

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with **BEMIS - empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities**. It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.*

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motions

S4M-02634 Humza Yousaf: Concern at Evictions in Glasgow—That the Parliament raises serious concern at the decision to evict 140 asylum seekers and refugees in Glasgow; recognises that many of these families come from war-torn conflict zones that would be unsafe to return to; understands that, if evicted, families will be left with no home and no access to work or benefits; believes that compassion must be shown to the most vulnerable in society, and considers that organisations such as the Fire Brigades Union Scotland have given fantastic support with their generous donations to enable the families to remain housed in the short term.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-02634&ResultsPerPage=10>

S4M-02640 Kevin Stewart: UK Border Agency—That the Parliament condemns what it considers to be the continued refusal of the UK Border Agency (UKBA) to engage with members who are representing their constituents; believes this to be an affront to democracy in Scotland; understands that the UKBA considers that it is “by far, the biggest recipient of constituency case correspondence in Government”, and believes that the level of casework undertaken by the UKBA is a direct result of the failed policies of the UK Government.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-02640&ResultsPerPage=10>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

UK Border Force

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what operational responsibilities she proposes will be shared between the National Border Command and the UK Border Force. [101064]

Reply from Damian Green: The Border Policing Command (BPC) (as part of the National Crime Agency—NCA) and Border Force will work closely together and will play vital roles in the Government's approach to delivering increased security at the border. Border Force will be responsible for entry controls and customs functions at the border. The Border Policing Command will take the lead in delivering better, more joined up enforcement activity across all agencies operating in and around the border, including Border Force.

Border Force will be responsible for sharing intelligence with the BPC. This will enable the BPC to deliver a single, comprehensive picture of the threats to public safety and security at the border. The BPC will be responsible for tasking and co-ordinating Border Force assets (alongside wider NCA, UK Border Agency, law enforcement and other partner assets) to carry out separate or joint operations relating to border security.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120417/text/120417w0001.htm#12041748000013>

Immigration: Students

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-EU migrants have leave to remain in the UK as a student, excluding student visitors. [103612]

Reply from Damian Green: The available statistics relate to the number of visas issued and grants of an extension of stay in the study category (excluding EEA nationals) and are published in tables be.04, be.06.s and ex.06 in the Home Office

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

statistical release 'Immigration Statistics'.

These data will include some students who have not yet entered the country and some who have subsequently left the country. Individuals could be counted more than once within the data.

A copy of the latest release, '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/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120419/text/120419w0001.htm#12041931000024>

Refugees: Asylum

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what circumstances a stateless person would be expected to provide a passport when making an application for asylum in the UK. [103628]

Reply from Damian Green: All applicants for asylum are expected to provide documents relating to their identity, nationality or country of habitual residence in so far as it is reasonable for them to do so. However, it is recognised that in some circumstances this will not be possible.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120419/text/120419w0001.htm#12041931000033>

Asylum

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why the UK Border Agency does not recognise asylum seekers from non-Arab ethnic groups from Darfur as members of such groups; and what assessment she has made of the likelihood of non-Arab Darfuri asylum seekers returned from the UK to Sudan being at risk of detention and torture. [103654]

Reply from Damian Green: Each asylum and human rights claim is considered on its individual merits in accordance with the UK Border Agency's obligations under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights. Claimants who meet the definition of a refugee in the 1951 convention are granted asylum. If they do not qualify for asylum, but there are other circumstances that make them particularly vulnerable and engage the UK Border Agency's obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights, they are granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave. If their application is refused, they have a right of appeal to the courts. In this way the UK Border Agency ensures that it provides protection to those who need it.

Asylum claims by Sudanese nationals are dealt with in the same way as claims from every other country of origin. This includes assessment of nationality and, where appropriate, ethnicity, using information provided by the claimants themselves, relevant case law and objective country of origin information.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likelihood of the ethnicity of the 15 non-Arab Sudanese in detention at Campsfield facility and 13 at the Dover facility making them subject to detention and torture if returned to Sudan. [103655]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency carefully considers all applications on their individual merits, and will offer protection to those who genuinely need it. Those who are found not to have a right to be here are expected to leave voluntarily. If they fail to do so, the UK Border Agency will seek to remove them.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The UK Border Agency only enforces the return of individuals whom it is satisfied have no right to be in the United Kingdom and who do not leave voluntarily.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120419/text/120419w0001.htm#12041931000015>

Human Trafficking

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prosecutions for human trafficking in Scotland in 2011 led to successful convictions and how many of those convicted were given a custodial sentence; [103479]

(2) how many prosecutions for human trafficking led to successful convictions in England and Wales in 2010-11 and how many of those convicted were given a custodial sentence. [103480]

Reply from Crispin Blunt: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody at all courts for human trafficking offences in England and Wales in 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Court proceedings figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for Scotland are not held by the Ministry of Justice. Information for Scotland is a matter for the Scottish Executive.

Annual court proceedings data for England and Wales for 2011 are planned for publication on 24 May 2012.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts for human trafficking offences ⁽¹⁾, England and Wales, 2010 ^(2,3)

	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Sentence breakdown	
			Immediate custody	Suspended sentence
Human Trafficking Offences	30	16	15	1

⁽¹⁾ Includes offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 section 57-59 and Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants Act) 2004 section 4. ⁽²⁾ The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe. ⁽³⁾ Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used. *Source:* Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120418/text/120418w0003.htm#1204193000008>

Human Trafficking: Children

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many British nationals were found to be victims of child trafficking in each year since 2000. [103727]

Reply from Damian Green: Since April 2009 a multi-agency framework has been

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

in place for identifying and protecting victims of trafficking called the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). A breakdown of identified numbers of child trafficking victims by nationality can be found on the United Kingdom's Human Trafficking Centre website at: <http://www.soca.gov.uk/about-soca/about-the-ukhtc>
Prior to 1 April 2009, the UK did not have a national system to formally confirm trafficking victim status.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120419/text/120419w0001.htm#12041931000023>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Chris Bryant (2964) Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules – That this House supports most elements of the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules HC 1888, a copy of which was laid before this House on 15 March 2012, for instance the provisions that close the Tier 1 (Post-Study Work) category and introduce the Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) category and that amend the settlement regime; expects that the annual limits for 2012-13 and 2013-14 for Tier 1 of the Points-Based System will not make any appreciable difference to the Government's declared net migration targets, but is concerned that the proposed changes to the categories for overseas domestic workers in private households as they affect diplomats and others may lead to an increase in illegal trafficking and virtual domestic slavery; and therefore calls on the Government to allow a debate on the Statement of Changes as soon as possible.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2010-12/2964>

Press Releases

Tier 2 certificates of sponsorship allocations for 2012/13

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/april/47-tier-2-cos>

Tier 1 (Post-study work) applications will not be accepted after 5 April 2012

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/april/16-tier1-psw-route-closing>

Britain welcomes brightest and best workers

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/non-EEA-skilled-workers>

Changes affecting Tier 2 of the points-based system

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/immigration/changes-tier-two/>

Church concerns over an uncertain future for asylum seekers

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/articles/church_concerns_over_an_uncertain_future_for_asylum_seekers

OSCE/ODIHR plans network of lawyers to improve access to justice for trafficking victims

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/89510>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

New Publications

Work of the UK Border Agency (August-December 2011)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmhaff/1722/1722.pdf>

Getting support for dependants under Section 95 and Section 4 support

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/ASAP_Factsheet_on_Dependants.pdf

Keeping Families Apart: The impact of a new income threshold for family migration

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/publications/MRN-Family_migration-briefing-April_2012.pdf

News

Border Agency still failing on basics, say MPs

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-17668569>

Border Agency 'failing to fulfil its basic functions'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/political-news/border-agency-failing-to-fulfil-its-basic-functions.17243115>

MPs slam UK Border Agency

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/mps-slam-uk-border-agency-1-2227016>

UK Border Agency unable to fulfil its basic functions, MPs warn

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/apr/11/uk-border-agency>

100 asylum seekers told to quit homes

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/100-asylum-seekers-told-to-quit-homes-1.1156874>

Young migrants living 'far below poverty line'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/apr/09/young-migrants-below-poverty-line>

100 families 'told to sleep in gardens'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/100-families-told-to-sleep-in-gardens.17246175>

Deportation fight couple are reunited

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/deportation-fight-couple-are-reunited.17240994>

Judges ordered to end 'right to family life' farce

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/9192270/Judges-ordered-to-end-right-to-family-life-farce.html>

Theresa May pledges to end 'family rights' bar on deportation

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2012/apr/08/theresa-may-end-deportation-bar>

Young migrants living 'far below poverty line'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/apr/09/young-migrants-below-poverty-line>

We are still failing non-British victims of domestic violence

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/apr/02/domestic-violence-spousal-visa>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Rights of the vulnerable must not and cannot be forgotten

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/analysis-rights-of-the-vulnerable-must-not-and-cannot-be-forgotten-1-2219871>

Experienced foreign workers a 'challenge' to British jobseekers

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/9208299/Experienced-foreign-workers-a-challenge-to-British-jobseekers.html>

X-ray trial on asylum seekers started without formal approval

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/apr/05/x-ray-trial-asylum-seekers-age>

New move to crack down on human trafficking

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/new-move-to-crack-down-on-human-trafficking.17265557>

Asylum seekers 'will be homeless'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-17693871>

Protest at asylum seeker evictions

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/protest-at-asylum-seeker-evictions.17299245>

Deportation contractor Reliance faces litany of abuse claims against staff

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/apr/13/deportation-contractor-reliance-abuse-claims>

Staff deporting foreigners out of UK 'loutish and aggressive'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/apr/13/staff-deporting-foreigners-loutish>

Pakistani students applying for UK visa will face compulsory interview

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2012/apr/13/pakistan-students-uk-visa-interview>

Borders Agency unacceptably 'obstructive' when providing information to MPs

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/borders-agency-unacceptably-obstructive-when-providing-information-to-mps-7631082.html>

Boris Johnson criticised over medical guide for migrants

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/boris-johnson-criticised-over-medical-guide-for-migrants-7636287.html>

Private colleges 'forced to shut' over student visa curbs

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/9214637/Private-colleges-forced-to-shut-over-student-visa-curbs.html>

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Race Relations

Press Release

The Minority Rights Declaration at 20

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/TheMinorityRightsDeclarationat20.aspx>

Race Relations (continued) New Publication

Secularism, Racism and the Politics of Belonging

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/Secularism%20RacismAndThePoliticsOfBelonging-2012.pdf>

News

Traveller blames tensions on lack of official sites

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/News/National/article/22154/traveller-blames-tensions-on-lack-of-official-sites.html>

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Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Governance and Communities

Mark McDonald: To ask the Scottish Executive how it supports the rights of minority ethnic groups in the workplace. (S4W-06451)

Reply from Nicola Sturgeon: Employment legislation which provides for the rights of employees, including ethnic minorities, is a reserved matter. Equality legislation is also largely reserved and the protection from discrimination for ethnic minorities and other protected characteristics is provided for through the Equality Act 2010. Scottish Ministers are responsible for specific duties to enable the better performance of the public sector equality duty in the Equality Act 2010. Within these proposed specific duties are requirements in relation to impact assessment, and gathering and using employment information. These duties are currently under consideration by the Scottish Parliament.

In relation to specific work around employment and employability, the Scottish Government continues to seek to address issues facing ethnic minorities. This includes funding the Glasgow Works project which supported and helped implement the Glasgow Works Ethnic Minority Policy Group Action Plan. In 2012-15, we are also funding the STUC's One Workplace project, which aims to promote equality and tackle racism in the work place by building the capacity of Scottish trades unions to work effectively with public, private and voluntary sector employees on equality issues.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-06451&ResultsPerPage=10>

Mark McDonald: To ask the Scottish Executive what research is being done into the working conditions of minority ethnic groups. (S4W-06452)

Reply from Nicola Sturgeon: The Scottish Government does not currently have any commissioned research projects on this topic, but has considered the available evidence on the broader issue of employment outcomes for the full range of ethnic minority groups in Scotland.

Scottish Government analysts are also engaged in a Joseph Rowntree Foundation research programme on poverty and ethnicity in the UK. Within this, JRF seeks to explore the impact of informal workplace practices and culture on workplace experiences of people with different ethnic identities, and on deprivation. The main aim is to provide insight into what action could be taken to

Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

address the level of in-work poverty experienced by people from different ethnic minority groups. The Scottish Government awaits the findings of this work with interest.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-06452&ResultsPerPage=10>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Human Rights: Religion

Karl McCartney: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will bring forward legislative proposals to protect workers who choose to wear a visible cross or crucifix. [104122]

Lynne Featherstone: There is nothing in domestic law that denies people the right to wear visibly a religious symbol such as a cross or crucifix while at work. Employers need to have proportionate and legitimate reasons—for instance in order to comply with health and safety requirements—if they want to restrict their employees from openly wearing any religious item.

We believe that domestic law already strikes the right balance between the rights of employees to manifest their faith and that of employers to place legitimate and appropriate restrictions on that freedom. There are no current plans to change the law in this respect.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120419/text/120419w0001.htm#12041931000070>

Christianity

Peter Bone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what assessment she has made of inequalities faced by Christians in the UK. [103927]

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: Within Great Britain, anti-discrimination provisions contained in the Equality Act 2010 are intended to provide equal protection to all religions and religious or philosophical beliefs. No assessment has been made by Government of the effectiveness of these provisions in relation to any specific religion or belief.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120419/text/120419w0001.htm#12041931000068>

Press Releases

Wearing of Christian symbols at work

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/issuesandresponses/newsroom/2131296>

Tackling inequalities for Gypsy and Traveller communities

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/2124322>

OSCE rights chief calls for improved housing and living conditions for Roma

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/89512>

Equality (continued) New Publications

Scottish Human Rights Commission: Strategic Plan 2012–16

http://scottishhumanrights.com/application/resources/documents/SHRC_StrategicPlan_2012-16.pdf

Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2124046.pdf>

Roma Inclusion: A Progressive and Rights-Based Approach

http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/policy/GPP_7_Roma%20FINAL%20adopted.pdf

News

Black people more likely to be jobless in Britain than US, research reveals

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/apr/13/black-people-unemployed-britain-us>

Black people in Britain more likely to be unemployed than those in US

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/black-people-in-britain-more-likely-to-be-unemployed-than-those-in-us-7640694.html>

Education in London: pupils by race, poverty and language for every local authority

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/datablog/2012/apr/12/london-school-pupils-poverty-race>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Kezia Dugdale: To ask the Scottish Executive how many reported incidents of racism in the last year for which figures are available involved an online element. (S4W-06348)

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: Information held centrally on the number of racist incidents recorded by the police cannot identify whether the incident involved an online element.

The 2012-13 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, however, includes a new section on harassment. This will provide an estimate of how many people have been insulted, pestered or intimidated in the last 12 months by anybody who is not a member of their household. The survey will also establish whether there was any racial motive for the harassment and the means by which individuals were harassed, including (as separate categories) via texts or e-mail, or in writing via the internet, such as a social networking site. Subject to sample sizes, results will be available from November 2013 and will cover the adult (16 and over) population only.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-06348&ResultsPerPage=10>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) **Holyrood Parliamentary Motion**

S4M-02558 John Finnie: On the Margins and Caught in the Headlines—That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the two reports, On the Margins and Caught in the Headlines, on Scottish Gypsy/Travellers by Amnesty International; understands that On the Margins outlines a number of worrying issues in local authority service provision to the Gypsy/Traveller community; further understands that Caught in the Headlines examines the disproportionately negative media coverage of Gypsy/Travellers in the Scottish press; considers that there is still much to do to tackle the deep-rooted inequalities that face Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland; calls on local authorities to further develop good practice in working with the Gypsy/Traveller community, and calls on the Scottish media to tackle the prejudice toward Gypsy/Travellers that it considers is often portrayed in the media.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-02558&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Releases

International Roma Day: Congress President calls for constant dialogue at the grassroots level to avoid discrimination and marginalisation

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1929829&Site=DC&ShowBanner=no&Target=self&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE>

Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe meeting focuses on role of sport in combating intolerance

<http://www.osce.org/cio/89814>

New Publications

On the Margins

http://amnesty.org.uk/uploads/documents/doc_22450.pdf

Caught in the Headlines

http://amnesty.org.uk/uploads/documents/doc_22449.pdf

Discrimination against Roma in Europe

http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR01/008/2012/en/4b26ca20-ff46-4013-9fa6-2b0f884d6d5e/eur010082012en.pdf?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

Work together to end vicious cycle of Roma discrimination and social exclusion

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/news_and_events/infocus12_0604_en.htm

News

Amnesty reports say Scottish gypsy travellers face discrimination

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-17583892>

We can all play a part in ending discrimination against gypsies

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/opinion/comment/mary-fee-we-can-all-play-a-part-in-ending-discrimination-against-gypsies-1-2228547>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Roma face persecution in Europe, says Amnesty

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17606004>

Roma shown to be Europe's poorest and most reviled people

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/roma-shown-to-be-europes-poorest-and-most-reviled-people-7609052.html>

Police watchdog launches review of Met racism complaints

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/apr/16/police-watchdog-met-racism-complaints>

Met suspends eight officers and civilian in racism inquiry

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-17623031>

Racism endemic in Met, says Lawrence inquiry adviser

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/racism-endemic-in-met-says-lawrence-inquiry-adviser-7624897.html?origin=internalSearch>

Senior officer calls for watchdog after Met police racism revelations

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/apr/07/racism-metropolitan-police-stephen-lawrence>

Police racism: social capital

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/apr/06/editorial-police-racism-social-capital>

Metropolitan police 'buried' report in 2004 warning of race scandal

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/apr/06/metropolitan-police-warned-racism>

Police racism claims: 'Met bosses must take responsibility'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/apr/06/police-racism-claims-met-bosses>

'Total policing' at London 2012 is a recipe for more racial discrimination

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/apr/06/total-policing-london-2012-olympics-racial>

Lord Carey: Christians 'vilified' by courts

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17712028>

Britain's Christians are being vilified, warns Lord Carey

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9203953/Britains-Christians-are-being-vilified-warns-Lord-Carey.html>

Christians are being persecuted, says former archbishop of Canterbury

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/apr/14/christians-persecuted-archbishop-canterbury-carey>

Archbishop of York victim of "naked racism", claims ally

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9218901/Archbishop-of-York-victim-of-naked-racism-claims-ally.html>

Toxic whispers in the Church

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/telegraph-view/9218285/Toxic-whispers-in-the-Church.html>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Archbishop of York is victim of racist whispering campaign, says former aide
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/apr/22/archbishop-john-sentamu-racist-campaign>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Motion

S4M-02570 Bob Doris: The Ayesha Appeal—That the Parliament congratulates the Ayesha Appeal on organising an Easter bonnet fundraising day at Stobhill Hospital in aid of Ayesha Siddiqui and the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust; understands that the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust is a pioneering charity working to save the lives of people with blood cancer by seeking to recruit donors to its stem cell register, to grow its cord blood programme and fund research into stem cell transplants; understands that only 40% of people from ethnic minority backgrounds are currently successful in their search for a matching donor; notes that, in order to increase this figure, the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust seeks to encourage more people from these backgrounds to join the register, and wishes the family of the seven-year-old Glasgow girl, Ayesha Siddiqui, every success in her search for a suitable matching donor.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advanced&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-02570&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Releases

Consultation on Scotland's referendum

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/04/scotland-referendum02042012>

First forced marriage order

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/04/forced-marriage16042012>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003

John Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been (a) charged and (b) convicted under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003. [103864]

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: Information on the number of people charged under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 is not centrally held. There had been no prosecutions under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 in England and Wales, from its introduction in March 2004 up to the end of 2010.

Research suggests that there may be a number of barriers to prosecution, including pressure from the family or wider community to remain silent. Multi-agency practice guidelines on handling cases of female genital mutilation were

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

published by the Home Office in February 2011; and the Crown Prosecution Service published guidance for prosecutors in September 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120419/text/120419w0001.htm#12041931000019>

Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of animals slaughtered by the halal process in the latest period for which figures are available. [104280]

Reply from James Paice: Information on the number of animals slaughtered by the halal process was collected by the Meat Hygiene Service and reported on in the Meat Hygiene Service, Animal Welfare Review 2003. The Food Standards Agency repeated the welfare survey in 2011 and the data collected is currently being collated with a view to publication later in the year. Information on halal slaughter has also been collected by the EU Dialrel project and the results can be found at: <http://www.dialrel.eu/dialrel-results>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120419/text/120419w0002.htm#12041933000031>

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assistance he is planning to provide to owners of listed buildings who are not eligible for the listed places of worship grant scheme, following the changes to VAT charged on approved alterations. [103974]

Reply from John Penrose: English Heritage provides a wide range of advice and support to owners of listed buildings and their various associations; details are available on their website.

Financially, Governments have not historically provided support (apart from churches through the Listed Places of Worship scheme) for repairs or maintenance of listed buildings, which have long been VAT-able at the same rate as non-listed structures.

Instead, owners of listed buildings used to enjoy a VAT exemption for alterations (such as loft extensions or new conservatories) while everybody else had to pay VAT for the same work on an unlisted property. This created a perverse incentive for listed building owners to alter and modernise their properties rather than maintain the rare or beautiful old structure which was, of course, the reason why it was listed in the first place.

The Budget puts these anomalies right. We have no plans to spend any more taxpayers' money by recreating them in some other way.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how he plans to extend the listed places of worship grant scheme; and how much it will cost to extend the scheme in the next financial year. [103975]

Reply from John Penrose: We will be extending the assistance provided by the Listed Places of Worship Scheme to ensure that alterations are also eligible for support. We have already begun consulting a range of organisations, both faith groups and heritage protection organisations, on the details of these changes.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120419/text/120419w0003.htm#12041933000059>

Press Releases

Language checks for doctors included in consultation on role of responsible officers

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/04/lconsultation-responsible-officers/>

Other Westminster Press Releases (continued)

Consultation response shows strong support for a single question referendum sooner rather than later

<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/16807.html>

Brighton Declaration on European Court of Human Rights reform adopted

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/features/brighton-declaration-on-echr-reform-adopted>

Prime Minister's Easter message

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/prime-ministers-easter-message/>

Communities Minister Andrew Stunell wishes Christians a Happy Easter

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsstories/communities/2125702>

Foreign Secretary's Easter message

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=750557982>

Prime Minister's Passover message

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/prime-ministers-passover-message/>

Foreign Secretary's Passover message

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=750564482>

Prime Minister's Vaisakhi message

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/prime-ministers-message-for-vaisakhi/>

New Publications

Scotland's constitutional future: responses to the consultation

<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/files/20040%20Cm%208326.pdf>

Conservatives will not win election without more focus on minority voters, says Baroness Warsi

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/9184268/Conservatives-will-not-win-election-without-more-focus-on-minority-voters-says-Baroness-Warsi.html>

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New Publication

The UK and the European Court of Human Rights

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/83_european_court_of_human_rights.pdf

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Other News

Equality and Human Rights Commission publishes research on European Court of Human Rights judgments relating to UK government

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2012/april/commission-publishes-research-into-european-court-of-human-rights-judgments-relating-to-uk-governmen/>

Scots risk late diagnosis of breast cancer

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/scots-risk-late-diagnosis-of-breast-cancer.17272376>

Women of Pakistani origin less likely to be screened for breast cancer

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/women-of-pakistani-origin-less-likely-to-be-screened-for-breast-cancer-1-2225763>

University to have alcohol-free areas for Muslims

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/9200616/University-to-have-alcohol-free-areas-for-Muslims.html>

First forced marriage protection order issued in Scotland

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/first-forced-marriage-protection-order-issued-in-scotland-1-2237169>

Forced marriage is crime of low incidence, but impact is high

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/opinion/comment/analysis-forced-marriage-is-crime-of-low-incidence-but-impact-is-high-1-2238021>

Forced marriage case study: Dilemma of family duty or personal safety

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/forced-marriage-case-study-dilemma-of-family-duty-or-personal-safety-1-2238018>

I was forced to marry at five - while living in UK: Horrific story of the British child bride

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2126770/Mother-tells-anguish-forced-marriage-age-5--living-UK.html>

No need for laws on forced marriage

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/leading-articles/leading-article-no-need-for-laws-on-forced-marriage-7609029.html>

Britain must end this horrific mutilation

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/comment/leaders/article1021882.ece>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Holyrood

Police and Fire Reform Bill

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

Social Care (Self-directed Support) Bill

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

Bills in Progress Holyrood (continued)

Welfare Reform (Further Provision) Bill

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

Bills in Progress Westminster

**** Scotland Bill**

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

Scottish Parliament Subordinate Legislation Committee Report on the Scottish Parliament Legislative Consent Motion on the Scotland Bill

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_SubordinateLegislationCommittee/Reports/sur-12-19w.pdf

Scottish Parliament debate

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6972&mode=html#iob_63469

Scottish Parliament Motion agreed

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6972&mode=html#iob_63472

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Consultations

**** new or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

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=

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

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

**** Draft Career Management Skills Framework** (closing date 11 May 2012)

<http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/news/cms-survey.aspx>

Regulation of immigration advice and services (closing date 24 May 2012)

http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/news_publications/latest_news/pdf/20120301_immigration_discussion_doc_1_1_final.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

Consultations (continued)

**** Consultation on Personal beliefs and medical practice**

(closing date 13 June 2012)

https://gmc.e-consultation.net/econsult/consultation_Dtl.aspx?consult_id=268&status=2&criteria=

Where Gypsy/Travellers Live (closing date 13 July 2012)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/49027.aspx>

**** Responsible officers in the new health architecture: Amendments to the Medical Profession (Responsible Officers) 2010 Regulations** (closing date 25 July 2012)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_133601

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

**** new or updated this week**

**** this week**

Northern Lights

23 –24 April 2012 in Glasgow (9.30 – 3.30) (Women Only)

27 – 30 April 2012 in Blairhall (9.30 – 3.00)

28 April (2.30 – 6.00) –29 April (1.00 – 6.00) in Glenrothes

5 – 6 May 2012 in Dumfries (10.00 – 4.00)

9 – 10 May 2012 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.00)

12 – 13 May 2012 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.00)

19 – 20 May 2012 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.00)

26 – 27th May 2012 in Dunoon (10.00 – 4.00)

Diversity Films are a delivery partner for an exciting new mass participation documentary film project for Scotland. To encourage and support filmmakers, Northern Lights will make £10,000 of awards to the filmmakers they feel have made the most compelling contributions to the project. For information see

<http://diversityfilms.org.uk/index.php/northern-lights/>

**** this week**

BEMIS AGM

26 April 2012 (5.30 – 8.00)

Jurys Inn, 80 Jamaica Street, Glasgow, G1 4QG

For information contact Sue Barnes 0141 548 8047 / sue.barnes@bemis.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/74gulf> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Events/Training/Conferences (continued)

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

18 May 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

24 July 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

Scottish apprenticeship week

21 – 25 May 2012

Scottish Apprenticeship Week celebrates the value that Modern Apprentices bring to employers and the local economy enabling people to learn a skill while making a positive contribution to the business. For information see www.sds.co.uk/saw2012

**** Race Equality in Scottish Modern Apprenticeships**

22 May 2012 in Glasgow (12.00 – 4.30)

CRER seminar to discuss the participation of minority ethnic people in Modern Apprenticeships, and approaches to encouraging participation. For information contact Nadia Rafiq nadia@crer.org.uk / 0141 418 6530.

**** The asylum process**

14 June 2012 in Glasgow (1.00 – 4.45)

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore the UKBA asylum process and its current implementation in Scotland, including the interviews, reporting and the decision to grant or refuse asylum. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1568> the asylum process.

**** UKBA Asylum Support**

28 June 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore the support arrangements available to asylum seekers from the beginning to the end of the asylum process. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1576> ukba asylum support or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** The needs and experiences of refugee women**

20 July 2012 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an understanding of fundamental issues affecting women seeking asylum in Scotland. It is appropriate for those working in social work, housing, welfare, education, employment, health, community development or the justice system. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1578> the needs and experiences of refugee women

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/home.htm>

Useful Links (continued)

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.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>

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

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

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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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