

## 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.*

### Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Race Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)

[Other Holyrood](#)

[Other Westminster](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Events/Conferences/Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

**Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month, and that the Scottish Parliament website has recently been redesigned, so that links published in previous issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on the Scottish Parliament website, copy the details from MEMO into the search facility at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/help/searchadvanced.aspx>.**

**Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to [MEMO@scojec.org](mailto:MEMO@scojec.org) and requests to be added to circulation to [mail@bemis.org.uk](mailto:mail@bemis.org.uk)**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Westminster House of Lords Grand Committee

**Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2012**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120321-gc0001.htm#12032175000081>

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions

#### British Nationality Act 1981

**Lord Laird:** To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people since 2009 have been deprived of their citizenship under Section 40 of the British Nationality Act 1981 by virtue of the registration or naturalisation being obtained by means of fraud, false representation or the concealment of any material fact; and whether they have made any assessment of whether the option is being properly and sufficiently utilised. [HL16410]

**Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):** Fewer than five

## Immigration and Asylum

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

people have been deprived of their citizenship under Section 40 of the British Nationality Act 1981 since 2009. The Home Office is unable to disclose any further details as this could breach the department's responsibilities under the Data Protection Act.

The deprivation on fraud grounds of a number of other individuals is currently under consideration. Use of the fraud deprivation powers is currently being reviewed.

**Lord Laird:** To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to amend the residence requirements in Schedule 1 to the British Nationality Act 1981 for naturalisation as a British citizen to exclude time spent in the United Kingdom on a student visa in the qualifying period of five years, or in any other circumstances where residence was legal; and whether time spent in the United Kingdom illegally or without leave is ever counted as qualifying.[HL16438]

**Reply from Lord Henley:** The residence requirements for naturalisation, as specified in Schedule 1 of the British Nationality Act 1981, provide that a person should have resided legally in the United Kingdom for a qualifying period of three or five years. The residence requirements do not specify that the applicant should have been here in a particular capacity, meaning that time spent in the United Kingdom on a student visa can potentially count towards the residence requirements for naturalisation.

However, in practice, the circumstances in which time spent in the UK on a student visa could count towards the residence requirement for naturalisation are limited. This is because in order to qualify for naturalisation the applicant must also be free from immigration time control on the date of application.

Usually, a non-EEA national would achieve this through a grant of indefinite leave to remain under the Immigration Rules. As student leave is not a route to settlement in its own right it is unlikely that a person who enters as a student can ultimately acquire settlement and, in turn, citizenship unless they become the spouse or partner of a British citizen/settled person or meet the rules relating to long residence.

For the purposes of naturalisation, residence in the United Kingdom should have been legal and not in breach of the immigration laws. This means that in general any period of illegal residence will not count towards the qualifying period for naturalisation. The Secretary of State does, however, have the discretion to overlook a period of breach of the UK immigration laws during the qualifying period in particular circumstances; for example, if this was inadvertent.

There are no plans to amend the requirements for naturalisation at the current time.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120321w0001.htm#12032172000470>

### Immigration Controls

**Ian Paisley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment the UK Border Agency (UKBA) has made of the balance of power in the employee/employer relationship when (a) people on a work permit/Tier 2 who lose their job also lose the visa that entitles them to reside in the UK and (b) a work permit/Tier 2 employee is obliged to work for the employer that recruits him or her and cannot move to another employer unless the UKBA agrees to the transfer. [100606]

**Reply from Damian Green:** Non European Economic Area (EEA) Nationals entering the UK to undertake employment are protected by UK employment law. They have the same employment rights as settled workers. If an individual loses a job under the Tier 2/work permit arrangements, their leave to remain in the UK is

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

curtailed to give them 60 days to find alternative employment or make arrangements to leave the UK. Non EEA nationals entering the UK to undertake employment do so on the basis of taking a specific job with a specific sponsor. Individuals can change employers but must obtain permission from the UK Border Agency before doing so. This is to ensure that the job has been offered to resident workers and is at the appropriate skill level and being paid the appropriate rate. This safeguards opportunities for resident workers as well as protecting non EEA workers from being underpaid. It is the UK Border Agency's duty to ensure that non EEA nationals entering the UK comply with their terms and conditions of stay and sponsors adhere to the obligations to which they have signed up. Where overseas workers and sponsors abuse the immigration rules the UK Border Agency will take appropriate compliance action.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120321/text/120321w004.htm#1203222000035>

### Visas

**Lord Laird:** To ask Her Majesty's Government how many visas were issued in 2011 for non-European Economic Area workers on intra-company transfers, and whether they regard those workers as (1) habitually resident in the United Kingdom, and (2) eligible for free health treatment; and using a median salary of £40,000 how much revenue is foregone by virtue of the exclusion from the requirement for employer or employee national insurance contributions to be paid.[HL16385]

**Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):** There were 29,677 visas issued to main applicants from non-EEA nationalities under the points-based system (PBS) tier 2-intra-company transfer (ICT) route in 2011.

Table be.04 of the Home Office statistical release "Immigration Statistics" includes data on the number of out of country visas issued under the tier 2 intra-company transfer route. The latest release of Immigration Statistics (October-December 2011) is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science, research and statistics web pages at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>

The term habitual residence is used by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) when considering applications for income related benefits. Those workers here under the ICT route do not have recourse to public funds and are subject to minimum salary requirements. As such, under the DWP definition, none of those using the ICT route would be regarded as "habitually resident" for benefit purposes.

The charging regulations in force across the UK exempt people working here for UK-based business from hospital charges if they are here, or expect to be here, for over 12 months. Such workers have free access to the NHS.

We do not have information on the amount of revenue foregone by the exclusion from the requirement for employer or employee national insurance contributions. I refer to Answers previously given on 10 Jan 2012 (col. WA58), 13 July 2011 (col. WA 189), 2 December 2010 (col. WA 484) and 16 November 2010 (col. WA 196), which explained why non-EEA workers are allowed a 52-week exemption from national insurance contributions (which includes employer contributions).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120322w0001.htm#12032273000130>

*The answers referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120110w0002.htm#12011062001845>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110713w0001.htm#11071357000412>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101202w0001.htm#10120237000317>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101116w0001.htm#10111636000393>

### Entry Clearances: Children

**Charlotte Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what support is available for children who have travelled to the UK on a medical visa for long term treatment who wish to attend school. [98711]

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** The School Admissions Code 2012 sets out a statutory national framework which ensures that entry to all state-funded school places are awarded openly and fairly. While it does not specifically mention children entering the country on a medical visa it does require all admission authorities to treat applications for children coming from overseas in accordance with European Union law or Home Office rules for non-European economic area nationals.

The provisions of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 govern the right of admission for nationals of the European economic area (EEA) to the United Kingdom (UK). Where these provisions are satisfied, EEA nationals and their children of any age, who come to the UK lawfully to work or for certain other economic purposes, have a right to reside in the UK and enjoy the same rights to education as British citizens. This also applies to unaccompanied EEA national children who come to study in the UK.

Non-EEA children unaccompanied by their parents do not have this right, but can apply on their own for leave to enter or remain in the UK to study at independent fee-paying schools. They must satisfy requirements at paragraph 245ZZ of the Home Office Immigration Rules, which can be viewed at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/immigrationlaw/immigrationrules/part6a/>

In addition, schools and local authorities also have responsibilities and duties under the Education Act 1996 to identify, assess and make suitable provision to meet children's special educational needs. This would apply also to those children who are eligible to enter the country on a medical visa.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120320/text/120320w0003.htm#12032095000005>

### Overseas Students: Entry Clearances

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of changes to the Tier 4 visa system on (a) the number of applications from overseas students in (i) Ireland, (ii) EU nations and (iii) other overseas nations as classified by the University and Colleges Admissions Service and (b) the international reputation of the UK's higher education sector. [99954]

**Reply from David Willetts:** The information requested is as follows:

(a) (i) (ii) Changes to the Tier 4 visa system do not affect students applying to the UK from Ireland or EU nations, as only non-EU students are required to apply for a Tier 4 student visa.

(iii) The latest figures published by UCAS show that, as of 20 February 2012, the number of applicants from non-EU overseas countries was up by 5,266 (from



## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

39,565 to 44,831) compared to the same point last year, a rise of 13.3%.

(b) I have not made any specific assessment of the effect of changes on Tier 4 to the international reputation of the UK's higher education sector. The purpose of the new student visa route is to address past abuses of the visa system by creating controls that make study applications less attractive to those who are not genuine students, while welcoming genuine students to the UK. We have been absolutely clear that we completely recognise the important contribution that international students make to the UK's economy, and to making our education system one of the best in the world and that the UK is fully open for business and welcomes legitimate students.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120319/text/120319w0003.htm#1203202000021>

### Migrant Workers: Romanians and Bulgarians

**Lord Laird:** To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Henley on 5 March (WA 393-94), how many (1) Romanians, and (2) Bulgarians, have migrated to the United Kingdom since those countries joined the European Union on 1 January 2007, according to the International Passenger Survey; and whether the Office for National Statistics uses that figure or the Annual Population Survey figure to calculate net migration into the United Kingdom.[HL16437]

**Reply from Lord Wallace of Saltaire:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, Director-General for ONS, to Lord Laird, dated March 2012.*

As Director-General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, further to the Written Answer by Lord Henley on 5 March (WA 393-4), how many (1) Romanians, and (2) Bulgarians, have migrated to the United Kingdom since those countries joined the European Union on 1 January 2007, according to the International Passenger Survey; and whether the Office for National Statistics uses that figure or the Annual Population Survey figure to calculate net migration into the United Kingdom (HL16437).

The International Passenger Survey estimates that (1) 16,000 (SE 26%) Bulgarian citizens and (2) 27,000 (SE 14%) Romanian citizens migrated to the United Kingdom between 1 January 2007 and 31 December 2010.

Standard error percentages (SE%) indicate the robustness of each estimate. A migration figure with a standard error percentage greater than 25% is not considered to be reliable for practical purposes.

The Office for National Statistics calculates Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) estimates from the International Passenger Survey (IPS), supplemented with data on flows to and from Northern Ireland, adjustments for asylum seekers and for those who change their intentions. Net migration is calculated from LTIM as the difference between the estimates of inflow and outflow, which is largely based on the IPS. The Annual Population Survey is used to calculate estimates of population stocks resident in the United Kingdom and is not used to calculate migration flows.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120319w0001.htm#12031914000341>

### Immigration

**Karen Lumley (Redditch) (Con):** What steps she is taking to ensure that people applying to settle in the UK can contribute to the economy. [100224]

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green):** On 29 February, we

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

announced changes that will break the link between coming here to work and settling permanently and ensure that only those who make a significant economic contribution can stay. In future, most skilled workers will need to be paid a minimum salary of £35,000 to settle here.

**Karen Lumley:** I welcome the Minister's comments. I am glad that settlement will no longer be an automatic consequence of long-term residence, but can he assure my constituents that that will be properly enforced?

**Reply from Damian Green:** I am grateful for my hon. Friend's support, and I can give her that assurance. The new measures will be no different in this regard from any other immigration route. She and the House may be aware that we have now reached 11,000 arrests of criminals, including murderers, rapists and illegal immigrants, as a result of the processing of advance passenger information through e-borders. In 2011, in a clampdown on sham marriages, we carried out over 300 enforcement operations and prosecuted almost 230 people. That is the kind of tough enforcement that we need, and now have, to back up our immigration system.

**Fiona Mactaggart (Slough) (Lab):** Overseas domestic workers make a significant contribution to Britain's economy, directly and indirectly, by allowing their employers to contribute to the economy. The changes to their visa that the Minister has announced put a large number of overseas domestic workers at risk of being trafficked, as we know from history. Would he be willing to meet me and representatives of Justice for Domestic Workers so that he can hear first hand about the impact that his proposed changes will have on overseas domestic workers?

**Reply from Damian Green:** I do not agree with the hon. Lady's analysis of what we are doing. We are returning this route to its original purpose—to enable visitors from overseas to bring their domestic workers with them to the UK. Domestic workers will be able to come to the country for short periods with their existing employer, but should also leave with that employer. Individuals living in the UK should recruit domestic help from within the resident labour force. There is no justification for allowing low-skilled jobs to be filled from outside the European economic area. It is wrong to assert that a right to settle and bring a family to the UK is the most appropriate form of protection from abuse. [*Interruption.*] The hon. Lady and the shadow Immigration Minister, the hon. Member for Rhondda (Chris Bryant), who is chuntering from a sedentary position, have simply got this wrong.

**Julian Huppert:** Does the Minister recognise the concern expressed by academics, universities and high-tech companies that this aspect of immigration policy and the rhetoric surrounding it is making it harder to attract and keep the best and brightest, who contribute so much to our society and economy? What assurances can he give to employers and their prospective employees that Britain will be open for the best and brightest?

**Reply from Damian Green:** I can give the hon. Gentleman the assurance of the facts. We have made changes to tier 1—the top end of the immigration system—to encourage investors and entrepreneurs to come to the UK. We have created a special new route for the exceptionally talented in the arts and sciences. At the same time as reducing immigration numbers, we are making a more selective system that will show that Britain is open for business and that the brightest and the best can make a great future in this country.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120319/debtext/120319-0001.htm#120319600027>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

### Asylum: Housing

**Julian Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to monitor the provision of accommodation for asylum seekers by private providers which have been contracted to provide accommodation by the UK Border Agency; and what plans she has to review any subcontracts into which these providers may enter. [100319]

**Reply from Damian Green:** Providers contracted to provide accommodation for asylum seekers are responsible for managing provision of the required services. They are required to maintain the standards as set out in the schedule of requirements to the contract. The COMPASS contracts, to be introduced during 2012, include enhanced key performance indicators to ensure effective monitoring of the quality of service provided. Compliance is monitored by the UK Border Agency through a programme of local audits and compliance checks. Under the COMPASS contracts, providers must give the UK Border Agency 10 days' notice before entering, into a material subcontract to include all relevant documents including the proposed subcontract. Where appropriate the UK Border Agency will provide written consent to enter into the subcontract.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120319/text/120319w0005.htm#12032022000010>

## Press Releases

### Summer and winter schools mandatory agent registration

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/march/61-summer-winter-school>

### The number of asylum applicants registered in the EU27 rose to 301 000 in 2011

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/12/46&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

## New Publications

### Migrants in Europe - A statistical portrait of the first and second generation

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_OFFPUB/KS-31-10-539/EN/KS-31-10-539-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-31-10-539/EN/KS-31-10-539-EN.PDF)

### Living in the Margins

<http://livinginthemargins.org/>

## News

### Review call after ban on overseas students

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/review-call-after-ban-on-overseas-students.17074586>

### Scotland needs own human trafficking laws, MSPs told

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/scotland-needs-own-human-trafficking-laws-mmps-told-1-2185193>

## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

#### **Gangs see Scotland as soft touch for human trafficking, warns Amnesty**

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/gangs-see-scotland-as-soft-touch-for-human-trafficking-warns-amnesty-1-2183179>

#### **Patient care 'will suffer' under plans to throw out migrant nurses**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/mar/25/migrant-nurses-nhs>

#### **Nowhere to turn: Britain's sex slaves**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2012/mar/19/nowhere-to-turn-britains-sex-slaves>

#### **Scottish independence will cause mass immigration, Theresa May claims**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2012/mar/24/scottish-independence-immigration-theresa-may>

#### **Scottish independence: 'Border checks' warning from home secretary**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-17505302>

#### **Ministers plan major immigration crackdown**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/9165090/Ministers-plan-major-immigration-crackdown.html>

#### **Theresa May Plans New Visa Rules For Immigrants According To Leaked Report**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2012/03/25/theresa-may-new-visa-immigrants-home-office\\_n\\_1377809.html?ref=uk-issues](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2012/03/25/theresa-may-new-visa-immigrants-home-office_n_1377809.html?ref=uk-issues)

[TOP](#)

## Race Relations

### New Publication

#### **The Riot Roundtables: Race and the riots of August 2011**

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

[TOP](#)

## Equality

### Holyrood Parliamentary Question

**John Finnie (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Executive how it ensures that ethnic minorities are included in its work on youth employability. (S4W-06061)

**Reply from Angela Constance:** This government is committed to improving youth employment for all young people in Scotland.

Since my appointment as Minister for youth Employment, I have engaged with a wide range of stakeholders, including speaking at the Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure Conference on 21 February on Youth Employability, Race Equality and Rights.



## Equality

### Holyrood Parliamentary Question (continued)

Building on that event, I will meet with representatives from black and ethnic minority communities on 22 March to continue and broaden out that discussion.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-06061&ResultsPerPage=10>

## Westminster Parliamentary Question

### Religious Freedom

**Lord Alton of Liverpool:** To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to clarify the law in respect of Christians wishing to wear a cross in the workplace. [HL16426]

**Reply from Baroness Verma:** No. We have no plans to change the law. At present there is nothing in UK law that denies people the right to express their religious views-including through the wearing of a religious symbol such as a cross-while at work. Employers need to have proportionate and legitimate reasons if they want to restrict their employees from openly wearing a cross or any other religious item.

We believe that in this respect domestic law strikes the right balance between the rights of employees to manifest their faith and that of employers to place legitimate restrictions on that where appropriate, for instance in order to ensure patient safety or for health and safety reasons.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120322w0001.htm#12032273000127>

[TOP](#)

## Racism and Religious Hatred

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions

#### Hate Crime

**Stephen Lloyd (Eastbourne) (LD):** What steps she is taking to tackle hate crime. [100227]

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green):** Last Wednesday, the Minister for Equalities launched "Challenge it, report it, stop it", the Government's new action plan for tackling hate crime. It sets out what we will do at the national level to help victims and professionals to challenge the attitudes that drive hate crime; give more victims the confidence to come forward; and make sure that the criminal justice system responds effectively when they do.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120319/debtext/120319-0001.htm#1203196000029>

#### Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

**David Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps he has taken to protect Jewish students attending university from anti-Semitic attacks; and if he will make a statement. [R] [99086]

**Reply from David Willetts:** Anti-Semitism and intolerance have no place in our society and no place in higher education. Staff and students from all backgrounds, cultures and communities must be welcome in our higher education sector. The UK has in place one of the strongest legislative frameworks to protect people

## Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

from harassment and abuse, and specifically racial or religious persecution. This framework provides protection to the Jewish community alongside other ethnic and religious groups. As independent organisations, higher education institutions are directly accountable for compliance with the law and hold the primary responsibility for ensuring that their staff and students are not subject to threatening or abusive behaviour on campus.

In addition to legal requirements, institutions have access to a range of practical guidance to help them ensure fair treatment of their staff and students, and to help them deal effectively with instances of intolerance, racism and harassment in their institutions.

The Government expect institutions to vigorously tackle intolerance on campus when it arises.

I have met the Union of Jewish Students to discuss anti-Semitism in higher education and assured them that the Government continue to take this issue seriously, and expect universities to use the tools they have to tackle anti-Semitism.

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. However, no incident is acceptable in higher education, or elsewhere.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120320/text/120320w0005.htm#1203216000010>

## Westminster Early Day Motion

**John Mann (2899) Toulouse attacks and the response to them** – That this House is outraged and horrified by the attack on a Jewish school in Toulouse, France; sends condolences to all the families, friends and communities affected and to the people and Parliament of France; notes the recommendations of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Semitism which set out a political roadmap for tackling anti-Semitism at governmental, parliamentary and civic levels; further notes the improved arrangements for security of Jewish schools, recording of anti-Semitic incidents by police and the improved prosecution practices resulting from the inquiry recommendations; believes that robustness in tackling racism is critical even when uncomfortable to do so; further notes that British examples of best practice such as the work of the Community Security Trust can be modelled by other countries; calls on the Government to share with countries across Europe and beyond the work carried out in the UK so that parliaments across the world can support minority communities in defending themselves; believes that evil like this, though rare in recent years, can strike at any place at any time in any country; further believes that elected politicians must be the ones to take a lead in fighting anti-Semitism and racism; and further calls on parliaments across Europe and the world to keep this issue on their agenda.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2010-12/2899>

## Press Releases

**United front in tackling prejudice in Scotland**

<http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/03/United-Front-Tackling-Prejudice-Scotland>

## Racism and Religious Hatred

### Press Releases (continued)

**“We must challenge all acts of intolerance and discrimination”, says William Hague**

[http://www.coe.int/en/web/coe-portal/press/newsroom?p\\_p\\_id=newsroom&newsroom\\_articleId=888422&newsroom\\_groupId=10226&newsroom\\_tabs=newsroom-topnews&pager.offset=0](http://www.coe.int/en/web/coe-portal/press/newsroom?p_p_id=newsroom&newsroom_articleId=888422&newsroom_groupId=10226&newsroom_tabs=newsroom-topnews&pager.offset=0)

**National Roma Integration Strategies: what happened to the fight against anti-Gypsyism and ensuring Roma participation?**

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/ERPC%20PRESS%20RELEASE%2022-03-12%20final.pdf>

**Secretary-General calls on all people to join un in drive to stamp out ‘weapon’ of racism, which is used to undermine peace, engender fear, incite war crimes**

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2012/sqsm14172.doc.htm>

**“Leaving prejudice and racism to simmer on the back burner creates a real risk of conflict erupting”**

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Media.aspx?IsMediaPage=true>

**Racism and discrimination still pervasive across Europe against backdrop of economic downturn**

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/press%20release%20shadow%20report%2021-03-12%20rev.pdf>

## New Publication

**European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) survey of Jewish people’s experiences and perceptions of antisemitism**

[http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA-Factsheet-survey-antisemitism\\_EN.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA-Factsheet-survey-antisemitism_EN.pdf)

## News

**We want a country free of hate crime – Mulholland**

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/we-want-a-country-free-of-hate-crime-mulholland-1-2191604>

**Top QC Frank Mulholland: Police and prosecution working to change culture of prejudice in Scotland**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2012/03/22/top-qc-frank-mulholland-police-and-prosecution-working-to-change-culture-of-prejudice-in-scotland-86908-23798170/>

**Fans’ anger at anti-sectarian guidelines that will ‘sterilise’ match culture**

<http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/scotland/fans-anger-at-anti-sectarian-guidelines-that-will-sterilise-match-culture-1-2194917>

[TOP](#)

## Other Holyrood

### Press Release

#### **Parliament finalises Diamond Jubilee plans**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/48637.aspx>

### News

#### **Plans for Scottish rural parliament**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-17499075>

[TOP](#)

## Other Westminster

### Ministerial Statement

#### **Scotland Bill**

**The Secretary of State for Scotland (Michael Moore):** The Scotland Bill is a significant step forward in Scottish devolution. It provides for the biggest transfer of fiscal power from London since the creation of the United Kingdom—including a new Scottish rate of income tax, full devolution of stamp duty land tax and landfill tax, and new borrowing powers. Together, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecast that these measures will enable the Scottish Government to raise between £5 billion and £6 billion of their budget in addition to around £4 billion they currently raise in council tax and non-domestic rates. ...

Agreement has been reached with the Scottish Government on both the finance and non-finance provisions included in the Bill and the Scottish Government will today table a legislative consent memorandum recommending that the Scottish Parliament votes in support of the Bill on a further legislative consent motion for the Bill. ...

The Government will work together with the Scottish Government over coming months and years to give operational effect to the powers including the block grant adjustment, in a fair and sustainable way and should reach agreement on all implementation issues. ...

Additional amendments will be made to the provisions on appeals to the Supreme Court from Scottish criminal cases. A certification requirement will not be introduced. However, the new arrangements will be subject to a review, chaired by the Lord Justice General of Scotland, after three years of operation. ...

**To read the full statement see**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120321/wmstext/120321m0001.htm#12032150000005>

### Press Releases

#### **UK Government issues new planning guidance on traveller sites**

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/2114100>

#### **Prime Minister David Cameron has sent a message to Iranians around the world on the occasion of Norouz - Persian New Year**

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/david-cameron-norouz-message/>

## Other Westminster (continued) New Publication

### Planning policy for traveller sites

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2113371.pdf>

[TOP](#)

## Bills in Progress    \*\* new or updated this week

### Holyrood

#### **\*\* Police and Fire Reform Bill**

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

Local Government and Regeneration Committee Report

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_LocalGovernmentandRegenerationCommittee/Reports/lqR-12-05w.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_LocalGovernmentandRegenerationCommittee/Reports/lqR-12-05w.pdf)

Justice Committee: Stage 1 evidence from the Fire Brigades Union, Scottish Fire Conveners Forum, Association of Principal Fire Officers Scotland, Lewis Macdonald MSP, Association of Chief Police Officers, Chief Fire Officers Association Scotland, and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Advisory Unit  
(p5, col 1105)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6912&mode=pdf>  
and

Dumfries and Galloway Police Fire and Rescue Committee, Fife Police Fire and Safety Committee, Grampian Joint Police Board, Lothian and Borders Police Board, Northern Joint Police Board, Strathclyde Police Authority, and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.

(p8, col 1177)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6928&mode=pdf>

#### **Social Care (Self-directed Support) Bill**

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

#### **\*\* Welfare Reform (Further Provision) Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/48804.aspx>

Bill as introduced

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_Bills/Welfare%20Reform%20Bill/b11s4-introd.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Welfare%20Reform%20Bill/b11s4-introd.pdf)

Explanatory Notes

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_Bills/Welfare%20Reform%20Bill/b11s4-introd-en.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Welfare%20Reform%20Bill/b11s4-introd-en.pdf)

Policy Memorandum

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_Bills/Welfare%20Reform%20Bill/b11s4-introd-pm.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Welfare%20Reform%20Bill/b11s4-introd-pm.pdf)

Delegated Powers Memorandum

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_Welfare\\_Reform\\_Committee/Welfare\\_reform\\_bill\\_DPM.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Welfare_Reform_Committee/Welfare_reform_bill_DPM.pdf)



## 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/120321-0001.htm#12032153000319>

Bill as amended in the Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2010-2012/0136/2012136.pdf>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2010-2012/0136/amend/ml136-i.htm>

[TOP](#)

## Consultations

**\*\* new or updated this week**

### **\*\* closes this week!**

**Forced marriage** (closing date 30 March 2012)

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

### **\*\* closes this week!**

**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/>

**\*\* Scottish Welfare Reform Bill** (closing date 11 April 2012)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/48762.aspx>

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

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_StandardsProceduresandPublicAppointmentsCommittee/Inquiries/Call\\_for\\_evidenceCPG.pdf](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](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=](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](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_132880)

[TOP](#)

## Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

## Funding Opportunities

### **Call for proposals for the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals 2011 and 2012**

Closing date for applications 16 May 2012

Funding is available for projects that prepare third-country nationals for their integration in the UK whilst they are still on the territory of the third country and who are complying with specific departure measures, i.e. those who have applied for a visa to enter the UK with a view to settlement.

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/migrants/call-european-fund-201112.pdf>

[TOP](#)

## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees**

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](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

[TOP](#)

## 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](http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw)

**European Parliament** <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>

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

**Scottish Refugee Council** [www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](http://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](http://www.acas.org.uk)

**SCVO** <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Home/Home.aspx>

**Volunteer Development Scotland** [www.vds.org.uk](http://www.vds.org.uk)

**Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)** <http://www.oscr.org.uk/>

**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](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm)

[TOP](#)



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/>

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.