

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

Holyrood Justice Committee

Human Trafficking

The Committee considered its approach to its forthcoming round-table evidence session on 20 March, following the parliamentary debate on 29 February.

Official Report p288

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6893&mode=pdf>

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Immigration Rules

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): My right hon Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before the House a statement of changes in the immigration rules, which implement the next phase of our reforms to the immigration system.

The student reforms, originally proposed in our student visas consultation which ran from

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

December 2010 to January 2011, were set out in more detail in a statement of intent published by the Home Office on 13 February.

These changes include closing the post-study work route which gave migrant graduates free access to the UK labour market. The Government believe this route is inappropriate when UK national graduates are struggling to find work. However, in keeping with our focus on the brightest and best, I am introducing a new tier 1 route for graduate entrepreneurs and new provisions for graduates who have an offer of a skilled job to switch into tier 2. I am renewing the annual limit for tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) at the same level it was set for the last year, 1,000 places. In order to give more certainty to potential applicants, I propose that this level will remain the same for each of the next two years, and will be reviewed again for April 2014.

I am making changes to the rules for entry clearance and leave to remain under tier 2 which will apply to applications made after April 2012. Temporary leave as a skilled worker will be limited to a maximum stay of six years and will be granted in two blocks of three, rather than the current 3+2. In addition, the changes will mean that tier 2 migrants who leave the UK will need to wait 12 months after the expiry of their leave before they may reapply to return under that tier.

The changes I am proposing to make to the immigration rules for tier 2 settlement, tier 5 of the points-based system, the visitor rules and the overseas domestic worker routes, give effect to the next phase of our programme of immigration reform, following the public consultation on employment-related settlement, tier 5 and overseas domestic workers which ran from 9 June to 9 September last year. ... The rule changes will introduce a new minimum pay threshold for tier 2 migrants eligible for settlement from April 2016, and limit the total amount of time a person may remain in the UK as a tier 2 migrant to six years. They will also implement reforms to the overseas domestic worker routes to return them to their original purpose, to enable visitors and diplomats to bring their overseas household staff with them to the UK for temporary stay. Taken together, these measures will break the link between coming to the UK to work and settling permanently.

Some targeted changes to tier 5 will enhance the focus and flexibility of this tier. Those coming to participate in internships and work experience schemes under the Government Authorised Exchange sub-category will be restricted to one-off stays of a maximum of 12 months, which is sufficient for these purposes. However, the rules for sports persons entering under the creative and sporting sub-category will be amended so that individuals may undertake some guest sports broadcasting work, where this is not filling a permanent position. To introduce further flexibility for those coming to undertake short-term engagements, I will create a new visitor route ("Permitted Paid Engagements") outside the points-based system for specific fee-paid engagements, which will enable certain professionals, as well as artists, entertainers and sports persons to come for up to one month without the need for formal sponsorship by a UK-based employer.

I am also introducing a premium customer service for those A-rated sponsors who wish to apply and pay for a range of benefits. These will include direct contact into the UK Border Agency, guaranteed access to public enquiry office appointments and swift return of documents for their sponsored workers. This is being introduced in response to requests from business for a higher level of customer service for themselves and their international workers.

Finally, I am making changes to Rule 323A to make curtailment of leave to enter or remain mandatory, rather than discretionary, where a migrant under tiers 2, 4, or 5 of the points-based system is not working or studying with their sponsor. Rule 323A also sets out limited exceptions to mandatory curtailment.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120315/wmstext/120315m0001.htm#1203154600007>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigrants: EU Countries

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she has taken to protect UK borders from increased economic migration from Eurozone countries; [99996]

(2) if she will take steps to protect UK borders from mass immigration from the Eurozone in the event of the value of the euro (a) contracting and (b) collapsing; [99997]

(3) what assessment she has made of the risk to national security of mass migration following the contraction or collapse of the euro; and if she will publish any such assessment; [99998]

(4) if she will put in place legal contingency measures to suspend European Council Directive 2004/38/EC should the Eurozone (a) contract and (b) collapse. [100000]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government are undertaking extensive contingency planning to deal with all potential Eurozone issues.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120315/text/120315w0002.htm#12031549000078>

Entry Clearances

Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on charging representatives of Chernobyl children's charities for visas to enter the UK. [99146]

Reply from Damian Green: As children from Belarus are commonly considered to have been worst affected by the Chernobyl disaster, visa applications to the British embassy in Minsk are processed free of charge for charities that have signed a UK Border Agency (UKBA) memorandum of understanding. Alongside the provision of free visas, this agreement ensures that the proper safeguards are in place and provides for mobile biometric collection facilities and other benefits for the charities.

Unfortunately, in line with a number of other difficult spending decisions, the gratis scheme will cease on 31 March 2013. The charities were informed of this decision in November 2010.

The cost of the gratis visas in Belarus are currently charged to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office by UKBA.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120312/text/120312w0001.htm#12031225000045>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Tobias Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the accreditation system for English language schools offering courses which are (a) shorter than 11 months and (b) longer than 11 months; and if she will make a statement. [99136]

Reply from Damian Green: No changes have been made to the accreditation system for English language schools for courses shorter than 11 months using the extended student visitor visa route. We shall review the arrangement for the student visitor route later this year.

For courses longer than 11 months, international students must use Tier 4 of the points-based system. The Government are taking a new approach to the licensing of education providers sponsoring international students and have introduced a new system of educational oversight. This will raise standards and benefit genuine international students by ensuring that they receive high quality education wherever they study. They will also help to protect overseas students from unscrupulous providers and support the many legitimate colleges by protecting the excellent reputation of UK education worldwide.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The Government plan to announce in the coming months proposals for inspection arrangements from 2013.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120312/text/120312w0001.htm#12031225000046>

Immigration

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time was to reach a decision on in-time applications for (a) further leave to remain and (b) indefinite leave to remain in the most recent period for which figures are available. [98941]

Reply from Damian Green: For the period January to December 2011, the average time to reach a decision on in-time applications was (a) 34 working days for leave to remain, and (b) 60 working days for indefinite leave to remain. These figures relate to postal lead applications despatched in 2011.

All figures quoted above are management information which has been subject to internal quality checks.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120312/text/120312w0001.htm#12031225000053>

Entry Clearances: Domestic Service

Dame Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects on her policies of the recent recommendation by the Office of the Special Representative on Trafficking on a visa regime for private household domestic workers that allows migrant domestic workers to change employer; and if she will make a statement. [100079]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government have taken into account all recommendations and comments made by those who responded to the consultation that included proposals on the overseas domestic worker routes of entry. The Government believe that the best way to address abuse of overseas domestic workers in the UK is to restrict access for such workers. That is why the Government raised the possibility of closing the route entirely. As a result of representations made, the Government have decided to retain a visa for overseas domestic workers but to restrict it to those who are coming to this country for short periods only, accompanying visitors. This in itself will reduce scope for abuse and leave other protections available.

Dame Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects on her policies of the recommendation of the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery on immigration rules on visas linked to sponsorship by a single employer. [100080]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government have taken into account all recommendations and comments made by those who responded to the consultation that included proposals on the overseas domestic worker routes of entry. The Government believe that the best way to address abuse of overseas domestic workers in the UK is to restrict access for such workers. That is why the Government have decided, as a result of representations made, to retain a visa for overseas domestic workers but to restrict to those who are coming to this country for a short period only, accompanying visitors. This will reduce scope for abuse and leave the protections available.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120315/text/120315w0002.htm#12031549000075>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum

David Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what (a) financial and (b) non-financial support her Department provides to dependants of asylum seekers. [99311]

Reply from Damian Green: Financial support is available to destitute asylum seekers and their dependants in order to meet their essential living needs. The following table sets out the weekly rates available to the categories of dependants that may be supported.

	£
<i>Single person</i>	
Aged 18 or over (excluding lone parent)	36.62
Aged 25 years or over (excluding lone parent), where the decision to provide cash support was made before 5 October 2009 and the person reached age 25 prior to that date	42.62
<i>Qualifying couples</i>	
Both 18 years or over	72.52
<i>Lone parent age 18 or over</i>	
Age 18 or over	43.94
<i>Personal allowance for dependent children</i>	
Person aged under 16	52.96
Person aged 16 but under 18 (except where the person is a member of a qualifying couple)	39.80

In addition, asylum seekers who have young children aged between one and three years old are eligible to receive an extra £3 per week per child. Children aged under one attract an extra £5 per week per child. Asylum seekers can also apply for a one-off maternity payment of £300 to help with the costs arising from the birth of a child. Accommodation is provided to destitute asylum seekers and their dependants if they need it. The contractual arrangements with accommodation suppliers and voluntary sector partners also provide for information briefings on the rights and responsibilities of the asylum seekers while they are in the United Kingdom and practical advice on how they can access health care and legal assistance to pursue their asylum claims.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120315/text/120315w001.htm#12031549000070>

Asylum Seekers: Iran

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to support failed Iranian asylum seekers (a) to obtain travel documents given the closure of the Iranian embassy in London and (b) whilst returns to Iran have been suspended through the Choices programme. [99355]

Reply from Damian Green: Refugee Action Choices has not suspended support to Iranian nationals who need assistance to return home.

However, as there is no Iranian diplomatic mission in the United Kingdom, there are limits to what support we can provide where they do not hold a valid passport to return. Iranian nationals who do not hold passports should contact the Interior Ministry in Tehran, or any other Iranian diplomatic mission in another country, in order to obtain a travel document to enable them to return to Iran.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120312/text/120312w001.htm#12031225000034>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

People Trafficking

Baroness Goudie: To ask Her Majesty's Government why they do not keep records of the numbers of victims of trafficking in the United Kingdom who have made successful compensation claims, in the light of the United Kingdom's status as a signatory to the Council of Europe convention on human trafficking. [HL16185]

Reply from the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): Victims of trafficking can receive compensation from a number of different sources and through different legal proceedings. Article 15(3) of the Council of Europe convention on human trafficking requires the United Kingdom to provide a right to seek compensation from perpetrators. This can be ordered by the courts against the perpetrator during a criminal trial, through an application under the Proceeds of Crime Act or through private litigation in tort. We do not currently compile statistics in relation to these awards.

Article 15(4) of the convention requires the state to provide compensation if the offender fails to do so. We provide compensation through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA). As set out in my Answer of 18 January (column WA 129), the CICA keeps records based on the nature of the victim's injury, not the nature of the offence that caused it.

The Government do not currently see a compelling case for collecting additional data.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120315w0004.htm#12031562004968>

People Trafficking

Baroness Goudie: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many victims of trafficking have been granted (1) extendable 12-month leave to remain at the request of a lead police investigator, and (2) leave to remain in other personal circumstances. [HL16186]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): Between 1 April 2009, when the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking was implemented in the UK, and 31 March 2011, which is the most recent period for which these data are available, 48 individuals who were conclusively found to be victims of trafficking were granted 12 months' leave at the request of the police due to their participation in a criminal investigation or proceedings.

In the same period, 162 individuals who were conclusively found to be victims of trafficking were granted leave due to their personal circumstances. This includes grants of asylum, humanitarian protection and discretionary leave.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120313w0001.htm#12031372000775>

Human Trafficking

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an assessment of the effect of appointing an independent national rapporteur on human trafficking on levels of information about human trafficking available to (a) the Government, (b) the UK Border Agency and (c) police forces. [99097]

Reply from Damian Green: The Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking will be the UK Government's national rapporteur mechanism. It will assess trends in human trafficking using data provided by the UK Human Trafficking Centre as the central intelligence hub.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which countries (a) within and (b) outside the European Union the Government funds projects to tackle human trafficking. [99391]

Reply from Damian Green: The Department for International Development

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

(DFID) currently funds the Malawi Anti-Child Trafficking project, run by the Salvation Army. This project aims to improve knowledge of and access to rights for children in Malawi who have been trafficked or are vulnerable to being trafficked.

DFID is also currently designing a new South Asia regional programme which will focus especially on reducing trafficking of women and girls in India, Bangladesh and Nepal, focusing on the garment and domestic work sectors.

The UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC), part of the Serious Organised Crime Agency, is working with others on, and partly funding, a UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) led project focused on Nigeria as a source country.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120313/text/120313w0001.htm#12031382000029>

Press Releases

The focused Border Force will make UK safe

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/e-borders-Damian-Green>

Statement of changes in immigration rules

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/parliamentary-business/written-ministerial-statement/immigration-rules-wms/?view=Standard&pubID=1013810>

Changes to the Immigration Rules

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/march/43-changes-rules>

Increased funds required for Tier 1 applications from 14 June 2012

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/62-t1-maintenance-changes>

Increased funds required for Tier 2 applications from 14 June 2012

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/63-t2-maintenance-changes>

Increased funds required for Tier 5 applications from 14 June 2012

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/64-t5-maintenance-changes>

Increased funds required for Tier 1 applications from 14 June 2012

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/62-t1-maintenance-changes>

Refugee resettlement priorities for 2013

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/homepage/showfocus?lang=en&focusID=81202>

Get involved in a new project for Refugee Week - walking tours of Glasgow

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/events_calendar/1528

Calling refugee women to discuss maternity matters for new research

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/1530_calling_refugee_women_to_discuss_maternity_matters_for_new_research

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

New Publications

Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/statementsofchanges/2012/hc1888.pdf?view=Binary>

An evidence assessment of the routes of human trafficking into the UK

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/occ103?view=Binary>

Networks of Asylum Support in the UK and USA: A Handbook of Ideas, Strategies and Best Practice for Asylum Support Groups in a Challenging Social and Economic Climate

<http://steedee.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/networks-of-asylum-support-print2.pdf>

Faith on the Move: The Religious Affiliation of International Migrants

<http://features.pewforum.org/religious-migration/Faithonthemove.pdf>

News

'No-one to blame' for Border fiasco

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/no-one-to-blame-for-border-fiasco-1-2179850>

Russell calls for action to halt foreign student ban

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/russell-calls-for-action-to-halt-foreign-student-ban.17033781>

Six Scottish colleges face ban on recruiting foreign students

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-17384750>

Scots colleges facing foreign students ban

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/scots-colleges-facing-foreign-students-ban.17022746>

Private colleges are being sacrificed to please the anti-immigration lobby

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2012/mar/12/private-colleges-sacrificed-anti-immigrant>

New visa introduced for Arab Spring nationals

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/new-visa-introduced-for-arab-spring-nationals-7565080.html>

English that's good enough

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/mar/13/english-smatterings-good-enough>

Millions of pounds spent on Government department translations

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9150478/Millions-of-pounds-spent-on-Government-department-translations.html>

Now it's their country, it must be their language, too

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/9137615/Now-its-their-country-it-must-be-their-language-too.html>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S4M-02340 Mary Fee: CEMVO Scotland In-work Poverty and Ethnicity Research—

That the Parliament notes that the Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Organisations (CEMVO) Scotland recently held an event, Is It Possible to Work and Still Be Poor?, which launched the research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on in-work poverty and ethnicity; is concerned that there is a lack of information held by all levels of government on ethnicity in the workplace, such as recruitment, retention and progression; is further concerned at the link between in-work poverty and child poverty, particularly in black and ethnic minority (BME) communities; calls on employers to look at how integration of members of BME communities in workplaces affects recruitment, retention and progressions, and requests that the Scottish Government look to re-assess how the Labour Force Survey in Scotland is carried out in order to include a greater sample that includes representation of BME workers.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-02340&ResultsPerPage=10>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Gypsies and Travellers

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will respond to the recommendations of the Department for Education's Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Education Stakeholder Group, and in particular to the recommendation that the pupil premium formula should be adjusted to include Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils, whether or not they receive free school meals.[HL16011]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): Latest figures suggest that 37% of Gypsy/Roma pupils and 62% of Traveller pupils already qualify for the pupil premium through their eligibility for free school meals. These numbers will rise from April 2012, when the premium will be extended to all pupils who have ever been eligible for free school meals during the past six years, whether or not they currently qualify.

Although we recognise that the level of educational attainment for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils is generally very low, we are keen to keep the premium as simple as possible and firmly focused on those pupils who are eligible for free school meals.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120312w0001.htm#12031230001070>

Departmental Ethnic Minority Staff

Gareth Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of senior civil servants in her Department were from an ethnic minority in March (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and if she will make a statement. [98870]

Reply from Damian Green: The proportion of senior civil servants in the Home Office (including its executive agencies) who were from an ethnic minority was (a) 4.84% in March 2010 and (b) 5.59% in March 2011. The figure for March 2012 will not be available until mid-April 2012. The latest available data are for January 2012, when 6.08% of senior civil servants in the Department were from an ethnic minority.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120312/text/120312w0001.htm#12031225000040>

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Gareth Thomas: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many and what proportion of senior civil servants in the Government Equalities Office were from an ethnic minority in March (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and if she will make a statement. [98881]

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: Cabinet Office guidelines require each Department to report equality and diversity information using percentages rather than actual numbers so that small numbers are not disclosed, thereby breaching the Data Protection Act. However, as the number of senior civil servants in the Government's Equalities Office is particularly low I am unable to release figures for 2010 or 2011 as to do so could, in conjunction with other available information, breach the Data Protection Act.

On 1 April 2011 the Government Equalities Office became part of Home Office Headquarters as part of a machinery of government change, and therefore figures for March 2012 are included in the Home Office reply in response to PQ98870, answered on 12 March 2012, *Official Report*, columns 11-12W.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120315/text/120315w0001.htm#12031549000031>

Question PQ98870, referred to in Lynne Featherstone's reply, is listed immediately above this.

Gareth Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of senior civil servants in his Department were from an ethnic minority in March (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and if he will make a statement. [98864]

Reply from Chloe Smith: The proportion of ethnic minority senior civil servants (SCS) in HM Treasury in the years requested:

March 2010: 4.7% of SCS (6 people)

March 2011: 5.5% of SCS (6 people)

March 2012: 7.2% of SCS (7 people)

The 2013 diversity target for the representation of ethnic minority employees in HM Treasury's SCS is 5.0%.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120312/text/120312w0003.htm#12031240000027>

Gareth Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of senior civil servants in his Department were from an ethnic minority in March (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and if he will make a statement. [98868]

Reply from Jonathan Djanogly: Information on the number and proportion of senior civil servants in the Ministry of Justice that declared themselves as being from an ethnic minority in March 2010 and March 2011 is set out in the following table:

As at March each year	Number	Proportion of total senior civil servants in the Ministry of Justice (%)
2010	11	4
2011	9	4

Information for March 2012 is not yet available. The latest available data, which is as at January 2012, is as follows:

	Number	Proportion of total senior civil servants in the Ministry of Justice (%)
January 2012	11	5

Approximately 20% of senior civil servants in March 2010, 27% in March 2011 and 21% in January 2012 chose not to declare their ethnicity.

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The information provided reflects the composition of the Ministry which varied between March 2010 and January 2012. In March 2010 and March 2011, the Ministry comprised the Ministry headquarters, Her Majesty's Courts Service, the Tribunals Service, the National Offender Management Service, the Office of Public Guardian, the Wales Office, and the Scotland Office.

In January 2012, the Ministry comprised the Ministry headquarters, Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service, the National Offender Management Service, and the Office of Public Guardian.

The Ministry of Justice is continuing to work to increase representation of minority ethnic staff in the senior civil service, as well as to increase the proportion of women and staff with disabilities at this level.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120312/text/120312w0004.htm#12031240000074>

Gareth Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of senior civil servants in his Department were from an ethnic minority in March (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and if he will make a statement. [98880]

Reply from Norman Lamb: The Department does not know the ethnic origin of all its senior civil servants. Ethnic origin data of staff are provided voluntarily by staff. Figures provided reflect members of the senior civil servants who are known to have a BME background.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Total no. of SCS</i>	<i>No. of SCS BME declarations</i>	<i>Percentage of BME declarations</i>
31 March 2010	249	11	4.40
31 March 2011	221	10	4.50
29 February 2012	205	(1)___	(1)___

(1) Denotes staff of fewer than 10 people. This is done to protect the identity of individuals and keep the information anonymous

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120315/text/120315w0003.htm#12031568000020>

Gareth Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of senior civil servants in her Department were from an ethnic minority in March (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and if she will make a statement. [98873]

Reply from Richard Benyon: The numbers, and percentages, of senior civil servants from an ethnic minority group employed in core DEFRA in March 2010, 2011 and 2012, are as follows:

	<i>Employees</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
March 2010	3	2.5
March 2011	3	2.7
February 2012 ⁽¹⁾	1	1.1

(1) Figures for March 2012 are unavailable.

Those who have not declared their ethnicity are excluded from the calculation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120315/text/120315w0003.htm#12031568000004>

Gareth Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

proportion of senior civil servants in his Department were from an ethnic minority in March (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and if he will make a statement. [98875]

Reply from Andrew Robathan: The information requested is provided in the following tables:

<i>Senior civil service—ethnicity breakdown for 1 January 2010, 2011 and 2012</i>			
<i>Headcount</i>			
	<i>As at January each year</i>		
<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>
Black and Minority Ethnic	5	5	5
White	265	245	230
Grand total	270	250	235

Source: DASA (Quad)

<i>Ethnicity proportion SCS and MOD core comparison</i>			
<i>Percentage</i>			
	<i>As at January each year</i>		
	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>
SCS	2.6	2.8	2.6
Total MOD core	3.2	3.3	3.6

Notes: 1. All numbers have been rounded to the nearest five and may not sum precisely to totals. 2. All numbers exclude trading funds, Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel and locally engaged civilians. 3. Percentage rates are calculated on raw unrounded numbers, listed SCS rates are compared to total MOD core, at each time point differences between SCS rates and total MOD core rates are not statistically significant. 4. Information for March 2012 is not yet available so comparative figures for January have been provided.

Although the numbers of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) senior civil service staff may be too low to show, they are within the expected range based on representation in the Ministry of Defence in general. There is no significant difference in the representation of Black and Minority Ethnic personnel across grades.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120313/text/120313w0001.htm#12031382000012>

Gareth Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of senior civil servants in his Department were from an ethnic minority in March (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and if he will make a statement. [98877]

Reply from Robert Neill: The number and proportion of senior civil servants in the Department on the relevant dates is as follows.

	<i>Number of senior civil servants</i>	<i>BME proportion of those declared (%)</i>	<i>Declaration rate (%)</i>
March 2010	133	7.8	77.4
March 2011	122	7.7	85.2
February 2012	90	8.0	83.3

Gareth Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of senior civil servants in his Department were from an ethnic minority in March (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and if he will make a statement. [98876]

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from John Penrose: The number and proportion of senior civil servants from an ethnic minority recorded by the Department, in the months you have requested, can be found in the following table.

<i>As at March each year</i>	<i>Number declaring ethnic minority status</i>	<i>Non-respondents</i>	<i>Proportion of total SCS</i>
2010	2	12	4.08
2011	2	19	3.85
2012	1	26	1.85

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120312/text/120312w0001.htm#12031225000017>

Gareth Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of senior civil servants in his Department were from an ethnic minority in March (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and if he will make a statement. [98872]

Reply from Henry Bellingham: 86% of senior civil servants in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have supplied information about their ethnicity. Based on this information, the proportion of senior civil servants in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) who are from an ethnic minority background was as follows:

3.3% on 1 March 2010

3.5% on 1 March 2011

4.0% on 1 March 2012

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120312/text/120312w0003.htm#12031238000017>

Gareth Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of senior civil servants in his Department were from an ethnic minority in March (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and if he will make a statement. [98878]

Reply from Tim Loughton: Figures for the number of SCS members of the Department who declared they were from an ethnic minority are as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Percentage of SCS</i>	<i>Number</i>
31 March 2010	2.5	<5
31 March 2011	4.2	5
29 February 2012 ⁽¹⁾	3.1	<5

⁽¹⁾ Information for March 2012 is not yet available.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120312/text/120312w0002.htm#12031225000100>

Gareth Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of senior civil servants in his Department were from an ethnic minority in March (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and if he will make a statement. [98871]

Reply from Simon Burns: The numbers and proportions of senior civil servants (SCS) from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups, for the months requested, are given as follows.

<i>As at March each year</i>	<i>Total BME SCS</i>	<i>Percentage of SCS BME</i>
2010	20	7
2011	17	7
2012	12	6

The Department continues to exceed the Cabinet Office threshold target of 4% for

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

BME staff in the senior civil service and has set aspirational 'stretch' goals, to be achieved by April 2013.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120312/text/120312w0004.htm#12031241000027>

Gareth Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of senior civil servants in his Department were from an ethnic minority in March (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and if he will make a statement. [98879]

Reply from Francis Maude: Civil servants are not required to declare their ethnicity. Diversity statistics are, however, published on the Cabinet Office website and on data.gov.uk.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120313/text/120313w0002.htm#12031386000028>

Gareth Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what proportion of senior civil servants in his Department were from an ethnic minority in March (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and if he will make a statement. [98869]

Reply from Alan Duncan: The latest figures on the number and percentage of senior civil servants (SCS) in the Department for International Development (DFID) from a black and ethnic minority (BME) background were:

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
March 2010	8	11.3
March 2011	6	10

These are based on quarterly returns. The data for March 2012 will not be available until after 31 March 2012.

DFID has produced annual departmental staff reports containing this information for several years and these have been available on request.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120313/text/120313w0003.htm#1203141000021>

Gareth Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of senior civil servants in his Department were from an ethnic minority in March (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and if he will make a statement. [98862]

Reply from Chris Grayling: The answer is in the table:

	<i>Number of SCS declared as ethnic minority</i>	<i>Ethnic minority percentage of total SCS declaring ethnicity</i>
31 March 2010	⁽¹⁾ 0-4	1.9
31 March 2011	5	2.5
31 January 2012 ⁽²⁾	6	3.7

⁽¹⁾ It is civil service policy that where there are fewer than 5 people from any ethnic group identified in summaries, exact numbers will not be published. Instead, the summaries indicate that there are '0-4'. ⁽²⁾ 31 January 2012 is the latest published data.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120313/text/120313w0002.htm#12031386000054>

Gareth Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of senior civil servants in her Department were from an ethnic minority in

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

March (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and if she will make a statement. [98865]

Reply from Norman Baker: All employees are asked to declare their ethnicity. This process is voluntary and some employees decline to participate in the equality monitoring process. The following information applies to senior civil servants who have declared their ethnicity:

(a) In March 2010 our central Department and its seven executive agencies employed 198 senior civil servants who had declared their ethnicity of whom seven (3.5%) were from ethnic minorities.

(b) In March 2011 our central Department and its seven executive agencies employed 171 senior civil servants who had declared their ethnicity of whom six (3.5%) were from ethnic minorities.

(c) In February 2012 our central Department and its seven executive agencies employed 156 senior civil servants who have declared their ethnicity of whom five (3.2%) are from ethnic minorities

Our diversity objectives which will be published in April 2012 and our longer term diversity strategy will address representation in the work force at all levels.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120312/text/120312w0001.htm#12031225000071>

Gareth Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what proportion of senior civil servants in his Department were from an ethnic minority in March (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and if he will make a statement. [98866]

Reply from David Mundell: The Scotland Office has only a small number of senior civil servants. As the numbers are small, such information would not be published to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120312/text/120312w0001.htm#12031225000028>

Gareth Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what proportion of senior civil servants in her Department were from an ethnic minority in March (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and if she will make a statement. [98863]

Reply from David Jones: None of the five people who have covered the four senior civil servant posts during the periods listed have been from an ethnic minority group.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120312/text/120312w0001.htm#12031225000023>

Gareth Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of senior civil servants in his Department were from an ethnic minority in March (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and if he will make a statement. [98867]

Reply from Owen Paterson: Since April 2010, when policing and justice functions were devolved to the Department of Justice NI, no senior civil servants in my Department were from an ethnic minority.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120312/text/120312w0002.htm#12031225000121>

Westminster Early Day Motions

Alun Michael (2874) Government work on race equality – That this House notes the publication of the Government's integration strategy; recognises that it is important to foster integration but notes that this is not a substitute for action to tackle racism and

Equality

Westminster Early Day Motions (continued)

racial injustice; is concerned that racial inequalities persist in society; further recognises findings from the Ethnic Minority British Election Study that 57 per cent. of ethnic minorities believe that there is racial discrimination in the UK, with 36 per cent. reporting personal experience of discrimination; welcomes the Government's recent work to tackle racism and racial inequalities in football; calls on the Government to extend this commitment by tackling the racial inequalities faced by ordinary people; and urges the Government to publish a cross-departmental race equality strategy with clear, measurable outcomes.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2010-12/2874>

Jim Shannon (2877) Human Rights of Christian workers – That this House calls on the Equalities Minister to support the human rights of Christian workers to wear the symbol of their faith at work.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2010-12/2877>

News

The UK is losing its black talent

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/mar/17/uk-black-talent-leaving-recession>

Where's the support for black students?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/mar/12/strategy-black-students-unemployed-inequality-education>

I'm not racist, some of my colleagues are white – what is 'diversity' anyway?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/mar/15/diversity-social-mobility-harvard-business-review>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012

Graeme Pearson: To ask the Scottish Executive how many police officers have completed formal training and briefing in relation to the new powers contained in the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012. (S4W-06039)

Roseanna Cunningham: Formal training has been made available to every police officer and member of police staff in Scotland through a combination of presentations by officers from the National Football Coordination Unit for Scotland (FOCUS), circulation of a training DVD and publication of self-brief materials. ACPOS stipulated that prior to deployment all officers on duty at a “regulated football match” must receive briefing in relation to the new powers contained in the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012.

Officers from FOCUS also attended matches across the country on 3 March 2012 to provide guidance and support to all Match Commanders and operational

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

officers prior to, during and post-match, on what was the first match-day following commencement of the legislation.

The new legislation will be embedded into police recruit training at the Scottish Police College and the “ACPOS National Strategy for Policing Football in Scotland” and the “ACPOS National Toolkit for Policing Football in Scotland” documents have also been developed as resources to provide guidance at both strategic and operational level.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-06039&ResultsPerPage=10>

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012

Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Executive what (a) advice and (b) guidance the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service has given to chief constables in relation to the enforcement of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012. (S4W-06040)

Reply from Frank Mulholland: The Lord Advocate published Guidelines on operation of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 on 28 February 2012 which includes guidance to the police. These guidelines can be found on the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service website at:

<http://www.copfs.gov.uk/Publications/2012/02/Lord-Advocate%E2%80%99s-Guidelines-Offensive-Behaviour-Football-and-Threatening-Communications-Scotland-Act>.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-06040&ResultsPerPage=10>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Employment Tribunals

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the success rates for race and religion discrimination claimants, who have had full hearings at employment tribunals over the last four years; and what action is proposed to improve success rates.[HL15964]

Reply from Baroness Verma: The Ministry of Justice publishes statistics about the work of all tribunals run by HM Courts and Tribunals Service quarterly and annually. These include discrimination claims. Employment tribunals and Employment Appeal Tribunals statistics can be found at: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/tribunals/employment-tribunal-and-eat-statistics-gb>.

On 23 November 2011, the Government announced their intention to proceed with our early conciliation proposal. We will introduce the requirement for all potential claimants to lodge their claim with Acas, allowing Acas to offer conciliation. This will be the first part of the employment tribunal process.

Where the individual chooses to proceed to make a claim to the employment tribunal following conciliation, that person is likely to have a greater awareness of the likely prospects of their claim.

A key intention of this reform is to help parties avoid the employment tribunal process and to focus the work of tribunals more closely on those cases, including race and religion or belief discrimination claims, where a judicial determination is really necessary.

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they propose to improve race and religion discrimination claimants' representation in employment tribunal case hearings.[HL15965]

Reply from Baroness Verma: Although parties are of course free to engage legal representation if they wish, it is not necessary to do so. Employment tribunals were conceived as a quicker, cheaper and more accessible means of resolving employment disputes than ordinary courts. Their procedures have therefore been framed in such a way that parties may represent themselves, and many do so successfully.

On 23 November 2011, the Government announced their intention to proceed with our early conciliation proposal. We will introduce the requirement for all potential claimants to lodge their claim with Acas, allowing Acas to offer conciliation. This will give individuals an opportunity to resolve their dispute without incurring the costs, including representation costs, of the employment tribunal system. It will provide access to advice on points of law relevant to their claim, and help individuals to get a better understanding about how the employment tribunal system operates. This will be implemented through primary legislation, when parliamentary time allows.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120312w0001.htm#12031230001062>

European Court of Human Rights

A government-funded book and two dictionaries published in Turkey were not offensive to Roma

<http://cmiskp.echr.coe.int////tkp197/viewhbkkm.asp?action=open&table=F69A27FD8FB86142BF01C1166DEA398649&key=97048&sessionId=88535608&skin=hudoc-pr-en&attachment=true>

Press Releases

Man Sentenced for Religiously Aggravated Assault

<http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/03/Man-Sentenced-Religiously-Aggravated-Assault>

'Challenge it, report it, stop it' – fight against hate crime launched

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/hate-crime>

News

Andrew Whitson and Paul Swan are first 'football bill' convictions

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-17355788>

German sisters tell of 'Nazi' taunts during bullying hell at Scots school

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2012/03/16/german-sisters-tell-of-nazi-taunts-during-bullying-hell-at-scots-school-86908-23789831/>

The European Parliament's hand-out to the far-right

<http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/the-staggers/2012/03/european-parliament-anti>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Lithuanian shelf stacker's family sue Sainsbury's for £500,000 over his murder by "racist" worker

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2012/03/17/lithuanian-shelf-stacker-s-family-sue-sainsbury-s-for-500-000-over-his-murder-by-racist-worker-86908-23791291/>

Middle class, white teachers "struggle to tackle racism"

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/9149318/Middle-class-white-teachers-struggle-to-tackle-racism.html>

English Defence League sacks European demo head after brutal assault

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/denmark/9138323/English-Defence-League-sacks-European-demo-head-after-brutal-assault.html>

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Other Holyrood

First Minister's Questions

Same-Sex Marriage

Willie Rennie: ... The First Minister will know that I agree with him on equal marriage for gay people. I want to remove the barriers that prevent churches and other organisations from conducting same-sex marriages if they choose to do so. However, Brian Souter, a donor to the Scottish National Party, has well-known views against equality for gay people. Can the First Minister confirm that he will not give in to Brian Souter and that he will stand up for what is right on equal marriage?

... can he guarantee that he will not give in to Brian Souter? Equal marriage will be a mark of a modern Scotland. Last Sunday there was a big push by some churches to block the change. A cardinal said that it is "grotesque" and an archbishop said that there is a duty to stop it. The group Scotland for marriage went to the absurd extreme of saying that it would open the door for polygamy.

Those are serious forces against us, and I do not want the argument to slip away from us. I ask the First Minister again: will he stand up to Brian Souter and take a lead for equality in Scotland?

Reply from the First Minister: ... I made my views on the matter clear during the election, and they have not changed. The important point is that we are in a consultation process. The consultation has closed, and there has been a massive number of responses. As First Minister of Scotland, I believe that it is right and proper that the consultation process and the consideration of the evidence that has been presented be allowed to take their course.

We—members and parties in the chamber—are considering equal status in marriage, which has a strong moral dimension and is a matter of individual conscience. On such issues above all—if we are to have a debate on an issue of principle that is worthy of Parliament and, indeed, of the country—it behoves politicians, who lecture the rest of society about the care that they must take in using language, to rise to the challenge that they set other people.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6907&mode=html#job_62642

Same-Sex Marriage

Drew Smith: To ask the First Minister when the Scottish Government will announce its

Other Holyrood

First Minister's Questions (continued)

position on same-sex marriage. (S4F-00548)

Reply from the First Minister (Alex Salmond): This is a hugely important issue. We have received more than 50,000 responses to the consultation—the most responses to any consultation under devolution. The responses are being collated and analysed and we expect to complete that process over the coming months.

Drew Smith: Any Scottish Government proposals for equal marriage will have the support of the many members on this side of the chamber and across it who signed the equal marriage pledge. Will the First Minister confirm that the Government will not publish its response to last year's consultation until after the local government elections? Furthermore, will he indicate whether there is any good reason why equal marriage cannot be achieved before the referendum in 2014?

Reply from the First Minister: As Drew Smith might know, what the Government can publish over the campaigning period for local government elections is heavily restricted, as it should be. We are going through the consultation responses and will make progress on that basis. I hope and believe that, regardless of their views on the issue, all members recognise the critical importance in this issue—perhaps above all others—of people on all sides of the debate being able to see that a genuine and proper process of, first, consultation and then analysis and publication is taking place. That is exactly the type of process that we intend to follow.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6907&mode=html#job_62644

Press Release

Statisticians offer short term analytical consultancy

<http://www.vds.org.uk/NewsEvents/News/tabid/145/Default.aspx?newsItemID=4254>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Food: Labelling

Lord Pearson of Rannoch: To ask Her Majesty's Government why there is no requirement to label halal meat in shops and restaurants; and what steps they propose to take to inform consumer choice in this area.[HL16325]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The Government believe that people should know what they are buying in shops or when they are eating out. An amendment to require food labels to indicate whether an animal has been stunned before slaughter was proposed last year by the European Parliament in the context of proposals for an EU food information for consumers regulation. This proposal was not taken up, but in subsequent discussions a compromise agreement was reached that highlighted the importance of this issue and proposed that it should be considered by the EU Commission in a welfare context as part of the anticipated discussion on the EU welfare strategy.

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The Government support this approach, as it will allow consumer information to be considered alongside measures to minimise the suffering of animals slaughtered without stunning. The Commission has recently published its proposed Welfare Strategy for 2012-15 and has confirmed it will be studying the issue of labelling as provided for in last year's agreement on the food information for consumers regulation. The Government welcome this approach and we look forward to receiving further proposals from the Commission. In the mean time we are considering how we can use domestic legislation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120316w0001.htm#12031649000135>

Forced Marriage

Lord Lester of Herne Hill: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Hill of Oareford on 27 February (WA 255), whether they agree with the view of the Forced Marriage Unit, stated in its report on the implementation of the multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage, that "when the issue of forced marriage becomes embedded in everyday safeguarding of pupils, it can make a significant difference to individual children".[HL16144]

To ask Her Majesty's Government which schools in England and Wales responded to the Forced Marriage Unit's 2008 review of the implementation of its multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage.[HL16145]

To ask Her Majesty's Government which schools in England and Wales have policies and procedures for dealing with forced marriage, as required by the Forced Marriage Unit's The Right to Choose: multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage.[HL16146]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): All schools should have a child protection policy in place, and procedures that are in accordance with local authority guidance and locally agreed inter-agency procedures. It is that child protection policy that provides the framework within which threats such as those posed by forced marriage can be addressed. Schools can make a significant difference to individual children but it is they, not Government, who are best placed to decide how to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities, as they know their pupils best. Schools are not required to have separate policies and procedures to deal with forced marriage. The department does not have details of which schools in England and Wales responded to the review of the implementation of the Forced Marriage Unit multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120316w0001.htm#12031649000136>

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New Publications

Principles into Practice

<http://www.philanthropycapital.org/download/default.aspx?id=1184>

The Principles of Good Impact Reporting

<http://www.philanthropycapital.org/download/default.aspx?id=1185>

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Other News

Gift Aid declarations will have to change by the end of the year

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/news/1121963/gift-aid-declarations-will-change-end-year/>

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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>

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 Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120315-0001.htm#12031555000936>

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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

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=l

Consultations (continued)

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

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.

**** this week!**

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.

**** this week!**

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.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

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 Javid 07521559453 / atifj94@hotmail.com

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

I Am Going To Get Myself Elected

22 March 2012 in Glasgow (5.30 – 8.00)

CEMVO seminar to discuss why ethnic minorities should be involved in democratic processes, what are the perceived barriers, and party politics versus community needs. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/7hp8uwr> or contact Fiaz Khan 0141 248 4830 / Fiaz Khan fiaz.khan@cemvoscotland.org.uk

**** Encouraging Social Enterprise within Ethnic Minority Community**

29 March 2012 in Glasgow (5.30 – 7.30)

CEMVO seminar to encourage ethnic minority-led communities to explore social enterprise. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/6no7qo4> or contact Fiaz Khan 0141 248 4830 / Fiaz Khan fiaz.khan@cemvoscotland.org.uk

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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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