

## 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>.*

*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)*

**During the week between Prorogation and the State Opening of Parliament, no business was carried out in the UK Parliament**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

#### Asylum Seekers (Support)

**Sandra White:** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had since May 2007 regarding providing support for destitute asylum seekers. (S4O-00971)

**Reply from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Cities Strategy (Nicola Sturgeon):** Supporting asylum seekers is the responsibility of the United Kingdom Border Agency and its delivery partners. However, the Scottish Government remains clear that, when asylum seekers are in Scotland, they must be welcomed and supported, and to that end we have had regular discussions since May 2007 with agencies and delivery partners regarding the support that they provide for all asylum seekers.

## Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Sandra White:** The minister will be aware of the change of housing contract which, according to reports, could result in hundreds of families becoming homeless and destitute, despite UKBA assurances. That could put a huge strain on resources in Glasgow. Is the minister aware of those concerns and will she meet me to discuss the issue in more detail?

**Reply from Nicola Sturgeon:** I am, of course, aware of the situation that is arising from the change of contract arrangements for the accommodation of asylum seekers. I would be happy to meet the member to discuss the issue in more detail. As I said in my initial answer, the matter is one for the UKBA. The Scottish Government does not have responsibility for the area, but the member is right to highlight the point that, if asylum seekers are not adequately and properly supported, that often has a knock-on effect on agencies that are operating in devolved areas of responsibility. It is in no one's interests for asylum seekers and their families to be destitute and I assure the member that the Scottish Government will continue to seek assurances from the UK Government that all appropriate action will be taken in the area.

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7018&mode=html#job\\_63866](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7018&mode=html#job_63866)

## Press Release

**Scrapping family visitor appeal rights will save millions**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/family-visits>

## News

**Nobody's children: Young refugees in Scotland**

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/features/nobody-s-children-young-refugees-in-scotland-1-2278786>

**Family visa appeals axed to save £29m a year**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article3412456.ece>

**UN expert launches study to assess migrants' rights in European border region**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=41915&Cr=migrant&Cr1>

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## Equality

### Press Release

**Call for submissions - Roma Rights: National Strategies on Roma Inclusion: Effectiveness, Impact and Cost**

<http://www.errc.org/article/call-for-submissions--roma-rights-%3Cbr%3Enational-strategies-on-roma-inclusion-effectiveness-impact-and-cost/3985>

## **Equality** (continued) **New Publication**

**Access to health care for vulnerable groups in the European Union in 2012**

<http://www.epim.info/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Medecins-du-Monde-EU-advocay-paper-on-access-to-healthcare..pdf>

## **News**

**'Landmark' Roma eviction ruling sets precedent, rights group says**

<http://www.dw.de/dw/article/0,,15918724,00.html>

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## **Racism and Religious Hatred**

### **News**

**Met race claim victims 'made to suffer', says retiring officer**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-18003609>

**Drive against racism is just lip service, says detective**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/hei-fi/entertainment/drive-against-racism-is-just-lip-service-says-detective-7727999.html?origin=internalSearch>

**Met Police racism scandal spreads with seven officers facing charges**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/met-police-racism-scandal-spreads-with-seven-officers-facing-charges-7737808.html?origin=internalSearch>

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## **Other Holyrood**

### **Press Releases**

**Queen's speech**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/05/Queens-speech09052012>

**Queen's Jubilee**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/05/Queens-Jubilee09052012>

**Response to referendum consultation**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/05/referendum-consultation11052012>

**Millions for disadvantaged communities**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/05/Regeneration-funding08052012>

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## Other Westminster

### State Opening of Parliament

#### **Queen's Speech**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/120509-0001.htm#12050911000182>

### UK Government Legislative Programme

#### **Banking Reform Bill**

Will apply UK-wide.

The Bill will require banks to ensure that retail banking services are completely separated from their investment activities.

For more information see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-18005246>

#### **Draft Care and Support Bill**

Will apply in England.

The Bill that will modernise adult care and improve access to support. For more information see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-18003629>

#### **Children and Families Bill**

Will apply in England, but some sections will also apply in Scotland and Wales.

The Bill will introduce changes to adoption rules so that race will be considered less important than finding a permanent home for a child. It will also give more choices about education for children with special educational needs; and give parents more opportunities to take flexible leave to share caring responsibilities. For more information see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-18004852>

#### **Draft Communications Bill**

Will apply UK-wide.

The Bill will allow the police and intelligence agencies to collect data on communications, such as texts and e-mails. For more information see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-18003315>

#### **Crime and Courts Bill**

Will apply UK-wide.

The Bill will establish a National Crime Agency to respond to organised crime, enhance border security and fight cyber crime. It will also permit television cameras into courtrooms "in limited circumstances", and will make it an offence to drive under the influence of drugs. For more information see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-18005904>

#### **Croatia Accession Bill**

Will apply UK-wide.

The Bill will give parliamentary approval for Croatia to join the EU and make rules to control immigration from Croatia to the UK.

#### **Defamation Bill**

Will apply in England and Wales.

The Bill will improve people's ability to protect their reputation, but, in order to discourage trivial claims, defamation will only have occurred if "serious harm" has been caused. For more information see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-18005317>

## Other Westminster

### UK Government Legislative Programme (continued)

#### **Electoral Registration and Administration Bill**

Will apply in England, Scotland, and Wales.

The Bill will introduce individual voter registration and makes it easier for people to register to vote. This legislation will apply primarily to England, Scotland and Wales. For more information see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-18002966>

#### **Energy Bill**

Will apply in England and Wales, but some proposals will be UK-wide

The Bill will reform the electricity market to encourage more investment in low carbon generation and clean energy.

#### **Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill**

The majority will apply UK-wide, but some sections only to England, Wales, or Scotland.

The Bill will cover competition, employment disputes, director's pay and regulatory reform, the establishment of a Green Investment Bank to promote private sector investment in a greener economy, and reforms to the employment tribunal system. For more information see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-18005246> and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-18004978>

#### **European Union (Approval of Treaty Amendment Decision) Bill**

Will apply UK-wide.

The Bill will approve the creation of the European Stability Mechanism, a way to support Eurozone countries in trouble, but will exempt the UK from a new European bailout agreement between eurozone countries. For more information see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-18002961>

#### **Groceries Adjudicator Bill**

Will apply UK-wide.

The Bill is intended to protect supermarket suppliers by establishing a Groceries Code Adjudicator to enforce the Groceries Code.

#### **Justice and Security Bill**

Will apply UK-wide.

The Bill will strengthen oversight of MI5 and MI6, and allow courts to consider sensitive information with national security implications through the limited use of closed proceedings.

#### **House of Lords Reform Bill**

Will apply to the House of Lords.

The Bill will introduce reduce the number of members of the House of Lords, and introduce elections for the majority of members. For more information see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-18003318>

#### **Draft Local Audit Bill**

Applies in England.

The Bill will abolish the Audit Commission, and set out new arrangements for the audit of local public bodies.

#### **Pensions Bill**

Will apply in England, Scotland, and Wales.

The Bill will reform the state pension system, and increase the pension age to 67 between 2026 and 2028. For more information see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-18005946>

## Other Westminster UK Government Legislative Programme (continued)

### Public Service Pensions Bill

Will apply UK-wide.  
The Bill will reform public sector pensions.

### Small Donations Bill

Will apply UK-wide.  
The Bill will enable charities to claim back the tax on donations of less than £20, so, up to a maximum of £5,000, the charity will receive £1.25 for each £1.00 donated.

### Draft Water Bill

The majority will apply in England and Wales but some sections will also apply in Scotland. The Bill will give public bodies and business greater freedom to choose their water supplier. For more information see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-18003528>

## Press Releases

### Charitable giving through cash points arrives this summer

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/charitable-giving-through-cash-points-arrives-summer>

### Moore proposes next stage of referendum talks with First Minister

<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/17061.html>

## New Publication

### The Referendum for Separation for Scotland: Do you agree this is a biased question?

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmsscota/1492/1492.pdf>

## News

### Queen's Speech: David Cameron says plans will rebuild Britain

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-17994738>

### Queen's Speech 2012 at-a-glance: Bill-by-bill

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-17988236>

### Queen's Speech produces mixed reaction from Scots politicians

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-18004978>

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## New Publication

### CRBS newsletter – information about the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme

<http://charityemail.org.uk/7XU-STDT-3YCE38-B5GZB-1/c.aspx>

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## Other News

### **Britain's biggest trade union targets volunteers in Scotland**

<http://www.thirdforcenews.org.uk/2012/05/britains-biggest-trade-union-targets-volunteers-in-scotland/>

### **The StandUp Foundation – anti-bullying charity**

<http://www.standupfoundation.com/>

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## Bills in Progress

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Holyrood**

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

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

Stage 1 debate

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7018&mode=html#iob\\_63861](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7018&mode=html#iob_63861)

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

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

Stage 1 evidence from Glasgow City Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Highland Health and Social Care Partnership, Project Lead of SDS Test Sites Evaluation Team University of Central Lancashire, Professor of Economics, University of Stirling, COSLA, East Dunbartonshire Council, Scottish Borders Council.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7012&mode=pdf>

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

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

### **Westminster**

#### **\*\* Crime and Courts Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2012-13/crimeandcourts.html>

Bill as introduced

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2012-2013/0004/2013004.pdf>

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

### **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](http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/news_publications/latest_news/pdf/20120301_immigration_discussion_doc_1_1_final.pdf)

### **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)

## Consultations (continued)

**European Commission's Communication on a Global Approach to Migration and Mobility** (closing date 31 May 2012)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/eu-home-affairs-sub-committee-f/inquiries/parliament-2010/global-migration-and-mobility1/>

**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=](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](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_133601)

**\*\* Your rights, your future** (closing date 9 September 2012)

<http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=EUCitizenship3&lang=en>

**\*\* Here to Stay: People with learning disabilities from ethnic minority communities including new migrants** (no closing date given)

<http://www.snapsurveys.com/swh/surveypreview.asp?k=132127029508>

**\*\* Facing Facts: EU project to improve monitoring and recording of hate crimes and incidents throughout the European Union** (no closing date given)

[http://www.ceji.org/facingfacts/?page\\_id=158](http://www.ceji.org/facingfacts/?page_id=158)

**\*\* Runnymede Equality Survey** (no closing date given)

<http://rminsight.co.uk/surveys/runnymede/>

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## Job Opportunities

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

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## Funding Opportunities

**Scottish Government: People and Communities Fund**

**There is no deadline for applications which can be submitted at any time.**

This funding is available to organisations to allow them to deliver the services and/or projects that have been identified by the community as helping it achieve its outcomes.

There are two main priorities:

- **Employability** - activities or support focussed on increasing an individual's chances of entering employment, remaining in employment and/or progressing



## Funding Opportunities (continued)

further in work. This could include support for training and development activities, or activities focussed on breaking down barriers that people face when considering employment.

- **Preventative Action** – acting now to provide better solutions and outcomes for individuals and communities and avert future costs or negative consequences.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/regeneration/community/pcf>

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## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* new or updated this week

### \*\* *this week*

#### **Northern Lights**

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*

#### **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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:nadia@crer.org.uk) / 0141 418 6530.

### \*\* **Scottish Community Development Network**

7 June 2012 in Glasgow

Re-launch of the Scottish Community Development Network, and opportunity to discuss current policy and practice contexts and set an agenda for SCDN for the forthcoming year. To register for the event see <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RSRLWNC>

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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>

**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/>

## Useful Links (continued)

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)

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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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