

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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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

UK Border Agency

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency announced that the Case Resolution Directorate had completed its review of all known legacy cases; when the Case Assurance and Audit Unit succeeded the Case Resolution Directorate; and how many legacy asylum cases have not been concluded. [97533]

Reply from Damian Green: On 5 July 2011 Jonathan Sedgwick, the then acting chief executive of the UK Border Agency, advised the Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) that the Case Resolution Directorate had completed its review of all known legacy cases.

In his statement he further advised that the Case Assurance and Audit Unit (CAAU) had succeeded the Case Resolution Directorate from 1 April 2011.

Rob Whiteman reported to the HASC on 20 December that there were 17 000 live legacy cases to conclude and 93,000 cases in the Controlled Archive which CAAU

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

will continue to manage, taking robust action to trace applicants and conclude cases where new information comes to light which allows cases to be progressed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120305/text/120305w0002.htm#12030518000026>

Migrant Workers: Romanians and Bulgarians

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Romanian and Bulgarian nationals have migrated to the United Kingdom since those countries acceded to the European Union; what estimates they have made of the impact on the numbers of Romanian and Bulgarian migrants to the United Kingdom of the lifting next year of all employment and social security restrictions; whether they have made any preparations for a possible large increase in annual numbers; and how many such nationals have registered for national insurance numbers since those countries acceded to the European Union.[HL16001]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): Estimates based on the Annual Population Survey suggest that the Bulgarian and Romanian-born population resident in the United Kingdom increased from 34,000 in 2006 to 132,000 in 2010, the last year for which Annual Population Survey statistics are currently available. The number of national insurance number registrations for Bulgarian and Romanian nationals between January 2007 and September 2011 was 168,360.

It would not be sensible for the Government to predict numbers of arrivals after 2013 given that other member states will also have to lift their existing restrictions at that point, but the Government will assess the possible impact on public services of any potential changes in migration levels from Bulgaria and Romania.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120305w0001.htm#12030510000111>

Migrant Domestic Workers

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether limiting the number of incoming domestic workers from overseas would make it unnecessary to remove protections from those already in the United Kingdom or shortly due to arrive.[HL16085]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): Changes to the overseas domestic worker (ODW) routes announced on 29 February will apply to those who make an application for entry clearance on or after 6 April. The current Immigration Rules and existing protections will continue to apply to ODWs who are already here on 6 April or who apply to come here by 5 April. Appropriate protections are being put in place for ODWs who come here from 6 April.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120307w0001.htm#12030754000211>

Asylum

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applicants are (a) untraceable and (b) in the controlled archive. [97534]

Reply from Damian Green: Rob Whiteman, chief executive of the UK Border Agency reported to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 20 December that the number of cases that are (a) untraceable and (b) in the controlled archive has reduced from an initial figure of 98,000 cases to 93,000 cases. The Case Assurance and Audit Unit will continue to manage the cases in the controlled archive, taking robust action to trace applicants and conclude cases where new information comes to light which allows cases to be progressed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120305/text/120305w0002.htm#12030518000007>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigrants: Detainees

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigrants have been held in immigration removal centres in each of the last 20 quarters; and how many have been (a) released in the UK and (b) removed from the UK. [89997]

Reply from Damian Green: The requested information is not available in full. Since publication began of all the requested information in January 2010 until September 2011, 46,115 people have entered immigration detention. Of those leaving detention in the same period, which may include those detained before January 2010, 28,833 have been removed from the UK; 275 have been granted leave to enter/remain; 13,242 have been granted temporary admission or release; 2,912 have been bailed; and 502 have left detention for other reasons.

To see the lengthy table showing the number of people entering and leaving immigration removal centres, see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120305/text/120305w0002.htm#12030518000017>

Press Release

Council conclusions on a Common Framework for genuine and practical solidarity towards Member States facing particular pressures on their asylum systems, including through mixed migration flows

http://www.consilium.europa.eu//uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/128820.pdf

News

Immigration to Britain is greater than at any time in history. We must cut their numbers NOW

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2112208/Immigration-Britain-We-cut-numbers-NOW.html>

Campaigners' backing for deportation row student

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/campaigners-backing-for-deportation-row-student.16981875>

Bride hits out at asylum rules as fiance is arrested for deportation on wedding day

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2012/03/10/bride-hits-out-at-asylum-rules-as-fiance-is-arrested-for-deportation-on-wedding-day-86908-23782025/>

Eric Pickles warns of non-English-speaking 'sub-class' in UK

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2012/mar/08/eric-pickles-english-sub-class>

Eric Pickles: Migrants with no English become an unemployable sub-class

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/9132602/Eric-Pickles-Migrants-with-no-English-become-an-unemployable-sub-class.html>

Eric Pickles faces anger over comments on ethnic minorities

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/eric-pickles-faces-anger-over-comments-on-ethnic-minorities-7545993.html?origin=internalSearch>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

International Women's Day: celebrating migrant and refugee women

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/the-womens-blog-with-jane-martinson/2012/mar/08/international-womens-day-migrant-refugee-women>

Asylum: it's vital that Europe present a united front

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/mar/07/asylum-europe-present-united-front>

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Race Relations

New Publication

Mundi Romani – The World Through Roma Eyes

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2kErKNIOEs>

News

Creating new spaces for Muslim youth in the UK

<http://www.commongroundnews.org/article.php?id=31093&lan=en&sp=0>

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Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Gypsies and Travellers

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the communication from the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe on the adequacy of the provision of accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers in the United Kingdom.

Earl Attlee: My Lords, my right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government replied to the letter from the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe on 27 February. A copy was placed on the Council of Europe's website on 1 March. The Secretary of State's letter gave details of the measures the Government are taking to improve the situation of Travellers, particularly in relation to the provision of sites.

Lord Avebury: My Lords, my noble friend may be aware that local authorities are intending to provide planning permission for less than half of the accommodation that was shown to be necessary in the comprehensive assessment of need conducted during the previous Parliament. First, what immediate action are the Government going to take to increase the number of sites in order to match their legal obligation as identified by the high commissioner to provide adequate housing for Gypsies and Travellers? Secondly, have any of the local authorities and social housing agencies to which the Government recently granted a total of £47 million to build new sites identified the land they intend to use for this purpose, let alone applied for planning permission on it?

Earl Attlee: My Lords, my noble friend's question on whether local authorities

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

have identified the land suitable for pitches is a matter for them. If I have any further information that I can give him, of course I will do so. In response to the most important question put by my noble friend, the new homes bonus will match fund the additional council tax raised for new homes, including Traveller pitches, for the next six years. Traveller pitches are usually rated as band A so at present local authorities will get a bonus of £959 per year for six years for each new pitch. Traveller pitches owned by local authorities and housing associations will attract an additional £350 per year enhanced bonus, like other affordable homes.

Baroness Whitaker: My Lords, one of the key points made by Dr Hammarberg in his letter to Mr Pickles was about the "significant hurdle" concerning the requirement that for planning permission, the applicant has to establish "Gypsy status" and demonstrate particular "working patterns". Will the Government now dissociate the granting of planning permission from these inappropriate and restrictive criteria?

Earl Attlee: My Lords, the Government will publish the national planning policy framework by the end of this month, and shortly we will announce our conclusions resulting from all the consultations we have held related to Travellers.

Lord Laming: My Lords, does the Minister agree that the Gypsy way of life is extremely hard and that the best hope for them and, indeed, for society as a whole is the provision of sufficient official pitches so that the children-the next generation-can receive a proper education and thereby have an alternative lifestyle available to them?

Earl Attlee: My Lords, I agree entirely with the noble Lord's point.

Lord Hamilton of Epsom: Does my noble friend not agree that there is a serious problem here in that as local authorities provide pitches for Gypsies and Travellers, the number of Gypsies and Travellers increases, so we are always behind the curve? Is there not a problem here if we go on providing pitches and the demand continues to increase?

Earl Attlee: My Lords, there are some who think that; it may be the case or it may not. Our duty is to meet the need and we are doing that by means of the new homes bonus and other incentives to deal with the problem identified by my noble friend.

The Lord Bishop of Exeter: My Lords, would it not be helpful for the Secretary of State to meet directly with representatives of the Gypsy and Traveller community to discuss with them the issues raised by the Commissioner, and together with them develop measures to deal with those problems? Further, can he say whether the Secretary of State does have such plans?

Earl Attlee: My Lords, I would be very surprised if the appropriate Minister does not have discussions with the relevant organisations.

Lord Elystan-Morgan: My Lords, is the Minister aware that about a quarter of a century ago a very distinguished High Court judge, the late Mr Justice Peter Pain, when hearing an application from a local authority in south Wales for an injunction to clear Gypsies from a lay-by said, "I will not grant this injunction because an injunction is an equitable remedy. To claim an equitable remedy you must be equitable. I will only grant the injunction to those local authorities which can show that they have taken seriously their statutory obligations in relation to Gypsies".?

Earl Attlee: My Lords, the noble Lord makes an important and interesting point. It is much easier to have an unauthorised encampment removed if the local authority has already made appropriate provision.

Lord McKenzie of Luton: My Lords, as the Minister has acknowledged, there is a shortage of adequate permanent and transit sites for Gypsies and Travellers, but, at the same time, the Government are dismantling regional spatial strategies, one of the objectives of which was to set targets concerning the number of pitches that each local authority should provide. What evidence do the Government have which suggests that

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Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

the replacement duty to co-operate will better encourage local authorities to meet their own and their neighbours' responsibilities?

Earl Attlee: My Lords, as I have said, we have not seen the full government policy because that will be announced shortly. The previous Government's model of top-down pitch targets under regional strategies has not delivered. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of caravans on unauthorised developments increased from 728 to 3,895.

Baroness Sharples: If they are Travellers, why do they not travel rather than getting settled in one spot?

Earl Attlee: My Lords, some Travellers are static, partly because there are not the opportunities around the country and their patterns of work are changing. It would be better in those circumstances if they remained static so that their children could be properly educated, as suggested by the noble Lord, Lord Laming.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120306-0001.htm#12030640001344>

Police: Ethnic Minorities

Lord Condon: To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in the last two years to recruit police officers and community support officers from an ethnic minority background.[HL15291]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): Equality and diversity in policing are vitally important. To fight crime successfully, the law needs to be applied even-handedly and with real understanding of the needs of all our communities. Progress has been made on equality and diversity in policing: satisfaction and confidence figures are now the same for black and minority ethnic (BME) communities as they are for white communities, more women and members of ethnic minorities have joined the service, and we have a strong legal framework that supports equality. However, it is essential that more and faster progress is made.

The tables show police service strength of officers, PCSO and Specials the volume change over the past five years.

All data have been taken from *Police Service Strength-Home Office Statistical Bulletins* available at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk>.

Table 1: Minority Ethnic Police Officer Strength (FTE)

	Number of minority ethnic police officers in post*	Total number of police officers in post	Minority ethnic officers as a proportion of all officers
2009-10	6,642	143,734	4.6%
2010-11	6,615	139,110	4.8%

*Figures do not include central service secondments

Table 2: Minority Ethnic Police Community Support Officer Strength (FTE)

	Number of minority Ethnic PCSOs in post	Total number of PCSOs	Minority ethnic PCSOs as a proportion of all PCSOs
2009-10	1,869	16,918	11.0%
2010-11	1,686	15,820	10.7%

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120305w0001.htm#12030510000112>

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Army: Ethnic Groups

Julian Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of personnel in the (a) Regular and (b) Territorial Army are British citizens from ethnic minorities. [97569]

Reply from Andrew Robathan: As at 1 January 2012, 3.2% of the trained and untrained strength of the Regular Army were British citizens from ethnic minorities. This includes personnel born overseas who have since naturalised as British.

As at 1 December 2011, 3.6% of Group A of the Territorial Army (defined in the Reserve Forces Act as regional and national headquarters, units and pools required to provide a national reserve) were British citizens from ethnic minorities.

This also includes personnel born overseas who have since naturalised as British.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120308/text/120308w0001.htm#12030896000033>

Press Releases

Equality and Human Rights Commission publishes human rights review

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2012/march/commission-publishes-human-rights-review/>

Roma women need better access to health care, says OSCE Roma adviser

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/88848>

New Publications

Human Rights Review 2012

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/human-rights/human-rights-review/the-review/>

Equality Duty Revised Draft Regulations Analysis of Consultation Findings

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0038/00389510.pdf>

summary

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0038/00389515.pdf>

Scottish Government Response

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0038/00389346.pdf>

News

Half of UK's young black males are unemployed

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2012/mar/09/half-uk-young-black-men-unemployed>

Christians have no right to wear cross at work, says Government

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9136191/Christians-have-no-right-to-wear-cross-at-work-says-Government.html>

Cameron vows to break down 'absurd barriers' to adoption

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/cameron-vows-to-break-down-absurd-barriers-to-adoption-7547483.html>

Adoption: David Cameron vows to cut adoption delays

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-17299828>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Racism

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government what evidence exists about the levels of support and representation provided by the Government Equalities Office or the Equality and Human Rights Commissions or both to black and minority ethnic people who allege race discrimination.[HL15967]

Reply from Baroness Verma: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) does not provide support or representation to individuals. GEO is creating a new equality, information and advisory service to provide in depth support. GEO has engaged widely on this and hopes to make a further announcement shortly.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is an arm's-length body; the following is based on information it has provided.

The EHRC has a range of powers through which it can provide support and representation to victims to discrimination, including its strategic casework.

The EHRC collects information about the type of discrimination alleged by, and the ethnic origin of, those using the support and representation it provides.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120307w0001.htm#12030754000216>

Universities: Anti-Semitism

Baroness Deech: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will clarify the laws applying to universities and student unions when an anti-Semitic incident has taken place on campus.

Baroness Verma: My Lords, the law is clear: there is absolutely no place in our universities for racism, including anti-Semitism. As independent bodies, universities and student unions are responsible for undertaking their own legal obligations. They have the tools to tackle anti-Semitism. They have access to a very strong legislative framework and practical guidance to provide protection and deal with any anti-Semitic incident. We expect universities to act swiftly to investigate and address any anti-Semitic incidents reported to them. We have seen a fall in the number of incidents in higher education, from 44 in 2010 to 27 in 2011, according to the Community Security Trust, but I accept that that is still too many and we must not be complacent in our resolve.

Baroness Deech: I thank the Minister for her Answer. However, I wonder if she is aware of just how often these anti-Semitic incidents occur, reported or not. Sometimes it is other students' Nazi-themed activities, coupled with assaults, and sometimes it is hate speakers who are invited on to campuses which indeed they target. Recent events include speakers who blame 9/11 on Israel or who equate all Jews with Nazis, and worse. Universities tend to take refuge behind the doctrine of freedom of speech and do very little. They do not seem to realise the limits of freedom of speech as constrained by recent legislation largely from the previous Labour Government. The Public Order Act-

Noble Lords: Question!

Baroness Deech: Will the Minister ensure that universities bring up to date their codes

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Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

of practice on visiting speakers to take account of legislation and make sure that they apply to student unions as well?

Baroness Verma: My Lords, the Education (No. 2) Act 1986 requires university governing bodies to ensure as far as possible and practicable that freedom of speech within the law is secured for members, students, employees and visiting speakers. Institutions have to issue and keep updated a code of practice on the organisation of meetings and other activities taking place on their premises. These codes often include the right to refuse permission for an event. However, universities have to balance freedom of speech with their legal obligations, for instance in the Equality Act 2010. Only institutions themselves can make decisions about speakers. No other body could make judgments about each and every case. They are subject to the courts in this, as with other laws. The 1986 Act does not apply directly to student unions but indirectly through the universities' codes of practice. ...

Lord Janner of Braunstone: My Lords, the Minister will be aware that last year on United Kingdom campuses there were 27 reports of anti-Semitic incidents and attacks on students and academics. Does she agree that the time must now have come for the Government to create and require a national approach for all universities to deal with anti-Semitic and all other racist attacks?

Baroness Verma: My Lords, I can only repeat that the Government cannot tell universities and higher education institutions who they can or cannot invite. However, universities have to follow very strict codes of practice. We are always working with universities, and wherever there are incidents and we hear of them we try to ensure that universities have the tools in place to counter those sorts of vicious speakers and their contributions.

Lord Boswell of Aynho: My Lords, given that the Minister has already confirmed that because universities and colleges are in receipt of very substantial amounts of public funds, they are bound by the public sector equality duty—which is an important factor that they should bear in mind and take seriously—will she also, on the positive side, celebrate the work of the Equality Challenge Unit and of others who are working positively towards ensuring that universities are, as they always should be, places of enlightenment, and not an opportunity for the expression of prejudice?

Baroness Verma: I absolutely agree with my noble friend. We see universities as places not only of learning but of great understanding. All the organisations that my noble friend mentioned are at the heart of those tasks of moving forward. However, we take the concerns very seriously and we understand why the noble Baroness has posed this Question and the noble Lord, Lord Janner, has raised it. We are working to ensure that all universities stand up for any students who feel under threat, regardless of their race, religion or background.

Lord Campbell-Savours: My Lords, is it not important that we draw a very clear distinction between the actions of anti-Semites and the actions of those who feel passionately about the actions of the state of Israel in the West Bank of the Jordan and in the Gaza Strip?

Baroness Verma: My Lords, I do not want to enter into another debate, and that is a separate debate although it is one that we must not shy away from. At the same time, we do not want to lose the greatness of our universities, which allow students to hear contributions that are often very vile but then also allow them to make a judgment as to their response.

Lord Palmer of Childs Hill: My Lords, my noble friend the Minister drew attention to the statistics up to 2010. Based on the October 2011 report from the National Jewish Student Survey, 21 per cent of Jewish students felt very worried about anti-Semitism at university; 38 per cent of Jewish students felt worried about anti-Israel sentiment at

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

university; and, more worryingly, 42 per cent of Jewish students had witnessed or been subjected to anti-Semitism in the seven months up to the survey. Will my noble friend the Minister confirm that Her Majesty's Government consider these figures to be a real cause for concern, and indicate what steps they will take to address this issue? Can the Minister outline the approach that the Government are taking to work with universities, the academic community and the Jewish community to solve what is a real problem, despite what other Members of this noble House have said?

Baroness Verma: My Lords, I am sure that my colleagues in the Box have taken note of my noble friend's concerns and the figures that he has raised today. The Government take all these issues very seriously and I reassure the House that wherever we find that we can intervene, we surely do.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120306-0001.htm#12030640001342>

News

Publishers must show more vigilance to online sectarian hate messages

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2012/mar/06/publishers-sectarian-hate-messages>

European commission criticised for 'racist' ad

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/mar/06/european-commission-criticised-racist-ad>

Racism against black and Jewish people is all in their minds, claims veteran comedian Jackie Mason in provocative outburst

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2113261/Racism-black-Jewish-people-minds-claims-veteran-comedian-Jackie-Mason-provocative-outburst.html>

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Other Holyrood

Press Release

Referendum consultation in eBook format

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/03/ebookref08032012>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Meat: Ritual Slaughter

Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to make the halal slaughter process more humane; and if she will make a statement. [98345]

Reply from James Paice: The Government are committed to ensuring a secure, environmentally sustainable and healthy supply of food with improved standards of animal welfare. This includes the supply of meat slaughtered in accordance

Other Westminster

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

with religious rites. Members of the Jewish and Muslim communities are aware of this and I have had discussions with them and sought their views, about improving the welfare of animals slaughtered for religious purposes without stunning.

We do not intend to ban religious slaughter, and we respect the rights of religious groups to practice their beliefs. Directive 93/119 on the welfare of animals at slaughter and killing will be replaced by regulation 1099/2009 in January 2013. This regulation allows slaughter without stunning in accordance with religious rites to continue. However individual member states can impose stricter rules in relation to religious slaughter if they wish and I am currently considering what might be done to improve welfare in this context. We will be consulting formally on implementation of regulation 1099/2009 in England later this year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120308/text/120308w0001.htm#12030896000019>

Meat: Ritual Slaughter

Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on the provision of halal slaughtered meat and only providing such meat where necessary. [98346]

Paul Burstow: We are advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that the decision to produce halal meat is a matter for industry. Food Businesses Operators must ensure that meat is produced in accordance with the hygiene and welfare regulations.

There are various accreditation agencies (such as the Halal Food Authority and the Halal Monitoring Committee), that produce standards for food businesses supplying Islamic consumers to adhere to. They also provide information about the way food is produced to help consumers make informed choices about the food that they buy.

Guidance was issued by the FSA to local authorities (LAs) on halal food issues in September 2010. The purpose of this non-statutory guidance is to bring local authorities' attention to the importance of halal food in the Muslim community. It encourages LAs to take action where there is evidence of misleading labelling or fraud.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120308/text/120308w0002.htm#12030896000132>

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Other News

Religious leaders unite to overcome prejudice against organ donation

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/health/news/article3342473.ece>

Muslim high-flyers seek husband share

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Society/article991378.ece

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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>

Stage 1 evidence from Assistant Chief Constable Alistair Finlay, Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Scottish Institute for Policing Research, Centre for Criminal Justice and Police Studies, University of the West of Scotland, Reform Scotland, the Police Complaints Commissioner for Scotland, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland, and the Auditor General for Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6888&mode=pdf>

Social Care (Self-directed Support) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/48001.aspx>

Bills in Progress (continued)

Westminster

**** Scotland Bill**

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

Committee Stage, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/115/amend/psc1150703m.1549-1555.html>

Proposed amendments

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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

**** Social Care (Self-directed Support) Bill** (closing date 24 April 2012)

<http://scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/48017.aspx>

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

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

Consultations (continued)

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>

**** Consultation on the United Kingdom Plan for rare diseases**

(closing date 25 May 2012)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_132880

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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

Making a difference: Can equality funding help provide positive models for the future?

20 March 2012 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 2.00)

Equality and Human Rights Commission Conference to consider what lessons can be learned from the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Strategic Funding Programme. For information see www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/12iii_ehrc.pdf or contact scotlandcommunication@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5974/5920.

Tackling racism and promoting race equality for youth and community workers

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.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Collecting and using Equalities information

20 March 2012 in Glasgow (10.30 – 4.30)

GCVS equalities monitoring training including 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.

**** BME youth unemployment: a fresh perspective**

21 March 2012 in Glasgow (5.30 – 9.00)

Active Life Club presentation of research to explore black and minority ethnic young peoples' experiences of school, college and university work experience placements. For information contact Raza Sadiq 07791896634 / activelifeclub@hotmail.com or Atif Javaid 07521559453 / atifj94@hotmail.com

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

22 March 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

18 May 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>

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

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>

The Essentials of Asylum: understanding what causes refugees to flee and the process of seeking protection

12 April 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work with people seeking asylum and refugees to provide an introduction to core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/833ezx4> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Working with Interpreters

3 May 2012 in Glasgow (1.00 – 4.30)

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/74gullf> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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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

Eczema Outreach (Scotland) <http://www.eczemaoutreachscotland.org.uk/>

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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