

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Race Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)

[Other Westminster](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Events/Conferences/Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and requests to be added to circulation to mail@bemis.org.uk

The UK Parliament is in recess until 15 October 2012.

Please note that, because of the forthcoming Jewish festivals, the next two issues of MEMO will be published on Fridays 28 Sept, and 5 Oct.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Immigration (Families)

Jean Urquhart: To ask the Scottish Government what assistance it can give to families with children where some family members are required to leave the country due to their immigration status. (S4O-01278)

Reply from the Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages (Dr Alasdair Allan): Where the child of an immigrant family remains legitimately in Scotland after their parents or carers have been removed on grounds of immigration status, local authorities are required by parts I and II of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area who are in need, and to offer necessary support to their families. That can include a range of interventions, which include formally looking after a child if that is appropriate.

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Question (continued)

The Scottish Government encourages public authorities to follow the getting it right for every child approach to address the needs of the child in question, and to take action through co-ordinated planning and reviewing progress. Our proposals for the children and young people bill seek to strengthen that approach.

In order to support those who are seeking asylum or who have been granted refugee status, we are providing funding of £1.65 million from 2012 to 2015 to the Scottish Refugee Council in order to provide information and support.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4O-01278&ResultsPerPage=10>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Entry Clearances: Married People

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of spousal visa applications were determined within the UK Border Agency's six-month service standard in the latest period for which figures are available. [120948]

Reply from Mark Harper: The UK Border Agency's standards say that it will process 95% of settlement applications within 12 weeks of the application date and 100% within 24 weeks of the application date.

In the period January 2012 to June 2012, out of 18,439 spouse/civil partner applications 18,385 (99.7%) were resolved within six months.

Please be aware that these data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120917/text/120917w0003.htm#12091718000043>

Immigration: Children

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that details of all unaccompanied migrant children who go missing are circulated on the Police National Database. [120757]

Reply from Jeremy Browne: There are currently no plans to extend the scope of the Police National Database to include details of missing unaccompanied migrant children.

However, the Government's Missing Children and Adults Strategy makes clear that all missing children are vulnerable and that where any child is reported missing to the police, effective action is needed to protect and find missing children as quickly as possible.

Should an unaccompanied child go missing from social services care, the UK Border Agency is informed and the local police will commence a missing person's investigation. High risk missing children cases will be immediately logged on the Police national computer and all missing persons cases over 72 hours must be reported to the National Missing Persons Bureau (MPB) and logged on the Missing Persons Database.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120918/text/120918w0001.htm#12091844000013>

Immigration: Offenders

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has reviewed the extent to which the right to family life is being invoked by convicted offenders who are not UK citizens and who are seeking to remain in the UK following sentence; and if she will make a statement. [121192]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Mark Harper: In 2011-12, 409 appeals against foreign national offenders' deportations were allowed. Of these, 177 were allowed on the grounds of article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)—the right to family and private life.

New immigration rules came in to force on 9 July 2012 following the Government's intent to redress the balance between the family rights of criminals and illegal migrants and the rights of the British public. Only in exceptional circumstances will family life, the best interests of a child or private life outweigh criminality and the public interest in seeing foreign national offenders deported where they have received a custodial sentence of at least four years.

In most cases deportation will continue to be proportionate where the foreign national has received a custodial sentence of at least 12 months, or has received a custodial sentence of less than 12 months and their offending has caused serious harm or they are a persistent offender who shows a particular disregard for the law.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120918/text/120918w0002.htm#12091844000014>

London Metropolitan University

David Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings (a) Ministers in her Department, (b) officials in her Department and (c) officials from the UK Border Agency had with the Vice-Chancellor of London Metropolitan University between 1 July 2012 and 28 August 2012 to discuss the university's highly-trusted sponsor status. [118808]

Reply from Mark Harper: As the then Immigration Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashford (Damian Green), stated to the House on 3 September 2012, *Official Report*, column 25, the UK Border Agency has been working closely and continuously with London Metropolitan University since March 2012 to address its systemic issues.

Home Office Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of international partners, as well as organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many alternative university places have been identified for non-EU students at London Metropolitan university by the task-force set up to advise them. [119131]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Government taskforce that has been created, includes representation from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), Universities UK, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the UK Border Agency and the National Union of Students.

The top priority for the taskforce is to ensure that all London Metropolitan university students are given the help and advice they need. The taskforce will do all it can to support those affected, including, if necessary helping existing overseas students to find places at other institutions where they can continue to study.

UK Border Agency currently has staff members based in the Help Centre at London Metropolitan university to support and advise genuine non-EEA students.

Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-EU students at London Metropolitan University are known not to have legitimate status in the UK. [119132]

Reply from Mark Harper: Following a UK Border Agency compliance audit, 26

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

students were found to be attending London Metropolitan University without having current legitimate status in the UK. This was based on a pre-selected sample of 101 of the university's own files of students.

Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what checks the UK Border Agency is making on the immigration status of non-EU students at London Metropolitan University. [119133]

Reply from Mark Harper: The UK Border Agency checks the immigration status of all non-EEA students following receipt of an application for further leave to remain or when considering curtailment of their visa.

David Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons were for the withdrawal of highly trusted sponsor status from London Metropolitan University; and if she will make a statement. [119190]

Reply from Mark Harper: London Metropolitan University held highly trusted sponsor (HTS) status and had submitted its annual renewal application to the UK Border Agency. Following the revocation of its standard sponsor licence, its HTS application was rejected as the university is no longer a licensed sponsor under Tier 4 of the Points Based System.

As the then Immigration Minister my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashford (Damian Green), stated to the House on 3 September 2012, *Official Report*, column 26, the UK Border Agency has been working closely and continually with London Metropolitan University since March to address its systemic issues. In the most recent audit, the UK Border Agency found concerns in three specific areas: students studying without permission to be in this country, how international students are recruited and the attendance monitoring of students. In those circumstances the UK Border Agency correctly felt that allowing London Metropolitan University to continue to sponsor and teach international students was not an option.

David Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what process is in place for London Metropolitan University to regain its highly trusted sponsor status. [119196]

Reply from Mark Harper: London Metropolitan University will be able to apply for a new Tier 4 sponsor licence six months after the date of the revocation of its previous licence. If it is successful it must hold a valid Tier 4 sponsor licence for 12 months before being eligible to apply for highly trusted sponsor status.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the UK Border Agency's examination of student records at London Metropolitan University since 2010, how many student files were examined; how many students whose files were examined did not have a Tier 4 or equivalent right to enter the UK; how many did not have appropriate English qualifications; and how many had not demonstrated attendance at their courses. [119894]

Reply from Mark Harper: As the then Minister of State for Immigration my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashford (Damian Green), set out to the House on 3 September 2012, *Official Report*, column 26, in response to the hon. Member's urgent question, the UK Border Agency conducted a compliance visit at the London Metropolitan University in March 2012, during which serious deficiencies in the university's arrangements were identified.

The UK Border Agency selected 101 students whose leave to remain had already been refused—25% of these students were found to have studied without permission at London Met University.

A further 600 student files were audited and it was found that over 60% of those sampled raised ongoing concerns in three specific areas: (a) students studying without permission to be in country, (b) the way international students are

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

recruited, and (c) the attendance monitoring of students.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions in the last two years UK Border Agency officials have visited London Metropolitan university; and who they met on those visits. [119897]

Reply from Mark Harper: London Metropolitan university has been visited on four occasions over a total of eight days in the last two years.

During those visits UK Border Agency officials met with staff from the university and its legal representatives. The senior staff who were met were the vice chancellor, the deputy chief executive, the deputy academic registrar and the director of the international office.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many London Metropolitan University students have been removed from the UK to date. [120476]

Reply from Mark Harper: Following the application for Judicial Review lodged by London Metropolitan University on 11 September 2012, this question is now subject to the sub judice rule and I am unable to provide an answer.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many London Metropolitan University students have been identified as not having leave to remain in the UK. [120477]

Reply from Mark Harper: Following the application for Judicial Review lodged by London Metropolitan University on 11 September 2012, this question is now subject to the sub judice rule and I am unable to provide an answer.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many universities have been contacted by the UK Border Agency in relation to overseas students studying at London Metropolitan University; and how many such universities have offered to accept students whose course has been discontinued. [120485]

Reply from Mark Harper: The UK Border Agency is part of the Government taskforce created to assist London Metropolitan University to find alternative education for legitimate overseas students. The taskforce is establishing a clearing house that will contact other educational institutions. It is the role of the clearing house to contact universities, not the UK Border Agency.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students from London Metropolitan University have been identified as not having leave to remain in the UK; and how many of these have been removed. [121083]

Reply from Mark Harper: Following the application for Judicial Review lodged by London Metropolitan University on 11 September 2012, this question is now subject to the sub judice rule and I am unable to provide an answer.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120917/text/120917w0003.htm#12091718000052>

London Metropolitan University

David Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 September 2012, *Official Report*, column 496W, on London Metropolitan University, if he will publish the key messages and supporting questions and answers designed to provide assurance to international students, overseas governments and other stakeholders regarding the UK Border Agency's decision to revoke the university's licence to sponsor non-EU students. [120726]

Reply from David Willetts: Key messages and answers to general questions are already being promoted in the public domain through information on the UK Border Agency website and on the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) website, which details action being taken by the taskforce created to help London Metropolitan University support overseas students affected by the decision.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

answers to specific questions from key stakeholders and overseas governments are being addressed on an individual basis and a helpline has been established at London Metropolitan University to provide advice to students affected by the decision. We do not intend to publish the detail of this correspondence or communication.

David Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 September 2012, *Official Report*, column 496W, on London Metropolitan University, if he will publish the guidance issued to posts in British embassies and to partner organisations regarding the UK Border Agency's decision to revoke the university's licence to sponsor non-EU students. [120727]

Reply from David Willetts: We do not intend to publish Government internal communications with British embassies or other partner organisations in respect of London Metropolitan University.

Internal guidance that we have issued to date has included: the current position on London Metropolitan University's Tier 4 sponsor licence and the reason for its revocation, action being taken to address the situation and guidance on how to respond to questions received.

Advice on all these points is already available in the public domain through information being published by the UK Border Agency on their website and on the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) website, which details action being taken by the taskforce created to help London Metropolitan University support overseas students affected by the decision.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120914/text/120914w0001.htm#12091446000021>

Deportation

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigrants who were ordered to be deported were not deported on human rights grounds in each of the last five years. [121394]

Reply from Mark Harper: 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.

The Home Office publishes immigration statistics annually and quarterly, which are available from the Home Office Research and Statistics website. This includes information on removals. The latest statistics can be found in the Library of the House as well as on the following website:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q2-2012/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120918/text/120918w0001.htm#12091844000006>

Asylum: Deportation

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency chartered flights deporting failed asylum seekers were less than (a) 25, (b) 50, (c) 75 and (d) 100 per cent full in (i) 2009, (ii) 2010, (iii) 2011 and (iv) 2012 to date. [118676]

Reply from Mark Harper: The UK Border Agency's charter flights carry those individuals who have no lawful basis of stay in the United Kingdom. This includes, but is not limited to, failed asylum applicants and the data reflect all categories of returnees.

The following table shows the capacity of all UK Border Agency charter flights between 2009 and 2012 to date:

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

| <i>Number</i> | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
| Flights with less than 25% capacity | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Flights with less than 50% capacity | 10 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Flights with less than 75% capacity | 11 | 9 | 8 | 8 |
| Flights with less than 100% capacity | 25 | 14 | 10 | 4 |
| Flights with 100% capacity | 22 | 33 | 20 | 7 |

The UK Border Agency strives for 100% utilisation of its chartered return flights. It is sometimes the case that flights depart under capacity due to reasons which include, but are not limited to, last minute legal interventions and logistical and security constraints.

Figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information. They are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what agreements the UK Border Agency has in place with recipient countries, limiting the number of failed asylum seekers who can be deported from the UK at one time, by country and agreement. [118686]

Reply from Mark Harper: Chartered repatriation flights are the subject of ongoing negotiations with receiving countries. Negotiations around capacity limitations and charters more generally are diplomatically sensitive and release of this information may jeopardise the UK Border Agency's longer term ability to use these flights and, therefore, to maintain an effective immigration control.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost per person was of deporting failed asylum seekers in each year since 2008. [118687]

Mr Harper: The UK Border Agency does not store data in a form where it could be analysed to provide this information except at disproportionate cost.

UK Border Agency annual accounts can be viewed on the UK Border Agency website: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120917/text/120917w0002.htm#12091718000040>

Human Trafficking

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which countries are the main sources of people being trafficked illegally into the UK; and what contact she has had with the governments of these countries to discuss steps to end the trade. [120447]

Reply from Mark Harper: While we recognise the difficulties inherent in detecting human trafficking, data recorded by the national referral mechanism (NRM) suggests that the priority source countries for victims of human trafficking to the UK are Nigeria, Vietnam, Romania, China, and Slovakia. Other countries which also feature prominently in the data are Uganda, Albania, Czech Republic, Eritrea, and India. An assessment of the list of priority countries will be undertaken annually. Work has already begun to better understand the trafficking landscape in priority countries so that the UK can influence those countries to improve and strengthen their approach to tackling human trafficking. The UK has engaged with embassies and Foreign and Commonwealth Office (F&CO) posts to raise awareness of human trafficking and to better support anti-trafficking efforts.

Human trafficking has been included as a priority in F&CO country business plans.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120917/text/120917w0003.htm#12091718000046>

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking: Children

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of trafficked children in the UK. [120277]

Reply from Mark Harper: Estimating the number of children trafficked into and within the UK is difficult owing to the hidden nature of this criminal activity. However data from successive reports by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) suggests there are approximately 300 child trafficking victims in the UK per annum (based on CEOP's Strategic Threat Assessment of Child Trafficking 2009 and 2010). In addition, CEOP's most recent Child Trafficking Update published in 2011 suggests there were 202 children identified as trafficked into and within the UK over the eight and a half month period from 1 January 2011 to 15 September 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120917/text/120917w0003.htm#12091718000047>

Human Trafficking: Children

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) pursuant to the oral answer of 18 June 2012, *Official Report*, column 593, on human trafficking (<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120618/debtext/120618-0001.htm#12061811000481>), what the outcomes were of the meeting between his Department and the Home Office held on 18 June 2012 regarding the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre; [114142]

(2) what consideration his Department has given to introducing a system of guardianship for child victims of trafficking; [114143]

(3) what progress has been made in respect of his Department's request to the Children's Commissioner for England to conduct a review into the practical care arrangements for trafficked children. [114144]

Reply from Edward Timpson: The Government have made clear that we strongly support the work of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) and want to build on its success to ensure children are even better protected in the future. As one of the National Crime Agency's four operational commands, CEOP will lead national level law enforcement work to protect children, drawing on the wider Agency's ability to deliver a single national intelligence picture, prioritise action and co-ordinate the law enforcement response. Reflecting the importance of child protection within the NCA's work, the Agency as a whole will also be subject to the duty to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under sections 11 and 28 of the Children Act 2004. The meeting referred to in oral answers on 18 June 2012, *Official Report*, column 593, was not, in fact, a meeting between DFE and HO Ministers, but rather a meeting between the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families.

As part of our implementation of the EU Directive on Human Trafficking, the Government has considered the arrangements currently in place to ensure they meet the guardianship standards required and are satisfied that the arrangements that already exist fulfil this function. Trafficked children who become looked after by the local authority are already provided with significant support through existing statutory mechanisms, and are supported in the same way as all looked after children. The appointment of guardians is a longstanding issue and one that the Government has considered a number of times. The Government's view is that the addition of a separate legal advocate would add an unnecessary and unhelpful level of complexity to the system when in fact what is required is for all relevant

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

agencies to work effectively together to support these vulnerable young people. Many local authorities already do have good support systems in place, and we want to see all authorities come up to the standard of the best.

Work is under way to commission a review of the practical care arrangements for trafficked children. This work, being led by the Home Office, working in partnership with this Department, the Office of the Children's Commissioner, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre and the Association of Directors of Children's Services signals the importance the Government attach to understanding the real picture and experiences of trafficked children in the care system. It is anticipated that the resulting report will be available by the end of the financial year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120918/text/120918w0002.htm#12091845000017>

Children: Human Trafficking

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to ensure that local authorities collect data on the (a) number and (b) nationality of suspected child victims of trafficking in their care who go missing. [120754]

Reply from Edward Timpson: The Department currently collects information on the number of looked-after children who go missing from their agreed care placement for more than 24 hours. We do not collect information on whether these children may have been trafficked.

While data on the numbers of children who may have been trafficked who go missing from care are not collected by this Department, local authorities collect a range of data to inform their policies and processes. They will of course be aware of the history of children that come into their care, including whether the young people have, or may have been trafficked, and their nationality, where known. The care plan should include a risk assessment as to the likelihood of these children going missing in the same way that the care plan might for any other child.

The Department is currently working with key partners to develop a data collection system which is more meaningful and gives a clearer picture of the numbers of children who go missing from care. Better local data collection will contribute to improved local strategies for minimising missing persons incidents and improving protection for children in care, including those that have or may have been trafficked.

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will consider establishing a comprehensive and independent national system of data collection on trafficked children to ensure data is collected on trafficked children who go missing from care. [120755]

Reply from Edward Timpson: The Department is currently working with key partners to develop a data collection system which is more meaningful and gives a clearer picture of the numbers of children who go missing from care. The group is considering what such a collection should look like. Better local data collection will contribute to improved local strategies for minimising missing persons incidents and improving protection for children in care, including those that have or may have been trafficked.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120918/text/120918w0002.htm#12091845000007>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **Press Releases**

Towards more humane reception conditions for asylum seekers

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20120917IPR51501/html/Towards-more-humane-reception-conditions-for-asylum-seekers>

Asylum seekers: no transfers to EU countries unable to cope

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20120917IPR51500/html/Asylum-seekers-no-transfers-to-EU-countries-unable-to-cope>

Transnational Networking

http://en.qantara.de/wcsite.php?wc_c=19779&wc_id=21105

New Publication

New Website: The Forum - Welcoming Migrants to London

The Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum (The Forum) has launched a new website, and is currently looking for mentors and volunteers.

<http://migrantforum.org.uk/>

News

UK asylum process for children labelled 'traumatic'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-19669782>

Foreign students to be marked out in immigration figures

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/9541141/Foreign-students-to-be-marked-out-in-immigration-figures.html>

Students to be taken out of immigration statistics

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/students-to-be-taken-out-of-immigration-statistics-8135730.html>

Foreign students: losing a battle, perhaps winning a war

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/sep/13/foreign-students-losing-battle-editorial>

Willetts launches drive to salvage UK's reputation after curbs on student visas

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2012/sep/13/willetts-uk-reputation-foreign-student-visas>

UK failed to treat deportation threat overseas students like human beings says leading vice chancellor

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/uk-failed-to-treat-deportation-threat-overseas-students-like-human-beings-says-leading-vice-chancellor-8135156.html>

Voters more likely to back an anti-Muslim party than reject it – poll

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/sep/16/voters-support-anti-immigrant-party>

Capita gets contract to find 174,000 illegal immigrants

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-19637409>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Digital start-ups 'need visa flexibility for graduates'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-19647942>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

News

Multiculturalism 'past its sell-by date' warns race expert

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9544252/Multiculturalism-past-its-sell-by-date-warns-race-expert.html>

Olympics and Paralympics showcased Britain's diversity, says Trevor Phillips

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2012/sep/10/olympics-paralympics-equality-trevor-phillips>

[TOP](#)

Equality

News

Churches 'need gay marriage safeguards', says Eric Pickles

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9539798/Churches-need-gay-marriage-safeguards-says-Eric-Pickles.html>

Religious faith cannot be allowed to make us unequal before the law

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9543638/Religious-faith-cannot-be-allowed-to-make-us-unequal-before-the-law.html>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act
John Mason (Glasgow Shettleston) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many convictions have been secured using the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012. (S4W-09330)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: According to figures provided by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service on 4 September 2012 there have been 24 convictions from the 28 cases that have come to court so far. The act came into force on 1 March 2012 and of the cases completed 85.7% have resulted in a conviction.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-09330&ResultsPerPage=10>

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Extremism

Patrick Harvie (Glasgow) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what actions it is taking to combat far right extremism. (S4O-01295)

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: The Scottish Government is committed to creating a society in which intolerance and prejudice have no place and in building trust, respect and understanding within Scotland's multi-faith and multi-cultural society. Prejudice and intolerance can fracture communities and undermine community cohesion and at its extremes can give rise to serious criminal behaviour. That is why we give priority to work on community safety, support programmes to promote equality, tackle discrimination and hate crime. It is also why we work closely with police colleagues through, among other things, the Scottish Preventing Violent Extremism Unit, to create a safer Scotland within which there is no place for violent extremism of any kind.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4O-01295&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Release

Hate crime victims finally recognised with European Parliament vote on Victims' Directive

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2012-09-12%20-%20crime%20victims%20EP%20vote.pdf>

New Publication

Culture, Media and Sport Committee report: Racism in Football

vol 1 <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmcmds/89/89.pdf>

vol 2 <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmcmds/89/89vw.pdf>

News

Hate crime in England and Wales: where is it worst?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2012/sep/13/hate-crime-england-wales>

The hate crime map of England and Wales

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/interactive/2012/sep/13/hate-crime-map-england-wales>

Call for marchers to sign 'hate crime' declaration

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/call-for-marchers-to-sign-hate-crime-declaration.18916757>

Racism in football still a significant problem, says report

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/football/19636473>

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Parliamentary Question

Vitamin D: Ethnic Groups

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice the NHS publishes on the risks of vitamin D deficiency for ethnic minority communities. [120475]

Reply from Anna Soubry: The NHS Choices website provides information to the public about vitamin D and the risks associated with vitamin D deficiency. All of the pages on NHS Choices about vitamin D state that people who have darker skin (particularly people of African, African-Caribbean and South Asian origin) are at risk of not getting enough vitamin D. This includes advice that people with darker skin will need to spend longer in the sun to produce the same amount of vitamin D as people with paler skin. The advice also states that those who cover their skin for religious or cultural reasons may be at risk of vitamin D deficiency due to reduced sun exposure; these individuals should therefore take a daily supplement containing ten micrograms of vitamin D.

The NHS Start4Life website and leaflets explain the importance of daily vitamin D supplements for babies, young children and pregnant and breastfeeding women. These materials state that this advice is of particular importance for those of South Asian or African-Caribbean descent, or those who have darker skin.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120918/text/120918w0002.htm#12091844000051>

Press Release

Prime Minister's Rosh Hashanah message

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/rosh-hashanah-message/>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Holyrood

Freedom of Information (Amendment) Bill

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

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

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

Stage 1 debate

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7363&mode=html#job_67117

Bills in Progress Westminster

Draft Communications Data Bill

Draft Bill as published

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm83/8359/8359.pdf>

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

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>

Small Charitable Donations Bill

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

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

A Scotland for Children: A Consultation on the Children and Young People Bill

(closing date 25 September 2012)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00396537.pdf>

**** closes this week!**

Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill (26 September 2012)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00394524.pdf>

Reforming Scots Criminal Law and Practice: The Carloway Report

(closing date 5 October 2012)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00396483.pdf>

The implementation of Council Regulation 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing (closing date 26 October 2012)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/08/9239/downloads>

Human rights of unaccompanied migrant children and young people in the UK

(closing date 26 October 2012)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/human-rights-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/human-rights-of-unaccompanied-migrant-children/>

Proposed Lobbying Transparency Bill (closing date 29 October 2012)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_MembersBills/20120706_Lobbying_Transparency_consultation.pdf

Small Charitable Donations Bill (closing date 30 October 2012)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2012/september/small-charitable-donations-bill/>

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

Consultations (continued)

Football Equity: Make your voice heard (no closing date given)

http://www.scottishfa.co.uk/scottish_fa_news.cfm?page=1848&newsCategoryId=4&newsID=10127

Strengthening Food Work Across Minority Ethnic Communities

(no closing date given)

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VMBVL7T>

European survey of antisemitism (no closing date given)

<https://surveys.ipsosinteractive.com/wix/p1640243393.aspx>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Completing the new OSCR Returns

24 September 2012 in Dundee (9.30 – 12.00)

9 October 2012 in Dumfries (9.30 – 12.00)

6 November 2012 in Edinburgh (1.30 – 4.00)

8 November 2012 in Glasgow (1.30 – 4.00)

Oban (date to be confirmed)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training to look at the ways in which charities report to OSCR, and will include an introduction to OSCR Online. For information see

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/oscr/oscr-outreach-completing-oscr-returns/>

**** this week!**

Thinking about the future, including conversions to SCIO

24 September 2012 in Dundee (1.30 – 4.00)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training to cover planning ahead within the life of a charity, and explain consent, notification, charity reorganisation and converting to the new Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) structure. For information see

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/oscr/oscr-outreach-thinking-about-the-future/>

**** this week!**

Influencing Politicians and Political Structures

26 September 2012 in Glasgow (10.30 – 4.30)

CRER event to explore Scottish and UK political structures, introduce a range of ways to influence political decision-making, and look at tips for successful political engagement in Scotland. For information see <http://www.crer.org.uk/>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

Raising the awareness of issues surrounding abuse: a conversation cafe

27 September 2012 in Dundee (2.00 – 4.00)

Roshni discussion about perceptions and under-reporting of child abuse in minority ethnic communities, child grooming and sexual exploitation, forced marriage and honour based violence, and working with survivors of childhood sexual abuse. For information see <http://roshniconversationcafe.eventbrite.com/?ebtv=C>

**** this week!**

Black History Month Launch

27 September 2012 in Glasgow (10.30)

The beginning of a month long celebration of the contribution made by black men and women to our heritage. For information contact nadia (0141 418 6530 / nadia@crer.org.uk)

**** this week!**

The housing journey from seeking asylum to settling in Scotland

27 September 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

The Asylum Process

28 September 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work working in social work, housing, homelessness, welfare, education, employment, community development or the justice system, to explore housing and homelessness rights of asylum seekers and refugees, and best practice in addressing their housing and support needs. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/9lca9cg>.

UKBA asylum support

9 October 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.40)

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://tinyurl.com/9l2b3te> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Risk management and financial controls

9 October 2012 in Dumfries (1.30 – 4.00)

Oban (date to be confirmed)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training to look at risk management and financial controls within Scottish charities, focusing on different types of fraud, and methods to prevent and tackle fraud. For information see <http://www.scvo.org.uk/oscr/oscr-outreach-risk-management-and-financial-controls/>

Working with interpreters

17 October 2012 in Glasgow (1.00 – 4.30)

29 November 2012 in Glasgow (1.00 – 4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work with non-English speaking service users, including asylum seekers and refugees, who need a comprehensive understanding of how to work with interpreters. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/9fs8ae5> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

East European Roma – Cultural Awareness Training

17 October 2012 in Nottingham

Roma Support Group training to include an introduction to Roma culture and traditions, language and history. Reference will be made to the differences between Romanian, Polish and Czech Roma. This will provide the backdrop to practically oriented sessions which will look at barriers to accessing services, and more effective ways to engage with Roma families. For information see http://www.ccclimited.org.uk/roma_17_10_12.html

2012 Human Rights Tour: Civil Society Strikes Back

17 October 2012 in Inverness

18 October 2012 in Edinburgh

British Institution of Human Rights events to find out how we can use human rights to make a difference in our communities. For information see <http://www.bihhr.org.uk/events/the-2012-human-rights-tour>

The needs and experiences of refugee women

19 October 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/cdzfb75>.

The Equality Act – just how far does it go?

24 October 2012 in Glasgow (9.30 – 3.30)

Scottish Discrimination Law Association conference to look at the expansion and development of the provisions of the Equality Act, and preview the most important cases in 2013. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/12x_sdla.pdf

Introduction to accessibility

25 October 2012 (10.30 – 4.30)

GCVS training looking at a wide range of accessibility issues – physical, social, communication and cultural, that offers an introduction to basic equalities concepts, access auditing and the legal basis behind the need for accessibility. For information see http://www.gcvcs.org.uk/whats_on/1506_introduction_to_accessibility

Becoming a charity and choosing the right legal form

6 November 2012 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 12.00)

8 November 2012 in Glasgow (9.30 – 12.00)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training to take an in depth look at the pros and cons of registering as a charity, and explain the various legal forms available, including the new Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) structure. For information see <http://www.scvo.org.uk/oscr/oscr-outreach-becoming-a-charity/>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Meet the Charity Regulator

25 November 2012 in Paisley (1.30 – 3.30: public session)

25 November 2012 in Paisley (4.00 – 6.30: charity session)

27 November 2012 in Stirling (10.00 – 4.00: public session)

27 November 2012 in Stirling (1.45 – 4.00: charity session)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator events for the public, explaining how charities must operate and report to the Regulator, and for charity trustees, highlighting how charities can work with the regulator to meet challenges they face. For information see [http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/meet-the-charity-regulator/meet-the-charity-regulator-stirling-\(public-session\)/](http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/meet-the-charity-regulator/meet-the-charity-regulator-stirling-(public-session)/) (Stirling) and [http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/meet-the-charity-regulator/meet-the-charity-regulator-paisley-\(charity-session\)/](http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/meet-the-charity-regulator/meet-the-charity-regulator-paisley-(charity-session)/)

Equality in employment

29 November 2012 in Glasgow (10.30 – 4.30)

GCVS training to provide practical tips and explanations to help organisations meet their legal and ethical responsibilities. Issues covered include recruitment, monitoring and dignity at work, and issues around equality in volunteering. For information see http://www.gcvts.org.uk/whats_on/1507_equality_in_employment

[TOP](#)

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

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

Useful Links (continued)

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

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

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

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

BBC Parliament online

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

[TOP](#)



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



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



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

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.