

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>.

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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

UK Border Agency

Madeleine Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to ensure that UK Border Agency officers receive specific training in processing cases of women seeking asylum who have experienced domestic violence in their home country; and if she will make a statement. [125790]

Reply from Mark Harper: The UK Border Agency has recently implemented a programme of mandatory training for all asylum decision makers and their managers dealing with gender issues in the asylum claim. The training has been designed in conjunction with Asylum Aid and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It focuses on improving the quality of interviewing and decision making in respect of asylum claims being made by women, taking into account issues such as domestic violence and related trauma. All relevant staff should have received this training by the end of 2012.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The agency has also recently delivered gender sensitivity training to staff in the Asylum Screening Unit.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121031/text/121031w0002.htm#12103179000055>

Visas

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many organisations are presently licensed to sponsor student migrants under tier 4 of the points-based system; how many there are in each category; when those institutions which are A-rated, B-rated or Legacy will cease to be able to issue certificates of acceptance for studies, and why; and how many students are currently at A-rated, B-rated or Legacy institutions. [HL2468]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): 1,976 organisations are currently registered as tier 4 sponsors. Of these sponsors, 79 are legacy, 349 are A rated, 16 are B rated and 1,532 have highly trusted sponsor status.

Legacy sponsors are those: who do not meet or did not try to meet the requirements for educational oversight by the deadline; who did try to meet the requirements but failed to do so; who meet the mandatory requirements for HTS but score a near miss on the core measurable requirements and who score a second near miss when they reapply.

Legacy sponsors are not allowed to issue confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS) to new students but can continue to sponsor students who are already studying at its institution until they finish their course of study or until the expiry of the licence. A-rated sponsors are subject to the interim limit and are therefore limited in the number of CAS that they can assign to both new and existing students. B-rated sponsors are unable to assign CAS to new students, they can only assign them to existing students who are eligible to apply to extend their leave to enable them to finish their course of study.

The information requested about the number of students currently at A-rated, B-rated or legacy institutions is not centrally recorded and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/121030w0001.htm#12103040000305>

UK Border Agency

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time taken by the UK Border Agency is to process Tier 1 visa applications. [125928]

Reply from Mark Harper: The average time taken to process Tier 1 applications in the last 12 months is 9.2 days.

The median, (which is a better measure because the average can easily be distorted by a few abnormally large values) is 7.4 days.

This data is based on management information. It is provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121101/text/121101w0001.htm#12110124000060>

UK Border Agency

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the UK Border Agency's target is for the time taken to process postal applications by Romanian and Bulgarian nationals for registration certificates and accession worker cards; and what the average time taken is. [125085]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Mark Harper: For 2012-13, the UK Border Agency's target for processing postal applications by Romanian and Bulgarian nationals for registration certificates and accession worker cards is to decide 99% of applications within six months. For the period April to June 2012, the latest period for which published data is available, 98% of Romanian and Bulgarian applications were decided within six months of being registered on the UK Border Agency database. The UK Border Agency does not maintain any published data in respect of the average length of time it takes to process a postal Romanian and Bulgarian application.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121030/text/121030w0003.htm#12103046000134>

Immigration Controls

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason she changed the immigration rule on settlement of overseas nationals from 14 years to 20 years. [125120]

Reply from Mark Harper: The 14-year long residence rule allowed those who did not have leave to remain in the UK but who had nevertheless been continuously resident here for 14 years to apply for settlement. This rule was deleted on 9 July 2012 because it is not appropriate that illegal migrants should be able to gain immediate settlement upon applying for it, whereas migrants who have followed the immigration rules will have served a probationary period.

The route to settlement after 14 years' continuous residence has been replaced by a new route for those wishing to make an application for leave to remain in the UK on the basis of the right to respect for private life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Under the new Immigration Rules, at least 20 years' continuous residence in the UK, lawfully or unlawfully, will generally be required before a person can apply to start a 10-year route to settlement in the UK on the basis of the Article 8 right to respect for private life.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the introduction of exit checks at airports. [125365]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Government has committed to the reintroduction of exit checks by March 2015. We are currently exploring options around how future exit checks may operate, and how the e-Borders system can support this.

e-Borders enables us to target the most harmful individuals and supports our ability to undertake effective exit checks as passengers leave the UK. The system is already screening electronically over 60% of outgoing passenger and crew movements, and we are committed to further enhancing its capabilities.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2012, *Official Report*, column 100W, on immigration controls, what estimate she has made of the number of people required to be employed at the clearance process at UK airports to scan each type of passport. [125490]

Reply from Mark Harper: Border Force operates a flexible workforce model based around multi-skilled officers who operate in different locations. The duties of Border Force officers can range between the clearance of EU or non EU passengers at the UK border to the detection of goods at UK ports depending on expected demand. No estimate has been made of the number of people required to be employed at the clearance process at UK airports to scan each type of passport.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121030/text/121030w0003.htm#12103046000128>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum: Scotland

Eilidh Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on ending the transfer of children of asylum seekers from Scotland to detention elsewhere in the UK. [125887]

Reply from Mark Harper: The detention of families overnight in Dungavel ceased in May 2010. The Government made a commitment to end child detention for immigration purposes and has met this commitment by radically changing the system to ensure that welfare of the child is at the heart of the decision and removals process. Once a family's appeal rights have been exhausted they will be offered the following return options, in descending order:

Assisted return to help the family feel supported throughout their departure, with reintegration assistance to help them resettle upon their return;

Required returns for families who fail to take up the assisted return through the Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) programme, allowing them to remain in the community, but giving two weeks' notice to board their flight home; and finally

Ensured return, as a last resort, if they fail to depart the UK.

Our pre-departure accommodation at Cedars was designed with advice from Barnardo's and could not be further in look or feel from an immigration removal centre.

It is used only as a last resort after all voluntary return options have failed and after advice has been sought from an independent panel of child welfare experts.

Eilidh Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on ending dawn raids for the removal of failed asylum seekers in Scotland. [125888]

Reply from Mark Harper: Where a family is in the UK illegally and has exhausted its appeal rights to the courts the UK Border Agency (UKBA) expects them to comply with the law and leave the UK.

Where a family has chosen to break the law and defy the decisions of our courts the UKBA will carry out operations to rectify that situation and ensure compliance with our laws.

The timing of such operations will depend on a number of factors including the safety of the family and others and any concerns raised by police and others around public order.

Any family which is in the UK illegally can avoid the risk of an enforced departure by complying with the law and taking up one of the several options to leave voluntarily, including that run by Refugee Action, a well-known charity working with asylum seekers and refugees.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121101/text/121101w0001.htm#12110124000049>

Asylum Seekers

Baroness Berridge: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many claims for asylum in the United Kingdom have been granted on the basis of religious persecution in each of the past five years; and, for each year, (1) from which countries the claimants originated, (2) how many came from each country, and (3) what religion they were.[HL2596]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Data on the basis of asylum claims are held only at the level of co-ordinated paper case files or within the notes section of the UK Border Agency's case information database (CID). Those data are not aggregated in national reporting systems, which means this Question could only be answered through a disproportionately expensive manual case search to collate the data. However, data relating to the number of asylum applications received are published on an annual and quarterly basis. Latest figures are available in Tables

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

"as.01" and "as.01.q" of the release Immigration Statistics, April to June 2012 Second edition, available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q2-2012/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/121029w0001.htm#12102921000573>

Asylum

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers in the UK have entered the EU through (a) the UK and (b) another EU member state as their first point of entry. [123461]

Reply from Mark Harper: The information is as follows:

(a) Statistics on asylum applications made in the UK can be found at the attached link and are in the following table:

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

	<i>Asylum applications made in the UK</i>
2007	23,431
2008	25,932
2009	24,487
2010	17,916
2011	19,804

In the last five years the following numbers of cases have been accepted for consideration for removal to an EU member state based on evidence received at the time of their asylum application in the UK. The majority of these were considered under the Dublin II Regulation which establishes the principle that only one member state is responsible for examining an asylum application. This guards against abuse of the system by 'asylum shopping', where one person submits multiple asylum claims in different member states, and prevents asylum claims bouncing between member states.

	<i>Accepted for consideration for removal from the UK to a safe third country</i>
2007	1,792
2008	2,433
2009	2,693
2010	1,633
2011	1,557

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have been returned to another EU member state by destination in each of the last five years. [123463]

Reply from Mark Harper: The following table details the number of asylum claimants returned to another EU member state under the Dublin Regulation and destination breakdown:

<i>Member state</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>
Austria	48	32	31	31	35
Belgium	54	49	47	41	66
Bulgaria	3	5	2	4	8
Cyprus	4	3	1	—	—
Czech Republic	5	10	6	3	4
Denmark	10	9	9	8	13

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Estonia	—	—	1	—	—
Finland	3	3	8	3	4
France	141	105	112	114	140
Germany	149	155	138	133	121
Greece	187	281	238	45	—
Hungary	1	9	19	9	13
Iceland	—	—	—	—	—
Ireland	40	47	57	81	98
Italy	368	418	208	546	372
Latvia	1	—	—	2	—
Lithuania	—	—	1	—	1
Luxembourg	4	4	3	4	1
Malta	18	31	35	11	11
Netherlands	42	24	20	26	20
Norway	25	12	12	30	26
Poland	2	2	2	5	5
Portugal	2	1	6	—	1
Romania	—	3	3	3	4
Slovakia	18	16	11	18	13
Slovenia	1	2	—	2	2
Spain	7	5	8	4	13
Sweden	24	20	24	28	24
Switzerland	—	—	3	11	16
Total	1157	1246	1005	1162	1011
<i>Note:</i> Statistics in tables are based on management information data that is not quality assured under National Statistics protocols. The figures do not constitute part of National Statistics and should be treated as provisional.					

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121031/text/121031w0001.htm#12103179000037>

Asylum

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were granted asylum or humanitarian protection by the UK in the third quarter of 2012 following a previously unsuccessful claim and (a) forcible removal or (b) voluntary return from the UK, by nationality. [125077]

Reply from Mark Harper: The data requested is not held in a format compatible with National Statistics protocols.

However, data on the number of applications granted asylum and humanitarian protection is published on an annual and quarterly basis. Latest figures are available in Table “as.01” and “as.01.q” of the release Immigration Statistics, April to June 2012 Second edition, available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science website at:

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

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to abolish the Case Assurance and Audit Unit in April 2013; and what steps she plans to take to deal with outstanding cases. [125119]

Reply from Mark Harper: As stated by Rob Whiteman at the Home Affairs Select Committee on 18 September 2012 the Controlled Archive will be closed by the end of December this year.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Following the closure of the Controlled Archive, the work of the Case Assurance and Audit Unit will be reviewed, all remaining live cases will be absorbed into the Complex Casework Directorate which is currently being developed by the UK Border Agency.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121030/text/121030w0003.htm#12103046000119>

Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on ending the detention of children in Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre. [125886]

Reply from Mark Harper: The detention of families overnight in Dungavel ceased in May 2010.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121031/text/121031w0002.htm#12103179000043>

Immigration: Deportation

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the current arrangements in relation to the deportation to Greece of (1) criminals, and (2) asylum seekers who first registered in that country; how many asylum seekers have to date arrived in the United Kingdom after first registering in Greece; how many (a) criminals, and (b) asylum seekers, are presently awaiting return to Greece; and what is their assessment of conditions in Greece for those returned. [HL2644]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The current arrangements for the deportation to Greece of: (1) Criminals-Greek nationals (as with any foreign national offender from the European Economic Area) are considered for deportation if they satisfy the following criteria:

a court recommendation for deportation and/or; a custodial sentence of 12 months or more for an offence involving drugs, violent or sexual crimes or a custodial sentence of 24 months or more for other offences.

(2) Asylum seekers who first registered their asylum claim in Greece-in September 2010 a decision to suspend transfer from the UK to Greece under the Dublin Regulation was made. As a result asylum applications from those who had sought asylum first in Greece fell to be considered substantively in the UK by the UK Border Agency.

Since September 2010 the UK Border Agency is aware of approximately 760 cases where the EURODAC fingerprinting system has notified matches between fingerprints sent by the UK and those previously recorded by Greece.

The number presently awaiting return to Greece can be broken down as follows:

(a) criminals-the UK Border Agency does not disclose details of numbers removed to specific countries as it may jeopardise diplomatic relations and its ability to continue to remove to that country; and (b) asylum seekers-no asylum seekers are currently awaiting removal to Greece; asylum applications are being considered substantively by the UK Border Agency and unsuccessful applicants will be removed to their country of origin.

Greece continues to receive practical assistance from the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) to facilitate implementation of the Greek National Action Plan for Managed Migration and Asylum Reform (Greek Action Plan). As part of that plan a new Greek Asylum Service, Appeals Authority and framework for reception arrangements are in the process of being delivered. However, delivery is not yet complete and so the UK, along with the EASO, other member states and

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

the European Commission, continue to monitor the situation with regard to Greece meeting its international obligations towards asylum seekers in practice. Until it can be demonstrated that those obligations are met the rulings from the European Court of Human Rights in *MSS v Belgium and Greece* (21 January 2011) and the Court of Justice of the European Union in *NS and others* (21 December 2011) prevent the removal of asylum seekers to Greece under the Dublin Regulation (EC) No. 343/2003.

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government when the UK Border Agency reports statistics on deportation and removal of (1) foreign criminals, and (2) failed asylum seekers; how they define this status; and on what evidence the status is based. [HL2645]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: Figures on removals are published on an annual and quarterly basis and include a user guide that provides information on definitions used, how figures were compiled, data quality and issues arising from figures being based on data sourced from an administrative database.

The latest figures on foreign national offenders are available in Table "rv.07.q", while the latest figures of asylum removals are available in Tables "rv.01" and "rv.01.q" of the release *Immigration Statistics, April to June 2012 Second edition*. Both this release and the user guide are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science website at:

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/121030w0001.htm#12103040000288>

Human Trafficking

Peter Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to tackle human trafficking. [125374]

Reply from Hugo Swire: As set out in the reply to my hon. Friend on 19 June 2012, *Official Report*, column 907W, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) network provides a platform for departments including the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), Department for International Development (DFID) and the UK Border Agency (UKBA) to implement the Government's human trafficking strategy overseas.

The strategy includes working with foreign governments to address the conditions in which trafficking can thrive; expediting the safe and rapid return of victims to their own countries; and supporting work in source countries to prevent re-trafficking. FCO Posts also work with local non-governmental organisations to raise awareness among vulnerable groups; and support the work of UKBA and law enforcement agencies to share intelligence, disrupt networks, identify victims and prosecute traffickers.

The FCO continues to raise the profile of trafficking in the UK including a speech by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), on 16 October at the opening of the parliamentarians against human trafficking London conference on 24 October the FCO and Home Office hosted a major event on tackling human trafficking for parliamentarians, diplomats, non-governmental organisations and charities at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121031/text/121031w0003.htm#12103179000083>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many decisions on trafficking made under the National Referral Mechanism by (a) the UK Border Agency Competent Authority and (b) the UK Human Trafficking Centre Competent Authority have been taken to Judicial Review in each year since April 2009; and how many such reviews have resulted in a decision being reversed. [125960]

Reply from Mark Harper: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The Judicial Review of UK Border Agency Competent Authority decisions under the National Referral Mechanism can be broken down as follows:

	<i>Cases referred to the NRM</i>	<i>Decisions challenged at Judicial Review</i>	<i>Decisions reversed as a result of Judicial Review</i>
2009(1)	706	4	1
2010	710	2	0
2011	946	6	2
2012	(2)530	(3)5	(3)1
Total to date	2,892	17	4

(1) 1 April 2009 to 31 December 2009 only. (2) Published data (1 January 2012 to 30 June 2012). (3) Year to date (1 January 2012 to 29 October 2012).

(b) There have been no Judicial Reviews of UK Human Trafficking Centre Competent Authority decisions under the National Referral Mechanism.

This data is based on regionally held management information and as such has not been quality assured as part of the production of National Statistics outputs. It is provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121031/text/121031w0002.htm#12103179000046>

Human Trafficking

Louise Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the (a) nationality and (b) gender was of each suspected victim of trafficking referred to the Trafficking Victim Support Scheme operated by the Salvation Army in September 2012; in which region each of the suspected victims was found; and which agency referred each case to the scheme. [125844]

Reply from Helen Grant: In September 2012 there were 50 referrals to the Government-funded support service for adult victims of human trafficking in England and Wales administered by The Salvation Army.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121031/text/121031w0003.htm#12103179000096>

Press Release

UKBA online services – information for customers

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/november/01-online-services>

News

Stage set for inspirational tale

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/stage-set-for-inspirational-tale.19301045>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

We are proud of having ended child detention

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/oct/29/proud-ending-child-detention>

Government's migration cap is a 'big barrier to growth', says Lord O'Donnell

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/governments-migration-cap-is-a-big-barrier-to-growth-says-lord-odonnell-8273203.html>

'Open the borders to skilled migrants', civil service chief says

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9647816/Open-the-borders-to-skilled-migrants-civil-service-chief-says.html>

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Equality

Press Releases

Commission intervenes in Supreme Court case of X vs Mid Sussex Citizens Advice Bureau

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2012/october/commission-intervenes-in-supreme-court-case-of-x-vs-mid-sussex-citizens-advice-bureau/>

Scottish Health Survey report on equality

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/10/healthsurveyequality30102012>

New Publication

Scottish Health Survey Topic Report: Equality Groups

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0040/00406749.pdf>

News

Black and Muslim members lose equalities commission roles

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2012/nov/01/black-muslim-members-equalities-commission-roles>

Obesity 'more prevalent in the Church of Scotland'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/health/obesity-more-prevalent-in-the-church-of-scotland.19290040>

How you're more likely to binge drink if you don't believe in God

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/health/how-you-re-more-likely-to-binge-drink-if-you-don-t-believe-in-god-1-2606711>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Anti-sectarianism

Patricia Ferguson: To ask the Scottish Government how many CashBack for Communities-funded projects provide an anti-sectarianism element in their activities. (S4W-10155)

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: We are providing all our young people, no matter what their background is, with a variety of free, readily accessible and sustainable opportunities to allow them to become all they can be and to be effective contributors and responsible citizens in Scottish society. Since the inception of the highly successful Cashback Programme in 2007, over £46 million recovered from the proceeds of crime has been invested throughout Scotland, through our partner organisations, directly benefitting over 600,000 young people and generating over 11,000 young person volunteers from different backgrounds who are now putting something back into their communities across Scotland.

Anti-sectarianism is not a specific funded strand of work for CashBack for Communities programme. However, a wide range of CashBack partner organisations including the Scottish Football Association (SFA), Scottish Rugby Union (SRU), Amateur Boxing Scotland (ABS), Scottish Sports Futures (SSF) and Youthlink Scotland promote positive inclusive behaviours including anti-sectarianism, anti- territorialism, respect, alcohol misuse and healthy lifestyles through educational, role model activity and development workshops with young people participating in CashBack activities.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-10155&ResultsPerPage=10>

Anti-sectarianism

Patricia Ferguson: To ask the Scottish Government what provision the Scottish Football Association has made for delivering anti- sectarianism workshops, events and messages through the CashBack for Communities funding that it receives. (S4W-10156)

Reply from Shona Robison: For 2007-14, the Scottish FA has been awarded £5.436 million in CashBack for Communities funding to run a series of six projects including Schools of Football, Girls' and Women's Football Development, the Football Equity Project and the Diversionary Football project. The Scottish FA is currently looking at including anti-sectarianism work as part of the theory sessions in the Schools of Football project.

The Scottish Government is committed to removing sectarianism from our communities and is investing some £9 million over the current three year spending period to tackle sectarianism, and all forms of bigoted behaviour across Scottish society. The government is also undertaking a longer term programme of work to tackle violence, alcohol misuse and bigotry associated with football and is working in partnership with interested parties to develop wide ranging recommendations to help improve the game and to contribute positively to wider efforts to tackle these social issues.

You may wish to contact Donald Gillies, Football Development Manager at the Scottish FA for further details of the work that the association is doing in this area. Donald's contact details are: Telephone: 0141 616 6180, e-mail: Donald.Gillies@scottishfa.co.uk.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-10156&ResultsPerPage=10>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Crime: Hate Crime

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 17 October (HL 2448), what action is being taken to tackle race hatred.[HL2665]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The Government's action plan to tackle hate crime brings together a wide range of activities to: prevent hate crime by challenging the attitudes that underpin it; build victims' confidence to come forward; and improve the response of the police and others when they do. Specific actions to tackle racial hatred include supporting Show Racism the Red Card, running educational workshops for young people and funding organisations working with the victims of racist attacks.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/121029w0001.htm#12102921000580>

Sport: Racism

Lord Dholakia: To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions that have had with the Football Association about tackling racism and homophobia in football following the Prime Minister's anti-discrimination summit last spring.[HL2711]

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: Several discussions have taken place with the Football Association following the Prime Minister's antidiscrimination summit. At the summit, the football authorities committed to continue their work on tackling discrimination in the game, including racism and homophobia. Their report, which will provide further details of this, will be submitted in the near future.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/121031w0001.htm#12103157000320>

News

Man Sentenced For Racist Abuse

<http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/11/Man-Sentenced-Racist-Abuse>

Cowdenbeath man given Football Banning Order for racist comments

<http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/10/Cowdenbeath-man-given-Football-Banning-Order-racist-comments>

Academics lose dismissal claims

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/academics-lose-dismissal-claims.19299385>

Racist dad avoids prison term after hurling abuse at Muslim travellers

<http://www.scotsman.com/edinburgh-evening-news/latest-news/racist-dad-avoids-prison-term-after-hurling-abuse-at-muslim-travellers-1-2611422>

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Other Holyrood

Debate

The Future of Scotland

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7473&mode=html#iob_68166

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Female Genital Mutilation

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the powers available to tackle the practice of female genital mutilation. [125785]

Reply from Jeremy Browne: This Government is satisfied that there are a number of powers to tackle the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM). In February 2011, we launched multi-agency practice guidelines which clearly set out the range of powers available to the police and other agencies. This is available at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/FGM?view=Binary>

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints of female genital mutilation have been recorded by the police in the UK over the last 10 years; how many such complaints resulted in criminal investigation; and how many such investigations led to prosecutions. [125799]

Reply from Jeremy Browne: Information on the number of complaints recorded by the police and the number of complaints resulting in criminal investigations in to female genital mutilation (FGM) is not held centrally.

There have been no prosecutions of cases of FGM under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121031/text/121031w002.htm#12103179000044>

Female Genital Mutilation

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the number of cases of female genital mutilation in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and what strategy he has put in place to eradicate this practice. [125786]

Reply from Anna Soubry: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is illegal in the United Kingdom. It is also illegal to arrange for a child to be taken abroad for FGM. If caught, offenders face a large fine and a prison sentence of up to 14 years. It has been estimated that over 20,000 girls under the age of 15 are at risk of FGM in the UK, and that 66,000 women in the UK are living with the consequences of FGM. However, the true extent is unknown due to the 'hidden' nature of the crime and the lack of robust prevalence data.

Additionally, the Health and Social Care Information Centre collect data on Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), with details of all admissions to NHS hospitals in England. HES clinical codes do not currently enable us to identify admissions for FGM-related treatment such as deinfibulation (female circumcision). We are exploring the inclusion of a HES code for deinfibulation in the next update of HES coding scheduled for release in April 2014.

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The Government's commitment to tackle FGM is set out in the Violence against Women and Girls Action Plan and the Home Office has the lead across Government in tackling FGM. Officials in the Department work very closely on FGM with Home Office counterparts. In February 2011, the Government launched Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines on FGM, which can be used by all health professionals to help them identify girls who may be at risk of FGM. The Home Office is currently reviewing the use of the Guidelines, and expects to complete this review by the end of February 2013.

This summer the Government and the police engaged in a campaign to crack down on FGM during the summer holiday period—traditionally the time of greatest risk for girls being taken abroad to undergo the practice. More than 80,000 leaflets and posters have been distributed to schools, health services, charities and community groups across the country.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121101/text/121101w0002.htm#12110130000031>

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New Publication

A Sense of Place: Retirement Decisions among Older Black and Minority Ethnic People

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/ASenseOfPlace-2012.pdf>

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Other News

Charity restricted funds freed

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/charity-restricted-funds-freed/>

Gay rights group Stonewall faces barrage of criticism for 'bigot of year' award given to Keith O'Brien

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/gay-rights-group-stonewall-faces-barrage-of-criticism-for-bigot-of-year-award-given-to-keith-o-brien-1-2612948>

Gay rights group in 'bigot' slur

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/political-news/gay-rights-group-in-bigot-slur.19320933>

Row as gay rights charity name Catholic leader Keith O'Brien as 'Bigot of Year'

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/gay-rights-charity-name-catholic-1412645>

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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>

Scotland Act 1998 (Modification of Schedule 5) Order 2013

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0040/00404790.pdf>

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

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/56124.aspx>

Bills in Progress Westminster

Draft Communications Data Bill

Draft Bill as published

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

**** Crime and Courts Bill**

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

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/121030-0001.htm#12103045000349>

Bill as amended in Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/121030-0001.htm#12103045000349>

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/smallcharitable donations.html>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2012-2013/0028/amend/pbc0283010m.55-61.html>

Public Bill Committee Debate

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmpublic/smallcharitable donations/121030/am/121030s01.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmpublic/smallcharitable donations/121030/pm/121030s01.htm>

Bill as amended in Public Bill Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2012-2013/0085/2013085.pdf>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Referendum (Scotland) Bill Section 30 (closing date 9 November 2012)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ReferendumScotlandBillCommittee/20121026callforvidence.pdf

**** The UK Government's new approach to consultation** (closing date 30 November 2012)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/secondary-legislation-scrutiny-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/consultations/>

Review of the impact of ending employment restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian nationals on the agriculture and food processing sectors (closing date 18 January 2013)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/all-saw-sbs.pdf>

**** National Action Plan for Human Rights** (closing date 29 March 2013)

<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/actionplan/participatesnap>

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

Engagement of PTAs and Parent Councils with parents from ethnic minority communities (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JQVRK5R>

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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!**

Scottish Government Equalities Outcomes

6 November 2012 in Glasgow (10.30 – 3.00)

BEMIs and CEMVO Ethnic Minority Third Sector Network Meeting to ensure involvement by ethnic minority groups in setting equality outcomes that will enable the Scottish Government better to perform the general equality duty. For information contact Neil Foster mail@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

Completing the new OSCR Returns

6 November 2012 in Edinburgh (1.30 – 4.00)

8 November 2012 in Glasgow (1.30 – 4.00)

15 November 2012 in Inveraray (10.00-12.30)

20 November 2012 in Inverness (1.30-4.00)

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!**

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)

29 November 2012 in Inveraray (10.00-12.30)

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/>

**** this week!**

MSc Open Day at Glasgow Caledonian University

7 November 2012 in Glasgow (2.00 – 6.00)

MSC in Citizenship and Human Rights. For information contact Matt Tyrer matt.tyrer@scvo.org.uk / 01463 251 727 / 07792 858125 or Sasha Devine sasha.devine@scvo.org.uk / 01463 258 801 or see <http://www.gcu.ac.uk/business/socialinnovation/mscincitizenshipandhumanrights/>

**** this week!**

BSL Awareness Session for Ethnic & Cultural Minority Communities

8 November 2012 in Glasgow (10.00-12.00)

BEMIS and Ishara event to raise awareness of British Sign Language. For information contact Ishara@deafconnections.co.uk / 0141 420 2819 or Sue sue.barnes@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047

Faith in Peace-Building

17 November 2012 in Dundee (11.00-4.00)

Interfaith Scotland National Youth Conference to look at ways in which interfaith dialogue can have a positive impact in resolving conflict and promoting peace. For information contact Frances Hume fhume@scottishinterfaithcouncil.org / 0141 420 6982.

National Police Service Consultation

19 November 2012 in Glasgow (5.45 – 8.00)

In April 2013 all the police organisations across Scotland will join together to become a single police service. This is the biggest change to Scottish policing for more than a generation and your views can help shape the new organisation. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/12xi_wsrec_police.pdf or contact Janila Stanley istanley@wsrec.co.uk / 0141 337 6626.

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)/)

** 'Communities Together: Build a Bridge'

26 November 2012 in Glasgow (4.00 – 6.00)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust workshop to provide event organisers with information about the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2013: 'Communities Together: Build a Bridge'. For information contact 020 7785 7029 / enquiries@hmd.org.uk

Working with interpreters

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

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

** Freedom to Practice Religion

30 November 2012 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 11.00)

Interfaith Week discussion on how far religious freedoms should extend, which follows on from recent debates surrounding religious groups' rights to maintain traditional practices such as carrying and wearing symbols or articles of clothing central to their faith (e.g. kirpan, hijab, crucifix). For information contact Frances Hume fhume@scottishinterfaithcouncil.org,

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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/>

Useful Links (continued)

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

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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