,411	53.0
Female	11,842	5,412	45.7
White	78,598	42,614	54.2
Other ethnic group	17,722	7,853	44.3
<i>2009</i>			
All ⁽¹⁾	99,175	51,013	51.4
Male	87,081	45,801	52.6
Female	12,015	5,199	43.3
White	80,202	42,585	53.1
Other ethnic group	17,954	8,071	45.0
<i>2010</i>			
All ⁽¹⁾	101,693	51,810	50.9
Male	89,537	46,511	51.9
Female	12,040	5,273	43.8
White	81,883	43,057	52.6
Other ethnic group	18,770	8,387	44.7

⁽¹⁾Includes offenders of unknown gender and unknown ethnicity

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120206/text/120206w0001.htm#12020610000052>

Other Westminster (continued) **Press Releases**

Tribute for the Queen's 60th accession anniversary

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/pm-tribute-for-the-queens-60th-accession-anniversary/>

A world free from female genital cutting

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Stories/Features/2012/A-world-free-from-female-genital-cutting/>

Eric Pickles responds to high court judgement on council prayers

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/issuesandresponses/newsroom/2087430>

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New Publications

Protecting Charitable Status

http://www.oscr.org.uk/media/298944/2012-02-06_protecting_charitable_status_published.pdf

Ethnic Minority British Election Study – Key Findings

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/EMBESbriefingFINALx.pdf>

Video: The Black Vote - UK 2012

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=s5XjPc0Za-g

European Social Fund 2014-20 and UK civil society priorities

http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sites/default/files/uken_abstract_final.pdf

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Other News

3000 women in Scotland 'are victims of mutilation'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/3000-women-in-scotland-are-victims-of-mutilation.16666290>

Regulator's reviews help charities provide public benefit

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/regulator's-reviews-help-charities-provide-public-benefit/>

Fighting for the right to pray

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9076902/Fighting-for-the-right-to-pray.html>

Prayers before council meetings ruled unlawful

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9073801/Prayers-before-council-meetings-ruled-unlawful.html>

Councils 'should have right to say prayers', says Eric Pickles

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9074378/Councils-should-have-right-to-say-prayers-says-Eric-Pickles.html>

Local councils have right to say their prayers, says Eric Pickles

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2012/feb/10/local-councils-prayers-eric-pickles>

Other News (continued)

Christian leaders vow to fight council prayer ruling

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2012/feb/11/christian-leaders-council-prayer-ruling>

Civil partners win against gay discrimination appeal

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2012/february/civil-partners-win-against-gay-discrimination-appeal/>

The Islamic Development Bank and European Investment Bank join forces for cooperation

<http://www.eib.org/about/press/2012/2012-023-the-islamic-development-bank-and-eib-join-forces-for-cooperation.htm?media=rss&language=en?lang=en>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Holyrood

** Budget Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/45791.aspx>

Stage 3

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6820&mode=html#iob_61795

Bill passed

Police and Fire Reform Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/45701.aspx>

Bills in Progress

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

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

(closing date 1 March 2012)

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

DirectScot - Scotland's public services and information portal

(closing date 1 March 2012)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/01/DirectScot>

Consultations (continued)

Police and Fire Reform Bill (closing date 6 March 2012)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/46080.aspx>

Proposals for A Freedom Of Information (Amendment) Bill

(closing date 8 March 2012)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/365157/0124123.pdf>

Scotland's constitutional future (closing date 9 March 2012)

<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/files/17779-Cm-8203.pdf>

Forced marriage (closing date 30 March 2012)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/forced-marriage/>

**** Counter-terrorism stop and search powers code of practice**

(closing date 1 April 2012)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/consultation-ct-code/>

**** Review of Cross-Party Groups** (closing date 15 April 2012)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_StandardsProceduresandPublicAppointmentsCommittee/Inquiries/Call_for_evidenceCPG.pdf

Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill (closing date 30 April 2012)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_MembersBills/Final_version_as_lodged.pdf

**** General Medical Council Draft Guidance for the Investigation Committee and case examiners when they are considering allegations about a doctor's involvement in encouraging or assisting suicide** (closing date 4 May 2012)

[https://gmc.e-](https://gmc.e-consultation.net/econsult/consultation_Dtl.aspx?consult_Id=240&status=2&criteria=l)

[consultation.net/econsult/consultation_Dtl.aspx?consult_Id=240&status=2&criteria=l](https://gmc.e-consultation.net/econsult/consultation_Dtl.aspx?consult_Id=240&status=2&criteria=l)

Your Scotland – Your Referendum (closing date 11 May 2012)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0038/00386122.pdf>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

EU Funding

Migrant health: key infectious diseases affecting migrant populations in the EU/EEA

<http://www.enar-eu.org/Page.asp?docid=29216&langue=EN>

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**** this week!**

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children & Young People

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

**** this week!**

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

Promoting Youth Employability and Rights

21 February 2012 in Glasgow (9.30 – 3.30)

Conference jointly organised by BEMIS, the Scottish Refugee Council, STUC, CEMVO, and the Scottish Inter Faith Council to address gaps in support for youth employment, present new opportunities to help break barriers and discrimination in the job market, and seek to develop a charter on supporting youth employment. For information see http://bemis.org.uk/conference/yer/YER_Conference_Flyer.pdf or contact Tanveer Parnez conference@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047 or Sandra Walker

swalker@stuc.org.uk / 0141 337 8100.

Goals training

Last week of February 2012 (dates to be confirmed from 23/24, 27/28, or 28/29)

BEMIS training for Ethnic Minority Third Sector organisations and Volunteers to empower, motivate and build capacity of new community groups and organisations to be more active in decision-making processes and provide them with leadership skills. For information contact Tanveer Parnez 0141 548 8047 / tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk.

Tackling the exploitation of migrant workers: using employment and equality law

27 February 2012 in Aberdeen (10.30 – 3.00)

Equality and Human Rights Commission Migrant event to re-enforce advisor's knowledge of how to use the law to protect workers who are often vulnerable to exploitation at work.

For information contact David Reilly equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5967.

UKBA Asylum Support - The Essentials

28 February 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore the support arrangements available to asylum seekers from the beginning to the end of the asylum process. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/77beqc7> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Equality in employment

29 February 2012 in Glasgow (10.30 – 4.30)

GCVS training that includes recruitment, monitoring and dignity at work, and also examines issues around equality in volunteering. For information contact Stacey Anderson Stacey.anderson@gcvs.org.uk / 0141 332 2444.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

The Gathering

29 February – 1 March 2012 in Glasgow

SCVO seminars, exhibition, and marketplace with over 100 exhibitors. For the full programme see <http://www.gatherscotland.org.uk/programme-of-events/attend-an-event/>

Working with Interpreters

6 March 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work with non-English speaking service users, including asylum seekers and refugees, who need a comprehensive understanding of how to work with interpreters. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/6vjcbt8> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Tackling racism and promoting race equality for youth and community workers

9 March 2012 in Glasgow (9.30 – 3.45)

20 March 2012 in Glasgow (9.30 – 3.45)

Show Racism the Red Card training to raise awareness of issues of racism and its impact on young people, examine how race equality can be promoted, empower delegates to challenge racism and respond to racist incidents, and equip delegates with knowledge and resources to educate young people against racism. For information contact Ruth McGeoch support@theredcardscotland.org / 0141 222 2058.

Open Your Mind - Speak Out Against Racism

17–25 March 2012

European-wide Action Week Against Racism. For information and materials see http://www.unitedagainstracism.org/pages/infoARW_12.htm

Collecting and using Equalities information

20 March 2012 in Glasgow (10.30 – 4.30)

GCVS training to equalities monitoring including best practice examples, ideas on how to use the information you collect and practical tips for implementing successful monitoring systems. For information contact Stacey Anderson Stacey.anderson@gcvs.org.uk / 0141 332 2444.

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

22 March 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

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/7rl85rl> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

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 Charitable Incorporated Organisation 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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