

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 Westminster](#)

[New Publications](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job 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 and requests to be added to circulation to mail@bemis.org.uk

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Foreign Nationals

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many nationals of each other European Economic Area member state are legally resident in the UK; [105595]

(2) how many nationals of each other European Economic Area (EEA) member state are legally resident in the UK by virtue of EU law; and how many of these have the right to residence under EU law by virtue of being a family member of a national of another EEA member state. [105597]

Reply from Nick Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated April 2012:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking;

1. how many nationals of each other European Economic Area (EEA) member

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

state are legally resident in the UK. [105595] and,
2. how many nationals of each other EEA member state are legally resident in the UK by virtue of EU law; and how many of these have the right to residence under EU law by virtue of being a family member of a national of another EEA member state. [105597]

Table 1 shows the most recent estimate of the number of nationals of each European Economic Area (EEA) member state who reside in the UK. These latest estimates relate to the 12 month period from July 2010 to June 2011 and are based on the Annual Population Survey.

Information on the immigration status of these EEA nationals is not available. Visa statistics are published by the Home Office. However, there is no information available on whether those EEA nationals granted visas are currently resident in the UK.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120426/text/120426w0004.htm#1204271000031>

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many nationals of non-European Economic Area countries are legally resident in the UK other than by virtue of EU law. [105596]

Reply from Nick Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated April 2012:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many nationals of non-European Economic Area (EEA) countries are legally resident in the UK other than by virtue of EU law (105596).

The most recent estimate of the number of Non EEA nationals who reside in the UK is 2,496,000 with a corresponding margin of error of +/- 69,000. This estimate, along with other published Population by Country of Birth and Nationality estimates, is based on the Annual Population Survey and relates to the 12 month period of July 2010 to June 2011.

The margin of error refers to the 95 per cent confidence interval and is a measure of the uncertainty associated with making inferences from a sample.

Information on the immigration status of these non EEA nationals is not available. Visa statistics are published by the Home Office. However, there is no information available on whether those non EEA nationals granted visas are currently resident in the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120426/text/120426w0004.htm#1204271000031>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum applications were received last year; which were the top 10 countries from which asylum applicants arrived last year; how many of the total had entered the United Kingdom on a visa; what were the types of visa and numbers per type; and how many applications in the total were rejected in the first instance.[HL16743]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): The total number of asylum applications and the top 10 countries of nationality for asylum applications are shown in the table below.

The top 10 countries from which the asylum applicants arrived are not available as they are not systematically recorded.

Information on the visa status of those applying for asylum is not available, nor is

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

whether the visa application had been rejected in the first instance. These figures can only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Data on the number of asylum applications in 2011 that were refused asylum, humanitarian protection or discretionary leave (i.e. on a cohort basis) are not currently available but are due to be published in Immigration Statistics on 30 August 2012. However, the table below provides the number of initial decisions to refuse asylum, humanitarian protection or discretionary leave during 2011, which do not necessarily reflect applications made in the same period.

Data on asylum and visa applications are available in the Asylum and Before Entry excel tables of the quarterly Immigration Statistics. The latest release of Immigration Statistics October-December 2011 is available in the Library of the House and the Home Office science website at

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

Top 10 asylum applicant nationalities and refusals, excluding dependants, 2011

		Number	
		Asylum applications	Total refusals of asylum/HP/DL at initial decision
1	Iran	2,485	1,231
2	Pakistan	2,411	1,640
3	Sri Lanka	1,758	1,289
4	Afghanistan	1,271	993
5	Eritrea	810	243
6	China	777	579
7	Libya	721	483
8	Nigeria	714	546
9	Sudan	689	168
10	Bangladesh	612	395
	Other Nationalities	7,556	4,281
	Total	19,804	11,848

Notes: Data for 2011 are provisional figures.

Total refusals information is based on initial decisions and do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period and exclude the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120423w0001.htm#12042310002708>

Asylum Seekers: Children

Baroness Lister of Burtersett: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the Children's Society report "I don't feel human", they will regularly collect statistics about levels of poverty among asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children.[HL16595]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): There are no plans to regularly collect statistics about levels of poverty among asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children. Information on the levels of poverty among this group is not currently available separately and it would be difficult to provide it in the future. This is because the main source of income data, the Family Resources Survey, is a snapshot sample survey of private households. This means that the sample size for households

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

containing asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children will be very small and the cost to extend the sample to achieve a representative sample would be excessive. It may also be the case that the response rate from households containing such children will be lower than usual and therefore results may not be representative. There is also no adequate sampling frame to conduct a separate survey of poverty among asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children.

Note that although levels of poverty in asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children are not available separately, they are currently included in the child poverty statistics unless they live in households that have been resident in the UK for less than six months or live in communal addresses such as hostels, hotels and boarding houses.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the Children's Society report *I Don't Feel Human*, they will incorporate the situation of children and young people from asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant communities into their child poverty strategy.[HL16596]

Reply from The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): The Government published their first child poverty strategy in April 2011, and will publish their next one in 2014. The strategy covers all children who may be at risk of poverty, and notes that certain groups within society are overrepresented among families experiencing, or at risk of, relative income poverty. All unaccompanied children are entitled to support from their local authority under the Children Act regardless of their immigration status. Additionally, destitute asylum seekers who have children are supported by the UK Border Agency. This support lasts until they leave the United Kingdom or they are granted leave to remain and are therefore free to obtain work or access the mainstream benefits system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120423w0001.htm#12042310002709>

Press Releases

Monthly asylum application tables - February 2012

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/asylum-feb-2012?view=Binary>

Children entering detention held solely under Immigration Act powers March 2012

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/child-detention-mar2012?view=Binary>

New Publications

UKBA Independent Chief Inspector's Inspection Plan 2012-13

http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/ICIBI-Inspection-Plan-2012_13.pdf

Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialized Countries 2011

<http://www.unhcr.org/4e9beaa19.html>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) News

Child X-rays cause for concern, says Michael Gove

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-17823856>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

Press Release

Integration in action: speech by Eric Pickles to the Institute of Community Cohesion Conference

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/icoco2012>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Westminster Debate

Equality and Human Rights Commission

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120424/halltext/120424h0002.htm#12042446000001>

News

Fewer jobs and lower pay: Black graduates pay price in jobs crisis as majority fail to find work

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/fewer-jobs-and-lower-pay-black-graduates-pay-price-in-jobs-crisis-as-majority-fail-to-find-work-7669134.html>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Police: Racism

Lord Sheikh: To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of the level of racism within British police forces and how this can best be addressed.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): My Lords, the Government take allegations of police racism very seriously. Any such allegations must be investigated thoroughly and, when and where required, perpetrators must be dealt with robustly. I have confidence in the ability of leaders of the police service to deal with this issue.

Lord Sheikh: My Lords, I thank the Minister for that reply. What assurance can my noble friend give your Lordships' House that police officers and staff are receiving appropriate training in community and race relations following on from recent events? Academic

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

research has found that there is still a low level of diversity in senior and specialist ranks of the police forces. What more can be done to encourage police forces to recruit, retain and promote police officers from a diverse background?

Reply from Lord Henley: My Lords, taking the noble Lord's first question first, he is right to talk about the importance of appropriate training, which all police forces are doing up and down the country. We will encourage them to continue doing so. As for his second question about low levels of diversity in the senior and specialist ranks of the police force, he is right to emphasise that point. It is important that we improve diversity at all levels and that police forces remain representative of the communities that they serve so that they can better understand their needs and ensure that the services they provide are appropriate. That is something that the leadership of police forces up and down the country is ensuring is done.

Lord Mackenzie of Framwellgate: My Lords, in fighting racism, which the whole House will support, does the Minister agree that the routine use of the race card is not helpful? Is he aware that when I made a complaint to the commissioner about Commander Ali Dizaei—they were serious allegations—who subsequently went to prison, a complaint was lodged against me with the Clerk to this House, alleging racism and abuse of authority? That complaint was written on behalf of the National Black Police Association by the Society of Black Lawyers. Does he agree that those organisations that seek to represent their members should check the facts far more clearly when making serious allegations that can affect people's reputation and even livelihoods, and that it is not helping the fight against racism?

Reply from Lord Henley: The noble Lord makes a very important point about the problems that we are dealing with. What I want to get over is that we do not believe that the police are institutionally racist. It is very encouraging that in the case of the recent allegations the police officers themselves reported that issue, and it is evidence of the fact that there is no institutional racism in the police force. Obviously, cases will nevertheless come to light from time to time, and they must be dealt with in the most appropriate manner. That is why we are looking at the leadership of all police forces, and why we want ACPO and the Met to do their bit and the Mayor of London to do his bit—and in future we want police commissioners to do their bit—to make sure that racism is tackled at every possible level.

Lord Dear: My Lords, I am sure that we all deplore racism and discrimination wherever it occurs, particularly in organisations as pivotal as the police service, which can intervene and interfere in everyday life. I have two questions for the Minister, both concerning leadership, which have already been mentioned tangentially. Will he agree with me on the Floor of the House that in any organisation, and particularly in the police, leadership is absolutely key in influencing the culture of the service—its standards, ethics and so on? If he does agree, as I am sure he will, will he then go further and agree with me that part two of the recently published report from Mr Tom Winsor presents a golden and once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to seize the issue of police recruitment of top-level people and their advancement into rank at an early stage, that it will remain at the top of the Home Office agenda, and that there is a real will to continue to pursue that to its final conclusion?

Reply from Lord Henley: My Lords, I am grateful to the noble Lord, Lord Dear, for emphasising the importance with which we see the role of leadership within the police force in dealing with these matters and getting the culture right. I hope that will continue. As regards his second point about Winsor, I agree with him on that and we will pursue it. However, I believe that a degree more consultation is needed, and we will certainly do that in due course.

Baroness Hussein-Ece: My Lords, is not the failure to deal with incidents of racism, particularly in the Metropolitan Police, a stain on our tolerant civilised society? Is it not further in stark contrast to the case of Liam Stacey, the student who was jailed for 56

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

days for posting offensive comments on Twitter after the collapse of the footballer Fabrice Muamba? What urgent action is being taken to restore trust between the police and the communities, and to stamp out the evil scourge of racism that still exists in certain sections of the force?

Reply from Lord Henley: My Lords, I am afraid that I do not agree with my noble friend that there is a failure on this occasion. What has happened is that the police themselves have recognised that there is a problem. It was the police officers themselves who raised these allegations and are dealing with them. That is the encouraging sign, indicating that there is not the institutional racism that has been alleged existed in the Met in the past. I am very grateful therefore that that is happening and that those matters are being dealt with.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120425-0001.htm#12042545000861>

New Publication

Choice and Prejudice: discrimination against Muslims in Europe

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR01/001/2012/en/85bd6054-5273-4765-9385-59e58078678e/eur010012012en.pdf>

News

Amnesty International finds anti-Muslim bias in Europe

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17824132>

The National Front's long march back to politics

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/the-national-fronts-long-march-back-to-politics-7669132.html>

Britain's far right to focus on anti-Islamic policy

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/apr/28/britain-far-right-anti-islamic>

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Debate

Food Labelling (Halal and Kosher Meat)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120424/debtext/120424-0001.htm#12042451000001>

Parliamentary Questions

Value Added Tax: Listed Places of Worship

Lord Northbrook: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will reconsider the extension of the standard rate of VAT to alterations to listed places of worship and the restriction on the amount of VAT claimable on repairs to those places.

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from the Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): My Lords, the Budget removes a VAT distinction, which is notoriously difficult to apply in practice, between alterations to protected buildings, which include listed places of worship, and repairs to all buildings. The listed places of worship grant scheme, which makes grants towards the VAT incurred on works of repair and maintenance for listed places of worship, currently allocates £12 million a year. We are exploring options with the church authorities, including committing more money to the scheme, so that listed places of worship are not adversely affected by the Budget proposal.

Lord Northbrook: ... What progress was made at the meeting yesterday between church leaders and the Treasury to mitigate the reported £20 million VAT effect of these measures for listed churches, which is causing concern for church building projects throughout the land?

Reply from Lord Sassoon: ... The Chancellor made it clear that the £5 million which the Government have committed to the listed places of worship grant scheme in the Budget is on top of the £12 million which the scheme already had. We accept, having seen the churches' numbers, that the VAT change will indeed be more than £5 million and that we need to commit more money, and discussions will continue next week to look at what the projected numbers and our commitment should be.

Lord Newby: My Lords, does the Minister acknowledge that the VAT changes are particularly damaging to projects that are already under way? ... Can the Government, at the very least, give a commitment that schemes that are already under way and on which there has already been significant fundraising will not be disadvantaged by the more general proposals in the Budget?

Reply from Lord Sassoon: My Lords, I confirm that there are indeed transitional arrangements in place for approved alterations to listed buildings, which cover contracts in place before Budget Day. Contracts in place on that day will retain the zero rate if the work is performed by 20 March 2013. ...

The Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells: My Lords, of the 563 churches in my diocese, 503 are listed—some 89 per cent. Their upkeep relies almost entirely on voluntary fundraising and support from their congregations. In promoting the big society, many wish to open those buildings to wider community use. What incentive does the Minister believe is being created for congregations to do so by making them pay VAT up front only to claim it back through a scheme that is not adequately funded? Would not a simpler and real incentive for local churches to improve their buildings be to retain the current exemption on VAT?

Reply from Lord Sassoon: ... First, as I have already explained, we intend to make sure that the compensation number fully reflects the additional costs of the Budget change. The element that troubles us most is that under the previous VAT arrangements the incentivisation worked in favour of alterations of listed buildings as opposed to repair and maintenance. We do not want to see anything that incentivises people against repairing and maintaining and therefore preserving the core heritage features of the property, so we think that it is right to put alterations, repairs and maintenance on an even basis. Therefore, although I cannot give the right reverend Prelate the comfort that we intend to revisit that issue, I stress again that we want to make sure that the churches are fully protected against the impact of the Budget change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120424-0001.htm#12042452000445>

Other Westminster (continued) Press Release

Scotland Bill clears Commons

<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/16941.html>

[TOP](#)

New Publications

Universal Human Rights Index

<http://uhri.ohchr.org/>

Ivo – website to enable charities to search for volunteers in their area who are interested in their causes

<http://ivo.org/>

[TOP](#)

Other News

Independent schools reflect UK's ethnic mix, data shows

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-17823860>

Scots launch of charity for South-Asian community

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/health/scots-launch-of-charity-for-south-asian-community.17366540>

Scots reach giving saturation point as charities' needs increase

<http://www.thirdforcenews.org.uk/2012/04/scots-reach-giving-saturation-point-as-charities-needs-increase/>

The legacy of Victorian England's first Islamic convert

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-17827016>

Female British Muslims are at last finding their voice

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2012/apr/28/female-british-muslims-voice>

A one-of-a-kind UN Human Rights database

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

[TOP](#)

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>

Stage 1 evidence from Ecas, Enable Scotland, Shelter Scotland, Capability Scotland, Parkinson's UK, Royal National Institute of Blind People, Scottish Association for Mental Health
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6986&mode=pdf>

Westminster

**** Scotland Bill**

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

Third Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120424-0001.htm#12042452000447>

Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2010-2012/0334/12334.1-7.html>

Explanatory Notes to Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2010-2012/0334/en/12334en.htm>

Commons consideration of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120426/debtext/120426-0002.htm#12042679000001>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

**** new or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

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

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

**** closes this week!**

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=1

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=

**** International Migration Statistical Outputs** (closing date 5 July 2012)

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/consultations/open-consultations/international-migration/international-migration-statistical-outputs---consultation-document.pdf>

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

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

**** new or updated this week**

**** this week**

Northern Lights

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**

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

Events/Conferences/Training (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](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1568).

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](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1576) 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](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1578)

[TOP](#)

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/AToZOofCentralGovernment/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

[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.