

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

The UK Parliament will return from recess on 11 June 2012.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Population

Joe FitzPatrick: To ask the First Minister what the Scottish Government's response is to the figures from the National Records of Scotland showing that the population is at its highest-ever level. (S4F-00742)

Reply from the First Minister (Alex Salmond): It is very encouraging that Scotland's estimated population has now reached 5,254,800, which is its highest-ever level. Population growth is a key priority in the Scotland performs indicators. The target is to match the average European population growth over the period from 2007 to 2017, and those latest statistics indicate that we are substantially on track to reach that target.

Joe FitzPatrick: Scotland has a proud history of welcoming people from around the

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

globe, and they have undoubtedly enriched Scottish society. However, in Dundee our life sciences and games sectors often have problems in recruiting specialist staff due to restrictive United Kingdom immigration laws.

What steps can the First Minister take to get the message across to the UK Government that “immigration” is not a dirty word, and to ensure that we can recruit the talent that is needed to drive forward Scotland’s economy?

Reply from the First Minister: Joe FitzPatrick touches on a key point. It is not only the life sciences and games sectors that are bringing that issue to the attention of Government: a range of industries are finding difficulties in meeting key skills requirements, which is preventing investment in our country, at present. I assume that that was not the Home Office’s intention in issuing its most recent guidelines, and I believe that it should listen. I am particularly concerned, because we have had huge success—as members will know—given the increase of more than 20 per cent in overseas students coming to Scotland and our universities.

As members have always reflected during the Parliament’s entire 13 years of existence, it is important not only to encourage international students into our economy, but to allow those students the opportunity of work experience in it.

I hope that we can send a substantial joint message to Damian Green, the UK Minister of State for Immigration, that his proposals should not be allowed to harm businesses and investment in Scotland, nor should they in any sense restrict the international excellence of the Scottish education system.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7064&mode=html#job_64341

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S4M-03165 Christina McKelvie: Detention of Torture Survivors in the UK—That the Parliament welcomes Medical Justice’s new report, *The Second Torture: The immigration detention of torture survivors*; notes that the report provides evidence that it considers demonstrates that the UK Border Agency is failing to fulfil its statutory duty of safeguarding torture survivors, as outlined in rule 35 (3) of the Detention Centre Rules 2001; further notes that Medical Justice is an independent charity established to investigate inadequate medical provision to immigration detainees; notes that the poor implementation of rule 35 has previously been raised by organisations including Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Prisons and the Joint Committee on Human Rights, highlighting what it considers to be the continued failure to identify and/or release torture victims from immigration detention, and calls on the UK Government to institute an independent investigation into the extent of detention of torture victims in the UK and to take immediate steps to implement its own rules on this matter.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-03165&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Release

Preventing illegal working in the UK – updated guidance

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/june/05-illegal-guidance>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **News**

They came seeking our help. We refused them money and dignity - and now we're throwing them out on the street

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/they-came-seeking-our-help-we-refused-them-money-and-dignity-and-now-were-throwing-them-out-on-the-street.1783184>

How can a country like ours take such unhuman actions?

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/how-can-a-country-like-ours-take-such-unhuman-actions.17832020>

Theresa May giving judges new deportation guidance

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-18384543>

Theresa May seeks to curb use of human rights laws in deportation cases

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/jun/10/theresa-may-criminals-deportation>

Teacher reveals she has class of 33 children – and none of them speak English

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2012/06/09/teacher-reveals-she-has-class-of-33-children-and-none-of-them-speak-english-86908-23891356/>

New immigration clampdown demands £20,000 salary for Brits to marry a foreigner

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2156993/New-law-demands-20-000-salary-marry-foreigner.html>

Theresa May orders judges to accept that 'right to family life not absolute'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/journalists/rowena-mason/9322396/Theresa-May-orders-judges-to-accept-that-right-to-family-life-not-absolute.html>

Foreign criminals will no longer be able to argue 'right to family life' to stay in Britain

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/9322404/Foreign-criminals-will-no-longer-be-able-to-argue-right-to-family-life-to-stay-in-Britain.html>

Government to launch new crackdown on foreign prisoners

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/conservative/9322259/Government-to-launch-new-crackdown-on-foreign-prisoners.html>

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Race Relations

News

Councillors to review controversial ban on marches playing music outside places of worship

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2012/06/05/councillors-to-review-controversial-ban-on-marches-playing-music-outside-places-of-worship-86908-23886691/>

Young people less tolerant and more ignorant of other religions, poll suggests

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9319352/Young-people-less-tolerant-and-more-ignorant-of-other-religions-poll-suggests.html>

Race Relations (continued) News

It's time to stop using the word 'Asians'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9314448/Its-time-to-stop-using-the-word-Asians.html>

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Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S4M-03217 Mary Fee: CEMVO Briefing on Race Equality Outcomes—That the Parliament welcomes the briefing by the Council for Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations (CEMVO) Scotland on race equality outcomes set out under the Equality Act 2010; notes that the regulations for the Scottish specific duties came into force on 27 May 2012 and require all listed bodies to publish a set of equality outcomes that will enable them to better perform the equality duty by April 2013; agrees with CEMVO that public authorities should eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, and congratulates CEMVO on its work in tackling a range of issues on securing race equality.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-03217&ResultsPerPage=10>

New Publication

Non-statutory public sector equality duty guidance for Scottish public authorities

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/cgi-bin/generate.pl?page_id=2ftp99y1&save=screen&1_session=&session=1_session

News

Council docked Muslim worker's pay for prayer breaks

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9310836/Council-docked-Muslim-workers-pay-for-prayer-breaks.html>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

News

Pupils' anti-bigotry film to be shown in schools

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-18331125>

First Minister praises pupils' film campaigning against hate crimes

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/first-minister-praises-pupils-film-campaigning-against-hate-crimes.17803809>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

'Powerful' anti-sectarian film created by school pupils

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics-news/2012/06/06/video-powerful-anti-sectarian-film-created-by-school-pupils-86908-23887917/>

Town wins anti-bigotry accolade

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/town-wins-anti-bigotry-accolade.17815678>

Teachers who belong to far-right groups could be kicked out school

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/education/teachers-who-belong-to-far-right-groups-could-be-kicked-out-school-1-2336611>

'Dundee be ready, because we are coming' — Scottish Defence League vows to ignore council's demo decision

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/News/Dundee/article/23226/dundee-be-ready-because-we-are-coming-scottish-defence-league-vows-to-ignore-council-s-demo-decision.html>

Trades union group expresses 'deep sense of anger' at prospect of Scottish Defence League gathering in Dundee

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/News/Dundee/article/23172/trades-union-group-expresses-deep-sense-of-anger-at-prospect-of-scottish-defence-league-gathering-in-dundee.html>

Black police reporting racism 'labelled troublemakers'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-18239960>

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Other Holyrood

Press Release

Parliament agrees reform measures

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/51757.aspx>

New Publication

Local government elections 2012

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB12-38.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Press Releases

PM: "forced marriage is wrong, is illegal and will not be tolerated"

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/forced-marriage-to-become-criminal-offence/>

Other Westminster Press Releases (continued)

Forced marriage to be made a criminal offence

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/forced-marriage-new-law>

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New Publication

A guide to “Getting it right for every child”

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00394308.pdf>

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Other News

OSCR Online goes live

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/oscr-online-goes-live/>

Regulator puts charities in the picture

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/regulator-puts-charities-in-the-picture/>

Forced marriage parents face jail under new laws

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-18356117>

David Cameron in warning over forced marriages

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/david-cameron-in-warning-over-forced-marriages-7831253.html>

Forced marriage: criminalisation could deter victims, claim charities

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/9319566/Forced-marriage-criminalisation-could-deter-victims-claim-charities.html>

Female Genital Mutilation in Britain: The Scandal About to Break...

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/hilary-burrage/female-genital-mutilation-britain_b_1573845.html?ref=uk

Call for Nominations for the 2012 Human Rights Defenders Tulip

<http://www.humanrightstulip.org/news/read/Call-for-Nominations-for-the-2012-Human-Rights-Defenders-Tulip>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Holyrood

Freedom of Information (Amendment) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/51531.aspx>

Bills in Progress

Holyrood (continued)

**** Police and Fire Reform Bill**

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

Proposed Stage 2 amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/51738.aspx>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/51808.aspx>

Justice Committee consideration of Stage 2 amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7052&mode=pdf>

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

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

Stage 1 evidence from People First Scotland, a Direct Payment User, a Service User, the Minister for Public Health, and the Scottish Government

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7050&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>

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

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

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Consultations

*** new or updated this week*

**** closes this week!**

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=1

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>

Making Justice Work for Victims and Witnesses (closing date 20 July 2012)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00393452.pdf>

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

Consultations (continued)

**** Scottish Civil Justice Council and Criminal Legal Assistance Bill (closing date 27 July 2012)**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/50802.aspx>

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>

Runnymede Equality Survey (7 September 2012)

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

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

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

**** new or updated this week**

**** this week!**

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.

**** this week!**

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>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

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.

**** this week!**

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. For information see <http://migrantsrightsscotland.org.uk/?p=2792> or contact Beth Hurrell 01904 615946 / beth.hurrell@jrf.org.uk.

Refugee Week

18-24 June, Scotland-wide

For a full programme of events throughout Scotland see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0000/4300/RWS_programme_2012.pdf

Supporting Asylum Seekers and Refugees: A Seminar for Faith Communities

20 June 2012 in Glasgow (10.30 – 1.30)

Scottish Interfaith Council seminar to explore ways in which faith communities can provide help and support for asylum seekers and refugees. For information contact Frances Hume: fhume@scottishinterfaithcouncil.org / 0141 420 6982.

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>

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://tinyurl.com/7osl6r5>.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1577_an_introduction_to_working_with_asylum_seekers_and_refugees or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

The Essentials of Asylum: understanding what causes refugees to flee and the process of seeking protection

21 August 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work with people seeking asylum and refugees to provide an introduction to core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/bmb7pll>.

Working with Interpreters

31 August 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 1.00)

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 contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1574_working_with_interpreters

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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

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

Useful Links (continued)

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) <http://www.crbs.org.uk/>

Disclosure Scotland <http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/>

BBC News24 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/default.stm>

BBC Parliament online

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm

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The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. <http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

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