

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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**The Scottish Parliament and UK Parliament House of Commons
return from recess on 20 February 2012.**

The UK Parliament House of Lords is in recess until 27 February 2012.

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Gypsies and Travellers

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of European Roma resident in England and Wales; and why the ministerial working group on preventing and tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers did not cover that population.[HL15414]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): There are no reliable estimates for the number of European Roma resident in England and Wales. Entrants to the United Kingdom are not monitored by ethnic origin.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Question (continued)

Roma were not excluded from the remit of the ministerial working group and come into scope where the issues overlap those of Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120215w0001.htm#12021562000193>

Press Releases

New student rules to attract brightest and best

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/new-student-immigration-rules>

Changes to Tier 1 application requirements

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/february/24-tier-1>

Chair of Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Migration Committee calls for improvements in the EU Family Reunification Directive

<http://tinyurl.com/7lvae9x>

Policies for integrating immigrants must be developed at local level based on a bottom-up approach

<http://www.cor.europa.eu/pages/PressTemplate.aspx?view=detail&id=3d21d4ff-39d5-48d2-88c1-1af1f38f769e>

New Publications

Changes affecting study, post-study work and maintenance requirements for students and workers - statement of intent

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/agencies-public-bodies/changes-study-visa-soi?view=Binary>

Turning a Blind Eye: The British state and migrant domestic workers' employment rights

<http://www.workinglives.org/londonmet/fms/MRSite/Research/wlri/WORKS/TaBE%20final%20report.pdf>

Immigration, Wages, and Compositional Amenities

http://www.norface-migration.org/publ_uploads/NDP_13_12.pdf

News

Court chaos follows interpreter change

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17009115>

Courts given green light to hire own interpreters as ALS struggles to cope

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2012/feb/16/courts-hire-interpreters-capita-failing>

Child asylum seekers get £1m Home Office compensation

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17082141>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

£2m paid out over child asylum seekers illegally detained as adults

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/feb/17/home-office-payout-child-asylum-seekers>

£1m payout to child asylum seekers

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/1m-payout-to-child-asylum-seekers-7102085.html>

Child asylum seeker: 'I begged not to be put in prison. They handcuffed me'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/feb/17/child-asylum-seeker-begged>

Police arrest 11 after protest against forced deportations

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/police-arrest-11-after-protest-against-forced-deportations-6956002.html?origin=internalSearch>

Activists blockade detention centres in protest over deportation plans

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/feb/14/activists-detention-centre-protest>

Huge rise in visas for the wealthy

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/huge-rise-in-visas-for-the-wealthy-6804821.html>

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Race Relations

Press Releases

Queen's speech about interfaith relations

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/LatestNewsandDiary/Speechesandarticles/2012/TheQueensspechatLambethpalace15February2012.aspx>

Baroness Warsi speech at the Vatican

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/baroness-warsi-speech-holy-see>

New Publication

Runnymede Bulletin (winter 2011-12)

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/368-BulletinWinter2011-2012.pdf>

News

Militant secularisation threat to religion, says Warsi

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17021831>

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Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Gypsies and Travellers

Baroness Whitaker: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will consult on a fresh definition of Gypsies and Travellers which would entitle all persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a caravan to Gypsy status for the purposes of planning policy and legislation.

Reply from Earl Attlee: My Lords, the Government published their new draft planning policy for Traveller sites for full public consultation last year. The consultation included a question about whether the current definition of Gypsies and Travellers for the purposes of planning policy should be retained. The Government are currently considering all responses to the consultation on their new draft planning policy.

Baroness Whitaker: My Lords, I am grateful to the Minister for his Answer as far as it goes. However, does he agree with me that the current definition forces ethnic Gypsies and Travellers who want to live in caravans according to their traditional way of life and seek planning permission for that purpose to demonstrate that they pursue a nomadic way of life, when current legislation and the lack of authorised sites makes it almost impossible for them to do so and consigns them to low-paid and erratic employment? For instance, a Gypsy who practised a profession that required living in one place-such as a doctor or an architect of my acquaintance-could not get planning permission for a caravan site on land that he had bought. Does the noble Earl agree? ...

Reply from Earl Attlee: My Lords, the noble Baroness's description of the current definition is right. Some of the responses to our consultation on our draft new planning policy for Travellers' sites suggested that there should be a separate consultation on the definition. The Government are considering all the responses to the consultation. We shall have to wait to see what emerges from that.

Lord Laming: My Lords, does the noble Earl accept that one of the greatest challenges in respect of those who live a nomadic life is to secure continuous and proper education for the next generation-the children-so that they can have not only a choice in their lifestyle in the future and settle into society but fulfil their potential as human beings?

Reply from Earl Attlee: My Lords, the noble Lord is absolutely right, which is why I saw a separate briefing from officials at the Department for Education. ...

Lord Avebury: My Lords, can we now assume that there will be a further consultation on the revised national planning policy framework that incorporates a version of the Traveller document, as recommended by the CLG Select Committee? If so, will the new composite document include a revised and more inclusive definition of Gypsies and Travellers for the purposes of both housing and planning which is based on the Housing Act 2004?

Reply from Earl Attlee: My Lords, I am sorry that I cannot be more helpful to my noble friend but we will have to wait to see what the Government's response is. However, we will not have to wait too long.

Lord Tebbit: My Lords, should there not be an assumption that those of us who live at a fixed abode cannot have the advantages of also living in a caravan and wandering around? Equally, should not those who want to wander around and live a nomadic life accept that there are disadvantages to it and not expect us to divvy up in some way or another to subsidise them?

Reply from Earl Attlee: ... we all know what the problem is: poor education among Travellers; poor health outcomes; low life expectancy; and severe discrimination. We have policies to mitigate all these. However, at strategic level, successive Governments do not appear to understand what legitimate economic activity consistent with their culture Travellers should be engaged in. I will be taking up that matter with my right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. ...

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Richard: My Lords, does not the problem go rather deeper than the way in which the Minister seems to be approaching it? The noble Lord, Lord Tebbit, put his finger on one of the issues. Is not the fact that there are not enough sites in this country the real reason why so many people who want to live a nomadic life cannot do so? Therefore, they have to go into static accommodation, which they probably do not want to be in anyway, and which no doubt has planning problems and upsets the neighbours. However, the real problem here is that there are not enough sites for nomadic peoples to go to.

Reply from Earl Attlee: My Lords, the noble Lord is right in his analysis. The problem is to find a long-term solution, which is why I referred to the problem of economic activity. Without legitimate economic activity for Travellers, local communities will not be keen on having Traveller sites near them. That is the nub of the problem.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120216-0001.htm#12021636000385>

Press Release

Europe's Roma at risk from austerity measures, OSCE Roma adviser tells US Helsinki Commission

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/88205>

News

Faith rules 'end at temple door', equalities chief says

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-17074114>

Christians 'aren't above the law', says equalities chief Trevor Phillips

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9087775/Christians-arent-above-the-law-says-equalities-chief-Trevor-Phillips.html>

Trevor Phillips stands by 'ridiculous' Sharia comparison

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9088957/Trevor-Phillips-stands-by-ridiculous-Sharia-comparison.html>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Press Release

Stronger Crown Prosecution Service cases in hate crime lead to increase in guilty pleas

http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/press_releases/stronger_cps_cases_in_hate_crime_lead_to_increase_in_guilty_pleas/

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) New Publication

Hate crimes and crimes against older people report 2010-11

http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/docs/cps_hate_crime_report_2011.pdf

News

Community leaders argue official racism figures are unlikely to tell the full story

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/News/article/20956/community-leaders-argue-official-racism-figures-are-unlikely-to-tell-the-full-story.html>

Solicitor General confirms racist murder under review

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/solicitor-general-confirms-racist-murder-under-review.16784767>

Rangers' historic day is marred by songs of 'hate and ignorance'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/rangers-historic-day-is-marred-by-songs-of-hate-and-ignorance.16793838>

England told they can halt play over race abuse

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/National/article874767.ece

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Other Holyrood

Press Releases

Independence referendum

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/02/Referendum13022012>

First Minister meets UK Prime Minister

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/02/indyref16022012>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

"Honour-related" Violence

Baroness Cox: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to reports of increases in "honour-related" violence in the United Kingdom.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): My Lords, the Government condemn this awful practice. We are committed to tackling honour-based violence, and our action plan to end violence against women and girls sets out our approach. This includes working with our partners to identify what more can be done to protect victims and ensuring that the police and specialist prosecutors are trained to improve the prosecution of these crimes.

Baroness Cox: My Lords, I thank the Minister for that sympathetic reply. Is he aware of a

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

report by the Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation, which tells that in 39 of the 52 UK police force areas, there were 2,823 incidents of honour-based violence in 2010? The data available show a 42 per cent increase over the previous year, and of course many more cases are never reported because of family and community pressure. Does the Minister agree that it is deeply disturbing and totally unacceptable that so many women and girls should be suffering from this kind of violence in this country, and that a prerequisite for effective action must be accurate information? Will Her Majesty's Government ensure that all police forces collect data in a consistent form so that appropriate action may be taken to stop this barbaric practice?

Reply from Lord Henley: My Lords, I am aware of the report and am very grateful to the noble Baroness both for making a copy available to me, which I have read, and for bringing it to the attention of the House. That is very important indeed. I am also aware of the underreporting of this particular crime, which the report draws attention to, and the reasons behind that. It is quite obvious that we need much better information in this field. One of the objectives of the honour-based violence strategy of the Association of Chief Police Officers is for all forces to collect data for honour-based violence and forced marriage in a consistent and considered way. We encourage them to do that because once we have the information, it will be far easier to take action.

Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, does the Minister agree that this is so far removed from what we might consider to be honour that perhaps we should find a new word to describe it?

Reply from Lord Henley: My Lords, before I came here, I wrote down honour-based violence and put inverted commas around "honour". The noble Lord has made the point exactly for me. It is a strange use of the expression "honour", but it is the one we have at the moment. Possibly, as the noble Lord says, we ought to find a better expression.

Lord Lester of Herne Hill: My Lords, my interest in this comes from originating the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act. We have plenty of criminal law already, and we should be careful before we add any more crimes to the statute book since that could lead to people not coming forward to report these evil and barbaric practices, but does the Minister agree that there might be a case for strengthening it where there are breaches of the forced marriage protection orders?

Reply from Lord Henley: My Lords, I am aware of my noble friend's interests in these matters. He will also be aware of my right honourable friend the Prime Minister's desire to make the breach of a forced marriage protection order a criminal offence. I also understand what my noble friend says about the dangers of adding crimes to the statute book. We should bear that in mind. He will be aware that a consultation is in progress on this subject, which finishes, I think, some time in March. At the end of that period, we will consider the appropriate options.

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath: My Lords, I, too, thank the noble Lord for his considered response to this very worrying question and trend. May I ask about the capacity of police forces to deal with it? He will be aware that the reduction in police budgets has had a very bad impact on some of the specialist units in forces up and down the country. Can he assure me that the police are in a position to deal with this matter and give sufficient attention to it?

Reply from Lord Henley: My Lords, I do not believe that the reduction in budgets, which is necessary because of the situation we are in, is relevant here. It is a matter that the police can deal with in the appropriate manner, but we need appropriate information and evidence before we can act in the proper way. However, it is not just what the police have to do in this area that is important; it is

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

also important, as I said in my original Answer, that we work with all other partners. Therefore, it is not only a question of ensuring that we can prevent this crime; it is also a matter of educating people about the inherent dangers. It is a matter of identifying and recording this, as I said earlier, and, where appropriate, prosecuting.

Baroness Afshar: My Lords, in East London there is no such thing as an honour crime. For 14 centuries, according to Islamic law and Koranic teaching, marriage has been based on a personal agreement between two individuals who have to sign a contract. The parents have no right to dispose of their children in these circumstances or to define whom they marry. It is a matter of choice for the man and woman to decide whether they wish to ask for their parents' blessing, but it is not a Koranic teaching. Therefore, in Islamic law there is no justification whatever in defining something as an honour crime, and it should be punished accordingly.

Reply from Lord Henley: My Lords, I am grateful-and the whole House will be grateful-for what the noble Baroness has told us. It is something that we should all fully understand: that marriage is a matter of a contract between two individuals and is not a matter for their parents. I repeat what I said to the noble Lord, Lord West, about the use of the word "honour". That is possibly something that we want to get away from.

Baroness Corston: My Lords, does the Minister agree that one of the challenges that we face is making clear to the heads of such families-usually an autocratic father-that when they come to this country because they want the benefits for themselves of an open and democratic society, such opportunity should also be accorded to their daughters as a matter of law and human rights? All too often, they bring a code of so-called "honour" from their own country that apparently applies to their daughters but to no one else.

Reply from Lord Henley: My Lords, again, I and the whole House are grateful for what the noble Baroness has said about the challenges we face, particularly about the idea of the autocratic father. Dare I say it, but autocratic fathers can exist in all societies and all cultures. I am not sure I had an autocratic father, but it is something that should be taken very seriously, particularly in respect of autocratic fathers' relation to their daughters. I speak as a father with one daughter.

Lord Elton: My Lords, the noble Baroness, Lady Afshar, has drawn our attention to the effects of ignorance facilitating crime. Is my noble friend aware of the extent of the existence of so-called Sharia courts, which are believed by their local communities to have the full authority of the British judicial system but have none whatever? They also impose on people various decisions that result in violence and crime.

Reply from Lord Henley: Again, my Lords, my noble friend is absolutely right. Ignorance is something that we need to tackle, which is why I wanted to stress the importance of education. Education is probably the first and most important point to get over, a point that was made very strongly by the noble Baroness, Lady Corston.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120214-0001.htm#12021421000427>

Female Genital Mutilation

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cases of female genital mutilation were investigated by the police in the last year for which figures are available.

Reply from Baroness Verma: My Lords, information on the number of police investigations involving female genital mutilation is not collected centrally. However, the Government work closely with the police and the Crown Prosecution

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Service to ensure that they are equipped with guidance and information to deal with cases of FGM, and that they are clear on their legal powers to protect women and girls from this abhorrent practice.

Baroness Tonge: ... Is she aware that between November 2009 and November 2011 there were 63 alleged cases reported to the Metropolitan Police which never reached prosecution? Will she undertake to ask the Government to set up a technical review to find out why these cases do not come to prosecution in order to ensure that proper training is given to doctors and midwives to stop this practice in this country? Does she agree that successful prosecutions are the only way to deter families from perpetrating this terrible mutilation on their daughters?

Reply from Baroness Verma: My Lords, I can inform the noble Baroness that in September 2011 the CPS launched a female genital mutilation guidance pack that has been developed to assist prosecutors in what she knows are extremely complex cases. We are intending to monitor that guidance over 12 months and we will evaluate the results. The Government are of course also working closely with schools, health service staff, charities and community groups so that through the multi-agencies we are able to raise as much awareness as we can. As to the noble Baroness's point on prosecutions, this is an issue that at the end of the day will achieve results only when the communities themselves decide really to engage with bringing forward perpetrators.

Baroness Rendell of Babergh: My Lords, is the Minister aware of the unwillingness of young girls to go into court and give evidence? FGM is an abhorrent practice but is not regarded as such by many of the young girls themselves and by those who advise them. There are many who tell them that if they are not mutilated they will not become real women, they will not find a man to marry them, and they are bullied and victimised by their contemporaries. Is the Minister further aware that if they go into court they may be required to testify against their own parents or family members and people they have known and had a close relationship with all their lives?

Reply from Baroness Verma: I think the noble Baroness has hit the nail on the head. That is why it is so difficult to get prosecutions. There is also an embedded cultural issue. Until we reach out and get through to the older women in those communities and get them to respond to the young girls who are often unwilling to undergo these practices, we will never get to the nub of the problem. However, I must say that I have come across young people—both men and women—from those communities where FGM is being practised who are beginning openly to stand up to say that they oppose it. That is a positive sign for us all.

Baroness Morris of Bolton: My Lords, two or three years ago I attended a round-table multi-agency discussion in Birmingham on female genital mutilation. One of the main problems in getting the message across to some insular communities is the language barrier and the lack of female interpreters. There was real concern that many male interpreters do not convey the fact that FGM is a crime with serious consequences. Can my noble friend say what the position is on interpreters and whether this is still a problem?

Reply from Baroness Verma: I cannot answer my noble friend directly on the position of female interpreters because that information is not held centrally. However, I can reassure her and your Lordships' House that the police, the Crown Prosecution Service and all those involved in the issue take it incredibly seriously and are working with the sensitivity that it requires. I repeat that unless the communities themselves are willing to engage with outside organisations, this will remain a problem.

Baroness Howarth of Breckland: My Lords, I recently attended an international seminar in Brussels which was focused, as the noble Baroness suggests, on how

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

communities can themselves help with this issue. What is being done to engage the communities themselves? How can we learn from some African countries, which are taking work into the communities, rather than trying to find ways ourselves and not succeeding?

Reply from Baroness Verma: The noble Baroness raises an important point about engagement with the communities. We have set up an FGM fund of £50,000 through which we are helping to fund 10 organisations on the front line that are helping to prevent FGM within those communities. It is important that the results and the influences come from within the communities, so we are engaged with working closely not only with the young people through school education but with the older generation through community groups.

Baroness Scotland of Asthal: My Lords, is it not also of critical importance for victims to get appropriate help and support? Is it not therefore the role of the Crown Prosecution Service to support those victims so they are enabled to give their evidence? Are the specialist prosecutors who deal with violence against women still able to do that, bearing in mind the cuts? Is that not something that we should pursue with greater vigour?

Reply from Baroness Verma: The noble and learned Baroness is absolutely right. That is why the Home Office has ring-fenced £28 million-so that we have those specialist services in place and so that those victims are able to access as much support as we can possibly give them, not just in terms of health and social services but being able to provide accommodation and all the other things that they require if they want to move from the communities that are imposing FGM on them.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120216-0001.htm#12021636000386>

Press Releases

Prime Minister in Scotland to make case for retaining Union

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/pm-in-scotland/>

transcript of speech

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/transcript-pm-scotland-speech/>

Helpful start to referendum talks says Moore

<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/16563.html>

Eric Pickles gives councils back the freedom to pray

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/2091511>

News

Councils win prayer 'rights' as Localism Act powers fast tracked, ministers say

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-17082136>

Council's prayers are answered as court ban on worship overturned

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9089180/Councils-prayers-are-answered-as-court-ban-on-worship-overturned.html>

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New Publications

Perspectives on ageing in Gypsy families

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/ageing-in-gypsy-families-summary.pdf>

Perspectives on ageing in South Asian families

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/ageing-south-asian-families-summary.pdf>

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Other News

Religious people 'more charitable'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/religious-people-more-charitable.16791835>

Lloyds Banking Group urged to drop “shameful” legal battle with charity

<http://www.thirdforcenews.org.uk/2012/02/lloyds-banking-group-urged-to-drop-shameful-legal-battle-with-charity/>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Holyrood

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>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2010-2012/0079/amend/su079-iiiia.htm>

UK Parliament Scottish Affairs Committee Report: The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: Unanswered Questions

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmsscota/1806/1806.pdf>

UK Parliament Constitution Committee Report: Referendum on Scottish Independence

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201012/ldselect/ldconst/263/263.pdf>

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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>

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-consultation.net/econsult/consultation_Dtl.aspx?consult_Id=240&status=2&criteria=

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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**** this week!**

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.

**** this week!**

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.

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/>

**** The Future of Scotland**

1 March 2012 in Glasgow (10.00 – 12.30)

Civil society conference to discuss how to make Scotland a better place for future generations. For information see <http://www.futureofscotland.org/attend-the-conference/>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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

**** Community Learning and Development Network**

8 March 2012 in Glasgow (9.00 – 1.10)

Launch of GCVO's community learning and development network for practitioners working with communities of interest and geographical communities in Glasgow. For information contact John Robertson 0141 332 2444 / john.robertson@gcvs.org.uk or see http://www.gcvs.org.uk/assets/0000/2049/CLD_NETWORK_LAUNCH_flyer.pdf

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.

**** Everything you need to know about Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)**

9 March 2012 in Glasgow (9.30 – 12.30)

11 April 2012 in Glasgow (9.30 – 12.30)

8 May 2012 in Glasgow (9.30 – 12.30)

GCVS seminar to discuss the pros and cons of SCIOs, meeting the SCIO requirements, and the basics of setting up a SCIO. For information contact John Robertson 0141 332 2444 / john.robertson@gcvs.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/7nda4cn>

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

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children & Young People

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

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.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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>

Useful Links (continued)

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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