

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

Please note that, due to the Jewish festival of Shavuot, the next issue of MEMO will be circulated on Wednesday 30 May.

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Entry Clearances

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were granted an investment visa in each of the last five years. [106757]

Reply from Damian Green: The available statistics relate to the number of visas granted in the work route Tier 1 Investors (excluding EEA nationals). The statistics are given in the table and are published in table be.04, in the Home Office statistical release 'Immigration Statistics'.

These data may include individuals 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.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

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/>

<i>Entry clearance visas issued—(Tier 1) Investors</i>		
	<i>Main applicants</i>	<i>Dependants</i>
2007	n/a	n/a
2008	43	95
2009	153	282
2010	211	372
2011	331	529

n/a = Not applicable. *Notes:* 1. Provisional figures. 2. Figures are numbers of visas granted. *Source:* Table be.04, 'Immigration Statistics October—December 2011', Migration Statistics, Home Office, February 2012

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120514/text/120514w0001.htm#12051414000002>

Entry Clearances

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what comprises the fit and proper test for the granting of an investment visa. [106760]

Reply from Damian Green: The Tier 1 (Investor) category is for high-net-worth individuals who want to make a substantial financial investment in the UK. To be granted a visa an applicant must score 75 points for attributes as set out in the Immigration Rules.

There is no "fit and proper" test specific to Tier 1 applications. However applicants should not be subject for refusal under paragraph 320 of the Immigration Rules. Under paragraph 320(19) of the Immigration Rules, leave to enter will normally be refused where, from information available to the immigration officer, it seems right to refuse leave to enter on the ground that exclusion from the United Kingdom is conducive to the public good; if, for example, in the light of the character, conduct or associations of the person seeking leave to enter it is undesirable to give him leave to enter.

When considering this provision, an entry clearance officer will assess an application on its merits and make a decision based on the evidence submitted.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120517/text/120517w0001.htm#12051754000016>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been expelled from the UK as a result of the expiration or invalidation of their student visas in each of the last 12 months. [107575]

Reply from Damian Green: The data requested is not held in a format compatible with National Statistics protocols, or produced as part of the UK Border Agency's standard reports.

However the UK Border Agency publishes immigration statistics on a quarterly and annual basis, a copy of which can be found in the Library of the House. The latest published statistics on non asylum removals can also be found here;

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q4-2011/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120516/text/120516w0001.htm#12051648000005>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration Controls: Skilled Workers

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the cap on non-EU migrant workers. [106777]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government commissioned the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to provide advice on the level of the migration limit for 2012-13 and whether further changes were needed to the rules for entry of non-EEA skilled workers to the UK in light of the impact of the limit and associated policies to reduce net migration. The MAC'S report, published on 28 February 2012, recommended no change to the annual limit of 20,700, and the Government has accepted the MAC'S recommendation.

The limit, together with other changes we have made, has delivered a far more selective migration system which allows employers access to highly skilled migrants who will help promote economic growth, while keeping numbers at a sustainable level and eliminating abuse.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120515/text/120515w0001.htm#12051592000048>

Immigration: Detention of Children at Heathrow

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the *Report of the Independent Monitoring Board on the non-residential short term holding facilities at London Heathrow Airport for the year February 2011 to January 2012* on the "degrading and disgraceful" conditions in which children are being detained at Heathrow.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): My Lords, we take very seriously the findings of the Independent Monitoring Board and are working with our partners, including BAA, to address them. We will respond to the report fully in due course.

Lord Avebury: My Lords, does my noble kinsman agree that keeping a child in these disgraceful conditions, in one case for 31 hours and 50 minutes, is inconsistent with the coalition's commitment to end the detention of children and possibly with our obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child? Will my noble kinsman therefore consider appointing a joint inquiry by the chief inspector of the UKBA and the Children's Commissioner into the conditions and length of detention at all the United Kingdom ports of entry by sea or by air?

Reply from Lord Henley: My Lords, I remind my noble kinsman that the holding rooms we are talking about are designed to hold people for relatively short amounts of time—a few hours in the main and up to 24 hours in extreme circumstances. We accept some of the criticisms that we have received from the Independent Monitoring Board and we hope that where it looks as though people, particularly with children, are going to be held for a long time, the relevant staff will make use of other available facilities, such as Tinsley House. However, I think that even my noble kinsman, and most Members of the House, would accept that where we are dealing with people who are going to be returned to another country, they have to be kept somewhere relatively secure, whether or not they have children with them, to make sure that they can be sent back, as appropriate, after their decision has been dealt with.

Baroness Massey of Darwen: My Lords, does the Minister agree that we are talking here about children who are defenceless and need support? Does he further agree that the conditions in which they are being kept must be very stressful and distressing for them? What support are those children receiving to help them overcome the stress that they have suffered?

Reply from Lord Henley: My Lords, the IMB's report makes clear that it thinks

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

the officials dealing with these matters are doing so in a professional manner. What it was complaining about was the actual facilities in which these people were kept for up to 24 hours at the maximum. If people with children are going to be kept longer, at Heathrow there are other facilities such as Tinsley House that can be used and where those children can be sent with their parents. The idea that the children should be sent off somewhere else, therefore bringing in social services, would create even greater problems and trauma for the children. It is far better that they should stay with their parents for what we hope will be a relatively short amount of time while a decision is being made on whether they can stay in the country or not; and, after that, while they wait for a plane to take them back to where they came from.

Baroness Sherlock: My Lords, will the Minister clarify the Government's position as regards the board's report? The BBC website said that the UK Border Agency had reported that it had raised the issue with BAA on numerous occasions in the past and would continue to do so. However, the BBC website says that a BAA spokeswoman said that BAA was, "somewhat surprised by UK Border Force's response, since we have had many meetings with them recently and it has not been raised".

Who is correct?

Reply from Lord Henley: All I know is that the UK Border Agency and BAA have had considerable discussions about these matters over the years. Obviously I cannot give evidence about the precise detail of those discussions, but we know that they are aware of the problems because we have also discussed the matter with BAA. The important point to remember is that we will do what we can to improve things. We have only just received this report, which came in two days ago. We will be responding to it within the appropriate period of six weeks. We know that things are not entirely satisfactory but we are talking about holding people only in the very short term while a decision is made. We hope that that will not be longer than 24 hours. If it is, as I made clear, we have other facilities, such as Tinsley House, available.

Lord Foulkes of Cumnock: This matter was raised during the time of the Labour Government and the Liberal Democrats attacked us, understandably, about the detention of young children. They promised that once the coalition took over, the detention of children would be ended immediately. Now, two years later, children are still being detained. This is yet another promise-one put forward particularly by the Liberal Democrats-that has been reneged on.

Reply from Lord Henley: Dare I say that the noble Lord makes a very silly point, and not for the first time, as my noble friend the Deputy Leader says. We are talking about getting rid of detention. We are not talking about detaining children; we are talking about detaining people for as little as 24 hours in this facility.

Lord Foulkes of Cumnock: You are still detaining children.

Reply from Lord Henley: Is the noble Lord suggesting that they should be removed from their parents and sent somewhere else? That strikes me as even worse. This is complete nonsense. We think that the children should stay with their parents for that short time in the holding facility. If they cannot go there, they go to Tinsley House-a place that we have all accepted as being perfectly acceptable for children and their families to go to.

Baroness Hamwee: My Lords, I have a question. This Baroness-who has also been thought to have the first name Berenice-visited Cedars, a new facility near Gatwick. I was very impressed by the good work being done there by the border agency and Barnardo's. Will the Government learn from that in dealing with families and children-some of them unaccompanied children-and deciding on the best way to respond to what everyone must acknowledge is a very difficult situation?

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Henley: My Lords, of course we will learn from what we have done at Cedars at Gatwick and we will do what we can. I am very grateful to my noble friend for mentioning that. Because of where these very short-term holding facilities are located within the airports, it is very difficult to think of design solutions. However, if anyone is going to be kept longer than that very short period of time, we obviously have to look at other facilities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/120516-0001.htm#12051640000460>

Asylum

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on asylum seekers awaiting an immigration decision in (a) 1996-97, (b) 2009-10, (c) 2010-11 and (d) 2011-12. [106848]

Reply from Damian Green: Due to the passing of time and changes in financial recording systems, it is not possible to identify the expenditure on supporting asylum seekers in 1996-97 without incurring disproportionate costs.

The UK Border Agency has spent the following amounts on providing accommodation, transport and subsistence for all asylum-seekers:

	<i>£ million</i>
2009-10	372.9
2010-11	304.5
2011-12	⁽¹⁾ 240.2
⁽¹⁾ This figure is provisional and unaudited.	

Because of the way the information is recorded, it is not possible to identify separately the expenditure on asylum seekers awaiting immigration decisions without incurring disproportionate costs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120517/text/120517w0001.htm#12051754000010>

Social Security Benefits: Asylum

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place to support asylum seekers by means of benefits payments. [106798]

Reply from Damian Green: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) does not support asylum seekers with benefits payments. Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are supported by the United Kingdom Border Agency under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 until their asylum claims are decided.

If the asylum claim is accepted the person is granted refugee status and leave to remain in the United Kingdom on conditions that give access to mainstream DWP benefits, subject to the normal eligibility rules.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120516/text/120516w0001.htm#12051648000010>

Deportation

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency spent on flights for the deportation of immigrants in each of the last five years. [106877]

Reply from Damian Green: The following table shows the expenditure for public expense removals in each of the last five financial years.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

<i>Financial year</i>	<i>NET total (£)</i>
2007-08	20,295,271
2008-09	26,789,716
2009-10	29,290,204
2010-11	29,034,845
2011-12	28,442,081
Net total	133,852,116

Where a removal is cancelled after a ticket has been issued, we always seek a refund from the carrier where the ticket type allows. The three most significant reasons for cancellation are where a person makes a late application for asylum, launches a last minute appeal to the courts (e.g. a judicial review) or where the detainee becomes so disruptive that the airline refuses to carry the person. The figures provided for 2010-11 and 2011-12 exclude the value of refunds which are yet to be received.

The data are taken from internal management information, which is provisional and has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. It is subject to change and does not form part of national statistics.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120515/text/120515w0001.htm#12051592000046>

New Publications

International students and net migration in the UK

http://www.ippr.org/images/media/files/publication/2012/04/international-students-net-migration_Apr2012_8997.pdf

Experiences of Forced Labour in the UK Food Industry

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/forced-labour-food-industry-full.pdf>

News

Migrant staff 'abused' by Scots firms

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/migrant-staff-abused-by-scots-firms.17591520>

Children still being detained at Heathrow

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/children-still-being-detained-at-heathrow-1-2292765>

Child asylum seekers 'still being imprisoned' by immigration service

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/may/20/child-asylum-seekers-still-being-locked-up>

UK Border Agency 'detaining children in degrading conditions' at Heathrow

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/may/14/uk-border-agency-heathrow-children>

Providing the right support for young asylum seekers

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/social-care-network/social-life-blog/2012/may/18/providing-support-young-asylum-seekers>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Government cuts in student migration could 'cost the UK £3bn a year'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/government-cuts-in-student-migration-could-cost-the-uk--3bn-a-year-7746455.html>

New rules on overseas students 'will cost universities billions'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2012/may/17/new-rules-overseas-students-universities>

Stranded: the students and staff hit by the crackdown on 'bogus' colleges

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2012/may/14/students-private-colleges-closures-immigration>

Ministers 'playing immigration numbers game' by including students

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/may/14/ministers-immigration-numbers-game-students>

Britain's visa system: a V-sign to visitors

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global/2012/may/14/visa-heathrow-immigration-torture>

Illegal immigrants flights cost £134m

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/illegal-immigrants-flights-cost-134m-1-2296918>

Racism, bullying, threats ... daily life of migrant workers

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/racism-bullying-threats--daily-life-of-migrant-workers-7746797.html>

Afghan detainee wins right to challenge transfer

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-18076734>

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Race Relations

News

Rochdale grooming trial: Race was a factor, says equality chief

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/rochdale-grooming-trial-race-was-a-factor-says-equality-chief-1-2292753>

Top Tory Warsi claims 'white girls are fair game' to some Pakistani men

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2012/may/18/warsi-pakistani-men-white-girls-are-fair-game>

Some Pakistani men see white women as 'fair game', says Baroness Warsi

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/9275179/Some-Pakistani-men-see-white-women-as-fair-game-says-Baroness-Warsi.html>

Rochdale grooming case: nothing to be gained from 'shying away from' race, says Children's Minister

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9267689/Rochdale-grooming-case-nothing-to-be-gained-from-shying-away-from-race-says-Childrens-Minister.html>

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Equality

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Outcome of the Equalities red tape challenge and reform of the Equality and Human Rights Commission

Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May): ... The Equalities red tape challenge package balances the need to provide important legal protection from discrimination with identifying which measures in the Equality Act 2010 are placing unnecessary or disproportionate burdens on business.

The package aims to reduce these burdens through delaying or repealing the law. ...

We will:

- proceed with the repeal of the socio-economic duty
- delay commencement of the dual discrimination provisions in the Equality Act 2010
- delay commencement of reasonable adjustments to common parts provisions

We have also looked again at the public sector equality duty. This government has a strong commitment to equality of opportunity. But we also have a strong desire to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy where it exists and consider alternatives to legislation. We committed last year to assess the effectiveness of the PSED specific duties. We have decided to bring forward that review and extend it to include both the general and specific duties to establish whether the duty is operating as intended. ...

Taking account of the views expressed in our consultation 'Building a fairer Britain: reform of the Equality and Human Rights Commission', we have decided to scrap vague, unnecessary and obsolete provisions from the Equality Act 2006 to focus the EHRC on its core functions.

In parallel, we are implementing a strong package of non-legislative measures, including:

- recruiting a new chairman, to succeed Trevor Phillips (who is standing down), and a new smaller board
- conducting a comprehensive review of the EHRC's budget
- implementing tighter performance and financial controls set out in a new framework document ...

To read the full statement see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120515/wmstext/120515m0001.htm#12051577000007>

Press Releases

Commission publishes formal assessment of government's 2010 spending review

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2012/may/commission-publishes-formal-assessment-of-government-s-2010-spending-review/>

Government is cutting vital sources of support for victims of discrimination

<http://www.tuc.org.uk/equality/tuc-21030-f0.cfm>

New Publications

Response to the Consultation: Building a fairer Britain: Reform of the Equality and Human Rights Commission

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/equalities/government-equality/EHRC-consultation-response?view=Binary>

Equality

New Publications (continued)

Making Fair Financial Decisions

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/Inquiries/s31_final.pdf

News

Racial equality in Scottish councils: less male, less stale but still very pale

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/scotland-blog/2012/may/18/scottish-councils-still-pale>

Ministers failed to take full account of cuts impact, says equality watchdog

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/ministers-failed-to-take-full-account-of-cuts-impact-says-equality-watchdog-7743375.html>

Cuts project 'lacks clarity' over equality

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/cuts-project-lacks-clarity-over-equality-1-2292776>

Treasury failed to test fairness of spending cuts, equality watchdog finds

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2012/may/14/treasury-censured-spending-cuts-equality>

Moving into houses bad for health of travellers

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/politics/moving-into-houses-bad-for-health-of-travellers-1-2296794>

School records 'too crude for super-diverse UK'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-18118114>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Question

UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government Equalities Office is taking to implement the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. [106422]

Reply from Andrew Stunell: The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) published a set of Concluding Observations on the UK in September 2011, which included some 32 recommendations to the United Kingdom authorities. These cover a wide range of subjects, which are the responsibility of a number of different Government Departments and, in devolved policy areas, of the devolved Administrations. It is for each of them to consider how to respond to the Committee's recommendations.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is responsible for co-ordinating the UK's periodic reports to the Committee, in consultation with other Government Departments and the devolved Administrations. The UK's next full report is due in April 2014, and this will address recommendations made by the Committee in its 2011 report. As requested by CERD in paragraph 37 of its 2011 Concluding Observations, we will also provide information to the Committee by September 2012 on our responses to four of their recommendations. These

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Question (continued)

concern the response to the August 2011 riots; police powers to “stop and search”; counter-terrorism measures; and the clearance of the unauthorised Traveller site at Dale Farm.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120516/text/120516w0001.htm#12051646000022>

Press Release

Lord Advocate welcomes publication of figures on hate crimes

<http://www.copfs.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/05/Lord-Advocate-Welcomes-Publication-Figures-Hate-Crime>

New Publication

Hate Crime in Scotland 2011-12

<http://www.copfs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Hate%20Crime%20-%20publication%20-%20final%20published%2017%20May%202012.pdf>

News

Hate crime cases increase in Scotland

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-18102341>

Lord Advocate Frank Mulholland: Neil Lennon bomb plot trial has encouraged Scots to report hate crimes

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2012/05/18/lord-advocate-frank-mulholland-neil-lennon-bomb-plot-trial-has-encouraged-scots-to-report-hate-crimes-86908-23864047/>

Increase in hate crime 'troubling'

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/increase-in-hate-crime-troubling.17625784>

Six charged with breach of the peace after anti-Semitic website discovered

<http://news.stv.tv/scotland/100111-six-charged-with-breach-of-the-peace-after-anti-semitic-website-discovered/>

Arrests over anti-Semitic remarks on Facebook

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-18087379>

Six arrests in anti-Semitic raids

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/six-arrests-in-anti-semitic-raids.17611503>

Offensive material online and on the streets

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-view/offensive-material-online-and-on-the-streets.17616403>

Roma abuse: Calls for inquiry as Oxfam report uncovers discriminatory treatment

<http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/scotland/roma-abuse-calls-for-inquiry-as-oxfam-report-uncovers-discriminatory-treatment-1-2306205>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Abuse of Roma at Glasgow job centre 'routine'

<http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/scotland/revealed-abuse-of-roma-at-glasgow-job-centre-routine-1-2306203>

Shameful way to treat anyone

<http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/opinion/comment/leaders-shameful-way-to-treat-anyone-1-2306134>

Roma abuse case setudy: Eva's story

<http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/scotland/roma-abuse-case-setudy-eva-s-story-1-2306212>

Extremists threaten court action over city march ban

<http://www.scotsman.com/edinburgh-evening-news/extremists-threaten-court-action-over-city-march-ban-1-2297669>

Anti-bigotry law fails to protect England fans

<http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/politics/anti-bigotry-law-fails-to-protect-england-fans-1-2306242>

Black players reluctant to complain about racism 'for fear of abuse'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/football/2012/may/15/black-players-reluctant-complain-racism>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Motion

S4M-02946 Humza Yousaf: Asian Women of Achievement Awards 2012—That the Parliament congratulates Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh on her success on being presented with the Professional of the Year award at the Asian Women of Achievement Awards, which were held in London on 16 May 2012; understands that Mrs Ahmed-Sheikh, a successful solicitor, actress and community activist, was the only winner from Scotland on the night; notes that the award was given both because of her work this year as the chair and founder of the Scottish Asian Women's Association and her role in the legal field, in which it understands she is a significant figure, and believes that this is evidence that, behind every great woman, is probably another woman.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-02946&ResultsPerPage=10>

New Publication

What to do after a death in Scotland ... practical advice for times of bereavement

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00393015.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Question

Female Genital Mutilation

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to prevent female genital mutilation being carried out on British citizens. [106449]

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: The Government is absolutely committed to tackling and preventing female genital mutilation (FGM).

Last year the Government developed and launched multi-agency guidelines for all frontline professionals which aim to raise awareness about FGM and highlight the signs that practitioners and professionals should look out for which may identify girls at risk. The guidelines set out the steps that professionals such as nurses and GPs should take to protect and safeguard those at risk, or already affected by FGM. The Home Office also distributed more than 80,000 leaflets and posters to schools, health services, charities and community groups around the country and in October 2011 launched the FGM Fund—a total of £50,000 to support frontline practitioners working with women and girls affected by FGM. We continue to work with the Department for Education, Department of Health, the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, as well as with voluntary sector partners, to shape our work.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120516/text/120516w0001.htm#12051648000006>

Press Release

UK Government's referendum consultation responses published

<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/17122.html>

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Other News

Osborne unveils £30m package to help churches

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9273747/Osborne-unveils-30m-package-to-help-churches.html>

BBC expresses regret over suggestion Sikhism is 'made up of other religions'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9262953/BBC-expresses-regret-over-suggestion-Sikhism-is-made-up-of-other-religions.html>

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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>

Bills in Progress

Holyrood (continued)

Social Care (Self-directed Support) Bill

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

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

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

Stage 1 evidence from the Association of Directors of Social Work, the Scottish Association of Social Work, the Royal College of Nursing Scotland, the Care Inspectorate, the Office of the Public Guardian, the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland, and the Law Society of Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7032&mode=pdf>

Bill seeking to lessen impact of UK welfare reform in Scotland moves forward

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/50764.aspx>

Stage 1 Report

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Welfare_Reform_Committee/Reports/wrr-12-01w.pdf

Westminster

Crime and Courts Bill

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

**** Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Further Provisions and Support for Victims) Bill**

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

Bill as published

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2012-2013/0015/13015.pdf>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes 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

**** closes this week!**

United Kingdom Plan for rare diseases (closing date 25 May 2012)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_132880

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/>

Consultations (continued)

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

**** Equality Act 2010: employer liability for harassment of employees by third parties** (closing date 7 August 2012)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/third-party-harassment/consultation-document?view=Binary>

**** Equality Act 2010: repeal of two enforcement provisions** (closing date 7 August 2012)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/equality-act-wider-enforcement/consultation-document?view=Binary>

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

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

** new or updated this week

PROGRESS funding

The European Commission is inviting proposals from Member States for funding for national awareness-raising activities in support of the Community's anti-discrimination

Funding Opportunities (continued)

agenda. National Authorities, which in the UK is the Government Equalities Office, can nominate public and private non-profit making organisations, for example, an NGO, trade association or an equality body, to carry out activities on their behalf.

The PROGRESS programme is concerned with: "Raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting the debate about the key challenges and policy issues in relation to discrimination and the mainstreaming of anti-discrimination in all Community policies, including among the social partners, NGOs and other stakeholders." ...

Proposals must be received by the Government Equalities Office no later than 10:00 GMT on 19 June 2012 to enable them to be considered for being given a mandate to apply for funding. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/equalities/international-equality/european-union/progress-funding/>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

** *this week*

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

** *this week*

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.

** *this week*

Live Webcast of UN Hearing on UK Human Rights Record

24 May 2012 in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Perth (8.00am – 12.00)

(Registration by 10am on 23 May)

During the live webcast, the UK will report its human rights record to the United Nations' Human Rights Council. For information see <http://migrantsrightsscotland.org.uk/?p=2759> or contact Karen@engender.co.uk / 0131 558 9596 (Edinburgh), jatin@crer.org.uk / 0141 418 6530 (Glasgow), info@migrantsrightsscotland.org.uk / 07770 674788 (Perth).

** *this week*

Northern Lights

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/>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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>

**** Migration in times of economic crises**

11 June 2012 in Glasgow (time tbc)

GRAMNet postgraduate colloquium to reflect on the challenges facing those who take part in any form of transnational migration, during times of economic crisis. For information see <http://migrantsrightsscotland.org.uk/?p=2800> or contact gramnet.pg@gmail.com.

**** Human Rights, 'personalisation' and welfare reform**

11 June 2012 in Glasgow (2.00 – 4.30)

The first in a series of three SCVO debates on human rights in relation to topical issues. To book a place see <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SCVOhumanrights>

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.

**** Forced labour and exploitation in the UK food industry**

14 June 2012 in the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh (6.00 – 7.30)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation discussion of research into the experiences of forced labour and exploitation in the UK food industry, based on interviews with migrant workers from Poland, China, Latvia and Lithuania. For information see <http://migrantsrightsscotland.org.uk/?p=2792> or contact Beth Hurrell 01904 615946 / beth.hurrell@jrf.org.uk.

**** Human Rights and citizenship**

26 June 2012 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 12.30)

The second in a series of three SCVO debates on human rights in relation to topical issues. To book a place see <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SCVOhumanrights>

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

**** Human Rights, poverty, and the economy**

28 June 2012 in Glasgow (2.00 – 4.30)

The third in a series of three SCVO debates on human rights in relation to topical issues. To book a place see <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SCVOhumanrights>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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](#)

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

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

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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/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/>

Useful Links (continued)

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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