

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](#)

[New Publications](#)

[Other News](#)

[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>.

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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Education: English Language

Lord Taylor of Warwick: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to improve English language teaching for immigrants.[HL4229]

Reply from Baroness Stowell of Beeston: Where English language training is publicly funded through further education colleges and training providers, they are responsible for the quality of their provision. They are held to account for the quality of teaching and the outcomes of this provision by the Skills Funding Agency and Ofsted. Government and Ofsted have placed a new emphasis on the importance of the quality of teaching, learning and assessment in further education and skills provision. When provision is identified as inadequate, there are now clear intervention procedures. The Government fund through partner

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

agencies quality improvement support for the sector, which includes support to improve the quality of English provision for adults.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130108w0001.htm#13010854001755>

UK Border Agency

Madeleine Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 31 October 2012, *Official Report*, column 248W, on UK Border Agency, what steps she plans to take to monitor (a) the quality of asylum claims interviews and (b) the quality of decision-making in respect of asylum claims made by women; and if she will make a statement. [133407]

Reply from Mark Harper: The information is as follows:

(a) The UK Border Agency continues to audit 10% of all first instance asylum interviews and decisions against a detailed quality assurance framework drawn up and agreed with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. In the 12-month period to November 2012, 1,402 cases were sampled, and average quality scores were: Interview: 91.5%, decision: 89.7%. The quality benchmark is considered to be 90%. A new quality assurance process is being developed to re-design the agency's existing framework, providing a more detailed analysis of quality and expanding the scope to measure success at each stage of the end-to-end asylum system, looking at the critical elements of the process.

(b) The existing quality assurance process is essentially the same for male and female applicants; however, the gender of the applicant in each audit is recorded, and the criteria for assessment includes how the interviewer and decision maker handled gender-related issues. The agency's monthly analysis of figures does not currently include a breakdown of claims by gender but a thematic review of asylum claims based on or featuring gender-related persecution and gender issues was completed in June 2011, and this highlighted areas for improvement which are being addressed.

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice she has given to the UK Border Agency on dealing with representations by hon. Members on reviewing decisions on visit visa applications in cases when the usual appeals process is not appropriate due to time constraints. [134029]

Reply from Mark Harper: UK Border Agency officials will consider representations from hon. Members outside the normal appeal procedures due to time constraints where exceptional, compassionate circumstances are involved, such as the serious illness or the death of a close family member. Further evidence will be requested from the applicant and the application reviewed on that basis. If there is enough strong evidence presented, the refusal may be overturned and entry clearance issued.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the estimated cost to the public purse was of ultimately successful appeals against UK Border Agency decisions in (a) 2008, (b) 2009, (c) 2010, (d) 2011 and (e) 2012 to date; [135419]

(2) what the total number of appeals made against UK Border Agency decisions for asylum cases was in the latest period for which figures are available; what the total number of successful appeals was; and what the total cost to the public purse was; [135420]

(3) what the average cost to the public purse is of an appeal against a UK Border Agency decision. [135421]

Reply from Mark Harper: Regarding the question(s) of cost:

Appeals are managed by the UK Border Agency (the Agency). Information about

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

the agency's overall litigation expenditure is contained in its annual Resource Accounts. However, the agency does not record litigation expenditure in the format which would enable it to answer the questions posed and to do so would incur disproportionate costs.

Regarding the question of appeals numbers/statistics for the latest period:

The latest published figures show that in Q3 2012 (July to September), the total number of appeal applications made is 1,920 and the total number of appeals allowed is 521.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of appeal applications and determinations. These are available in Table as.14 (annual) and Table as.14.q (quarterly) of asylum excel tables volume four of the quarterly Immigration Statistics. The latest release Immigration Statistics July to September 2012 is available in 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-tabs-q3-2012>

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what proportion of cases referred to the UK Border Agency (UKBA) were processed on time according to UKBA's targets in each year since the agency's creation; [135423]

(2) what the UK Border Agency's target for the amount of time to process an average individual case is; [135426]

(3) what the average amount of time that the UK Border Agency takes to process an average individual case is. [135427]

Reply from Mark Harper: The UK Border Agency publishes extensive information on its performance as part of its commitment to transparency. This includes information on the proportion of cases processed in time, average processing times and service standards.

This information has been published for the last two financial years and is updated on a quarterly or annual basis depending on the publication.

The transparency publications include information on asylum, migration and international case loads; they can be found here:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/our-performance>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130108/text/130108w003.htm#13010849000040>

Entry Clearances

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many migrants have entered the country on a tourist visa and then not returned to their country of origin in each of the last five years. [132265]

Reply from Mark Harper: Since the phasing out of embarkation controls in 1994, no Government has ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally. By its very nature, it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case. Information on the number of tourist visitors to the United Kingdom who overstayed their visa over the last five years could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

e-Borders screens over 64% of passenger movements in and out of the UK (including 100% of commercial aviation routes from outside the EEA). e-Borders enables us to target the most harmful individuals and supports the ability to undertake effective exit checks as passengers leave the UK. It processes in excess of 138 million passenger and crew movements a year across more than 4,300 routes.

e-Borders is one of a comprehensive suite of checks being carried out at the

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

border. Through screening passenger data against wider watchlists and databases, the system has proved successful in detecting previously unknown individuals and providing an intelligence-led basis to undertaking interventions at ports of arrival or departure and elsewhere across the globe.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130108/text/130108w0003.htm#13010849000026>

Immigration: Handcuffs

Baroness Stern: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many times (1) handcuffs, and (2) escort chains, were used on children by escort providers escorting children to or from (a) immigration reception centres, (b) the pre-departure accommodation, The Cedars, and (c) immigration detention centres, during the latest 12-month period for which figures are available, and during the three preceding 12-month periods. [HL3533]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Handcuffs are only ever used on children as a last resort where it is strictly necessary to prevent self-harm or escape, or to protect others and property. Escorting officers do not use chains.

The detention and escorting contract transferred to Reliance Secure Task Management on 1 May 2011. From May 2011 to the present date, there have not been any instances of officers using handcuffs on children when escorting them to or from the pre-departure accommodation or immigration removal centres. There are no facilities called immigration reception centres.

Data from the previous escorting provider are not available.

The information is taken from data normally used for management information only. It has not been subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications and is provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130108w0002.htm#13010854001808>

Immigration: Detention

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of detainees without authorisation to be in the United Kingdom have been incarcerated for (1) one year, and (2) over two years. [HL4127]

To ask Her Majesty's Government, of the detainees without authorisation to be present in the United Kingdom who have been incarcerated for over two years, how many were (1) released, (2) forcibly released, and (3) kept in detention, during the last five years. [HL4128]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The number of persons detained under Immigration Act powers at 30 September 2012, the latest date for which published information is available, was 3,091; 149 were detained for one year or more and, of these, 27 were detained for two years or more.

I have assumed that by "forcibly released" you refer to individuals whose release has been ordered by the courts. We have provided information relating to those released on bail, but do not hold information centrally on whether temporary admission or release is given as the result of a court order or following the UK Border Agency's review of detention. Information on the number of individuals leaving detention, including the reasons and length of detention, is only available from 2010.

Of those detained for two years or more:

77 persons left detention in 2010. Of these, 26 were removed and 15 were granted temporary admission or release. A further 31 were granted bail.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

118 persons left detention in 2011. Of these, 29 were removed and 23 were granted temporary admission or release. A further 61 were granted bail.

55 persons left detention in 2012 up to 30 September 2012, the latest date for which published information is available. Of these, 19 were removed and 13 were granted temporary admission or release. A further 22 were granted bail.

Detailed information on people in detention, by length of detention, is released quarterly in table dt.9.q, and people leaving detention in tables dt.05.q and dt.06.q of Immigration Statistics, which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Science, Research and Statistics website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-tabs-q3-2012/detention-q3-2012-tabs?view=Binary>

Detention is a necessary part of the process to remove some individuals with no right to be in the UK. We always seek to remove those with no right to be here as quickly as possible but if detainees give false or incomplete information or submit spurious last-minute appeals, then in such cases, it can delay their return and extend their detention.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will establish an independent panel to review the cases of detainees without authorisation to be present in the United Kingdom who are held for lengthy periods.[HL4129]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: The establishment of such a panel is not considered to be necessary or appropriate. Exercise of immigration detention powers is a matter for the Secretary of State. Decisions to maintain detention are kept under regular review at successively higher levels in the UK Border Agency, with cases involving particularly lengthy detention being reviewed at director level. The legality of detention can be challenged in the courts, as well as the individual having the right to apply for bail at any time.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130108w0002.htm#13010854001807>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum applications had been outstanding for more than 12 months in each year from 2008 to 2011; and how many have currently been outstanding for more than 12 months.[HL4131]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The numbers of asylum applications made between 2008 and 2011 that had been outstanding for more than 12 months before an initial decision, by year, are shown in the attached table. The applications referred to in the data are not necessarily still outstanding.

<i>Asylum applications made 2008 to 7 May 2011 from main applicants outstanding for more than 12 months</i>		
Year in which application made	Number of applications outstanding for more than 12 months	Total main applicants
2008	5,101	25,932
2009	2,772	24,487
2010	526	17,916
1 Jan to 7 May 2011	295	6,722

Notes: Information on the length of time cases have been outstanding has to be derived from existing data on the systems as follows:

1. The asylum applications made 2008 to 7 May 2011 by main applicants outstanding for more than 12 months have been derived from data published as

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

National Statistics in Table as.06. They have been derived by taking the number of applicants who applied that year and then checking whether they had an initial decision within 365 days of their application. If they did not have an initial decision at this point, we considered their application as outstanding. The 2011 data relate only to applications between January and 7 May 2011 as the previously published data were extracted from CID on 7 May 2012, so applications after this point would all have been outstanding for less than a year.

Data from 2011 onwards are provisional figures.

Source: Table as.06 (extracted 7 May 2012) - Immigration Statistics July - September 2012

These figures are a subset of published data on the outcome analysis of asylum applications, based on the year of application in the release "Immigration Statistics, July to September 2012", which is 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-q3-2012/>

The number of asylum applications currently outstanding for more than 12 months is 2,135. This figure is a subset of published data in the above publication and has been derived by looking at asylum claims that were pending an initial decision on the 30th September 2012, as published in Table as.01.q, and calculating for how many the application date was prior to 30th September 2011.

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what methods they are using to improve the quality of first decisions in asylum applications by women.[HL4236]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: The UK Border Agency is committed to improving the management of asylum claims from women and this includes improving the quality of decisions in these cases. In October 2010 the agency published revised guidance to decision-makers on gender-based claims and, recently, the agency has implemented a programme of mandatory training on gender issues to those decision-makers.

Both guidance and training were developed in conjunction with corporate partners, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Asylum Aid. The agency has also carried out a thematic review of decisions in gender-based cases and is using the outcomes from the review to plan further improvements, working with corporate partners to do this. In addition, the agency has embarked on a major review of the way in which information and advice is provided to asylum applicants throughout the process. This includes specifically looking at the journey of women through the process.

The agency continues to measure quality by auditing 10% of first-instance asylum decisions but it is in the process of developing its "next generation" quality framework, which will broaden the scope of what is measured to ensure compliance across the system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130108w0001.htm#13010854001739>

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: How many prosecutions for human trafficking there have been in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [135618]

Andrew Selous: What steps he is taking to increase prosecutions for human trafficking. [135620]

Reply from the Solicitor-General (Oliver Heald): The Crown Prosecution Service charged and prosecuted 64 cases where human trafficking was the main

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

offence between 1 April 2012 and 2 January this year, and has prosecuted other human trafficking cases using other legislation. The CPS is working with law enforcement and other agencies to improve investigation and prosecution and to encourage victims.

Fiona Mactaggart: Those figures sound a little better than the ones previously published that suggested to me that out of 25 European countries Britain had fewer prosecutions for human trafficking specifically than all bar Malta, Slovakia, Estonia and Finland. What effect does the Solicitor-General believe the relatively low level of prosecution for specific human trafficking offences has on the potential for future human traffickers?

Reply from the Solicitor-General: Of course, it is very important that we prosecute cases of this kind, but I make the point to the hon. Lady that the figures I read out and which are often quoted relate to cases where human trafficking was the main offence, but quite often with human trafficking, as she will know, the main offence is a violent assault or a rape, and it is the more serious offences that are flagged. In another 111 cases, in addition to the 64 I mentioned, human trafficking was one of the offences, but the main offence was a rape or major conspiracy.

Andrew Selous: There have been relatively few prosecutions for human trafficking involving forced labour, compared with, say, sexual exploitation, although there have been major successes in my own county of Bedfordshire and, just before Christmas, in Gloucestershire. These forced labour exploiters often earn enormous sums of money. What can we do to take some of that money to help the police fund these complex and difficult investigations?

Reply from the Solicitor-General: My hon. Friend will know of the Connors case, which was finally concluded yesterday—an appalling case involving vulnerable people being forced to work by the criminals concerned. It is important that we tackle these cases, but the main offence was introduced only in 2010 and related to events that occurred after that date, so we are very much at the early stage of bringing these cases to court. The Connors case is one of the first. An agreement has been reached with the Gangmasters Licensing Authority, however, to refer cases to the police, and other steps are being taken to toughen up on internal trafficking.

Mark Durkan: Has the Solicitor-General had any indication of the number of cases where files were submitted and the decision was taken not to prosecute, or of the number of decisions that were based on concerns about the witness capacity of the victims?

Reply from The Solicitor-General: I will look into that and am happy to write to the hon. Gentleman, because I do not have the information here. The Crown Prosecution Service is anxious to prosecute in this area if the evidence is available. All too often it is difficult to obtain the quality of evidence from overseas that one would want in order to prosecute effectively. There is also the problem that victims need a great deal of support and encouragement. All these matters are being addressed, and I will write to the hon. Gentleman on his point.

Peter Bone: I welcome what the Government are doing in this field—they are being very proactive—but does the Solicitor-General share my concern that there is a temptation for the Crown Prosecution Service to choose lesser charges for which it is easier to secure a conviction, such as immigration offences, which results in traffickers getting a lower sentence than if they had been prosecuted for human trafficking?

Reply from the Solicitor-General: I would dispute that. As I mentioned to the hon. Member for Slough (Fiona Mactaggart), many human trafficking cases involve other offences, which are often more serious. With sexual exploitation cases, where there are continual rapes and serious offences of that sort, it is right to charge for rape as the principal offence because it is more serious in some ways. I therefore do not accept that the Crown Prosecution Service is going for

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

lower charges. This is a matter that we in the Attorney-General's office keep under review.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130108/debtext/130108-0001.htm#13010834000030>

Press Release

Changes in the assessment of good character in citizenship applications

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2013/january/07goodcharacter-applications>

News

Visa crackdown loses vital students for universities

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/visa-crackdown-loses-vital-students-for-universities.19890047>

Non-EU postgraduate numbers in UK fall for first time in 16 years

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2013/jan/11/non-eu-postgraduate-numbers-fall>

Immigration crackdown deterring foreign students, says universities chief

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2013/jan/08/immigration-foreign-students-universities>

Fall in students from India and Pakistan as immigration rules bite

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2013/jan/11/fall-students-india-pakistan-immigration>

The UK should be open for business to foreign students

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jan/09/uk-open-for-business-foreign-students>

UK Border Agency rejects calls to stop using force on pregnant detainees

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/jan/11/uk-border-agency-rejects-force>

Foreign national prisoners lose right to legal aid

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2013/jan/08/foreign-national-prisoners-lose-legal-aid>

UK Border Agency texts tell legitimate immigrants to leave UK

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/jan/07/uk-border-agency-texts-immigrants-leave-uk>

Probe launched: Did drive to track illegal immigrants breach data laws?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/probe-launched-did-drive-to-track-illegal-immigrants-breach-data-laws-8447395.html>

Immigration is British society's biggest problem, shows survey of public

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/jan/13/immigration-british-society-biggest-problem>

Immigration fears have to be faced and defused, not dismissed

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jan/13/immigration-diversity-state-of-nation>

Come friendly Poles and settle in Slough

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/jan/13/slough-multi-cultural-integration>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Eric Pickles: New EU 'influx' may add to housing problems

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-21002988>

Eric Pickles: Influx of migrants will 'cause problems' for the housing market

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9798634/Eric-Pickles-Influx-of-migrants-will-cause-problems-for-the-housing-market.html>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Race Relations

Lord Taylor of Warwick: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve race relations.[HL4360]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): The Government's approach to the integration of local communities, *Creating the Conditions for Integration*, is supported by the Government's strategies on equality and social mobility and aims to robustly promote British values, making it possible for people to live and work together, to bridge boundaries between communities and play a full role in society. Collectively these set a clear direction towards a society which is fair and equal; where opportunities are open to all; and where prejudice or hate crime are robustly tackled.

Underpinning the Government's approach is some of the strongest equality legislation in Europe, including the Equality Act 2010, which places a statutory duty on public bodies to have due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people from different groups.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130109w0001.htm#13010945000126>

New Publication

Contextualising Islam in Britain II

Report <http://www.cis.cam.ac.uk/assets/media/cib2-complete-report.pdf>

Summary http://www.cis.cam.ac.uk/assets/media/pdf/cibii_executive_summary_-_final_version.pdf

News

Gypsy-Travellers 'unwilling to interact', according to official report

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/gypsy-travellers-unwilling-to-interact-according-to-official-1527662>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the health needs of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities are covered in NHS Joint Strategic Needs Assessments, Health and Well-being Strategies and the agendas of Health and Well-being Boards.[HL4019]

Earl Howe: Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) and Joint Health and Well-being Strategies (JHWSs) are local strategic planning processes, undertaken through [8 Jan 2013 : Column WA39](#) health and well-being boards. They will be the means by which the current and future health and well-being needs of the local population will be determined, and this will then be used to plan local services on the basis of the identified needs. JSNAs must therefore be inclusive of the health and care needs of the whole local population, including Gypsy and Traveller and Roma communities. It would not be appropriate for the department to highlight any care group or area of need over another as this would risk undermining the purpose of JSNAs and JHWSs as being an objective, comprehensive and-most importantly-a locally owned process of developing evidence-based priorities for commissioning. As public authorities, health and well-being boards will need to comply with public sector equality duties, not just in how they engage the local community in the development of JSNAs and JHWSs but also in considering the needs of groups with protected characteristics.

We are addressing the health needs of those people most vulnerable to poor health through the Inclusion Health programme, and the early focus of Inclusion Health includes Gypsies and Travellers. A number of representative bodies are working with us to support the National Inclusion Health Board and its working groups, which will work with the National Health Service, local government and others to identify what more must be done to include the needs of vulnerable groups in the commissioning of health and care services. We are supporting health and well-being boards to better understand the needs of vulnerable groups within their JSNAs and JHWSs; and Gypsy and Traveller bodies have contributed to supportive material we are producing.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130108w0001.htm#13010854001784>

News

Commission says too many black and ethnic minority people are disproportionately stopped and searched

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2013/january/commission-says-too-many-black-and-ethnic-minority-people-are-disproportionately-stopped-and-searched/>

Where are Britain's black journalists?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jan/10/where-are-britains-black-journalists>

Roman Catholic midwives appeal against abortion ruling brought to Court of Session judges

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/health/roman-catholic-midwives-appeal-against-abortion-ruling-brought-to-court-of-session-judges-1-2724618>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Early Day Motion

Robert Neill (889) Holocaust Memorial Day 2013 – That this House notes that on 27 January 2013 the UK will observe Holocaust Memorial Day, the 68th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, where an estimated 1.1 million people were murdered; commemorates the 6 million victims of the Holocaust; further notes that the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2013 is Communities Together: Build a Bridge, asking each of us to remember and stand by those who were forced to live through these experiences; pays tribute to the commitment of Holocaust survivors, who share their experiences with young people across the country; acknowledges the importance of the Holocaust Educational Trust's work in schools across the UK and in particular the Lessons from Auschwitz Project, which has so far given over 18,000 students and teachers the opportunity to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau; pays further tribute to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust for organising this year's Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations; further notes that a Book of Commitment will be placed in the corridor between the Members' Cloakroom and Members' Staircase between the hours of 14.30 and 16.30 from 14 to 16 January and 21 to 23 January 2013; and urges all hon. Members to sign the Book and observe the day, so that the appalling events of the Holocaust are always understood by future generations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2012-13/889>

Press Release

At Holocaust memorial event, Ban highlights need for courage to do what is right

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43913&Cr=holocaust&Cr1=#.UPLvR6VXsTw>

News

Man fined for anti-Semitic insult towards MP

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/man-fined-for-anti-semitic-insult-towards-mp-1-2727702>

'All Jewish people have money': Music promoter, 53, launched anti-semitic attack on Labour MP at star-studded ceremony

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2259719/All-Jewish-people-money-Music-promoter-53-launched-anti-semitic-attack-Labour-MP-star-studded-ceremony.html>

Campaigner backs fresh debate about sectarianism

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/campaigner-backs-fresh-debate-about-sectarianism.19889817>

Cara Henderson: in the Catholic debate, we must all listen to ourselves

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/cara-henderson-in-the-catholic-debate-we-must-all-listen-to-ourselves.1357987281>

If we want rid of sectarianism, let's ignore it

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/opinion/comment/michael-kelly-if-we-want-rid-of-sectarianism-let-s-ignore-it-1-2727641>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Sectarian advisory group risks reigniting a dying flame

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/scotland/9786556/Sectarian-advisory-group-risks-reigniting-a-dying-flame.html>

Scotland's Catholics aren't being persecuted

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jan/13/scotland-catholics-not-persecuted>

Civil rites

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/civil-rites.19898705>

Catholics may be victims ... the Catholic church is certainly not

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/columnists/catholics-may-be-victims-the-catholic-church-is-certainly-not.19888785>

Sectarianism debate needs light, not heat

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-view/sectarianism-debate-needs-light-not-heat.19890450>

Stephen Lawrence's brother to sue Met for discrimination

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/stephen-lawrences-brother-to-sue-met-for-discrimination-8444082.html>

I have a white fiancée. My son drives a toy police car. But 20 years after my brother's murder, I still live in racism's shadow

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2261038/Stuart-Lawrence-racism-complaint--Exclusive-interview-Stephen-Lawrences-brother.html>

Twitter refuses to hand details of racist and anti-Semitic users to French lawyers unless forced by a judge

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2259456/Twitter-refuses-hand-details-racist-anti-Semitic-users-French-lawyers-unless-forced-judge.html>

Christians face judgement in 'right to wear the cross' case

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9798013/Christians-face-judgement-day-in-Strasbourg-right-to-wear-the-cross-case.html>

Leigh Griffiths faces disciplinary action over racist Twitter comment

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-20986579>

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Debate

Female Genital Mutilation

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130108/halltext/130108h0001.htm#13010822000001>

Charities (Donations)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130108/halltext/130108h0002.htm#13010827000002>

Other Westminster (continued) Parliamentary Questions

Participation of Arabs in Public Life

Lord Lea of Crondall: To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the recent census results in which 240,000 respondents described themselves as "Arab", what plans they have to promote the wider participation of Arabs in public life in the United Kingdom.

Reply from the Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi):

My Lords, we warmly welcome the contribution of Arabs to public life in the United Kingdom and the formal recognition of this group in the 2011 census. The Government's integration policy document, *Creating the Conditions for Integration*, sets out our approach to successfully bringing together local communities. We will continue to support the integration of Arabs and all other groups into mainstream communities and their participation in local life.

Lord Lea of Crondall: ... First, can local authorities with substantial Arab communities benefit from experiences in different parts of the country of holding seminars and cultural events where Arab participants play a specific part in taking projects forward and generally help to break the ice? Secondly, there are no Arabs in this House. Given the two very special relationships that we have in the Middle East—a topic that we debate endlessly—is not the lack of Arab participation here in very sharp contrast to the strong and indeed excellent contribution made by noble Lords with more affinity with Israel? Both communities in Britain are roughly the same size.

Reply from Baroness Warsi: I know that the noble Lord has had an interest in this matter for a number of years, and indeed pushed hard for Arabs to be included as an individual category in the 2011 census. He will be aware from the census data that the majority—just over 50%—of those who self-identify as Arabs reside in the south. The Government do not have a specific policy of engaging with groups purely on the basis of their race or religion. However, the Government do have a policy of creating conditions—both shared spaces and shared experiences—where communities from different backgrounds can come together. In relation to the noble Lord's second question, I would welcome a member of the Arab community becoming a Member of this House. ...

Lord Tomlinson: ... would the noble Baroness agree with me if I suggest that the best way for the 240,000 people who describe themselves as being Arab to participate in public life is to go through the normal procedures for gaining citizenship of this country and then participate on the same basis as any other citizen?

Reply from Baroness Warsi: ... there are many people from the Arab community—people who identify themselves as Arab-resident in this country who were born here or are British citizens. Many are extremely successful, such as Dr Hany El-Banna, the co-founder of Islamic Relief; a rower from the Arab community took part in the Olympics. I go back to the approach that this Government have, which is not to engage with communities purely on the basis of their race and religion. It is right for the Government to create the conditions by ensuring that there are no barriers to integration and equipping people with the appropriate language, opportunities and spaces to meet people of different communities and achieve their full potential.

Lord Soley: As chairman of the Arab-Jewish Forum, I think the Minister might agree with me—and I hope she does—that there are a large number of Arabs who participate as local councillors or school governors, and on a range of other issues, but they do not always get recognised. A few years ago, I very nearly got an Arab as a Member of this House but unfortunately he got squeezed out, as people do given the vast numbers coming in these days. My noble friend, who raised this question, is absolutely right. It would be sensible. There are a lot of Arabs in this country who are full citizens and take part very

Other Westminster (continued)

Parliamentary Questions

fully, and it should not be impossible for one of them to be a Member of this House. Even bearing in mind that I go around saying this House is far too big in number, the principle is right.

Reply from Baroness Warsi: I agree with the noble Lord that there are many Arabs playing a hugely influential role in large parts of society, including as councillors. I think the noble Lord will also agree that those who identify themselves as Arabs have many different countries of origin, backgrounds and, indeed, religions—there are many people who are Arab and Christian or Arab and Muslim, for example. I agree with him. Another hugely successful Arab is Sir Magdi Habib Yacoub, who many will know as a world-leading transplant surgeon.

Baroness Gardner of Parkes: Is the Minister aware that under our constitution, only British and Commonwealth citizens can sit in this House? We almost lost the latter but at the last hour of the last election we managed to reinstate the right of Commonwealth citizens and those of the Irish Republic. Do these questions about Arabs in this House relate to people who still look on their origins as Arab but are now British citizens?

Reply from Baroness Warsi: We are talking about people who self-identify on the census as Arab. People identify themselves in relation to nationality, ethnicity and religion. When I filled in the census data, I identified myself as British, of Pakistani origin and Muslim. These are people who are very much integrated into British society.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130109-gc0001.htm#13010948000167>

Gypsies and Travellers

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will take steps to ensure that wherever reference is made to the ethnicity of patients throughout the NHS, the 2011 Census ethnic group classification, which includes "Gypsy or Irish Traveller", is used. [HL4018]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): In order to support consistency with other data systems within the National Health Service, ethnicity data for NHS patients are currently collected utilising the 2001 codes. The department, in collaboration with other bodies, will shortly produce guidance that advises on the codes for data collection, including those for ethnicity. The guidance will initially recommend that organisations continue to use the 2001 codes; however this will be revisited biannually with decisions to change this advice based upon the breadth of utilisation of the new coding system.

NHS organisations can choose to use either the 2001 or the 2011 categories. If they use the 2011 categories, they will need to re-aggregate anyone coming under the "Gypsy and Irish Traveller" heading into "Other" in order to make national comparisons. Additional codes can be included as appropriate at a local level to reflect the demographic make-up of the local population. This allows local monitoring to take place in a way that supports service planning, decision-making, and key processes such as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessments.

Baroness Whitaker: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord McNally on 16 July (WA 14), whether they are now in a position to publish information on the number and proportion relative to population of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller prisoners; and, if not, when this will be available. [HL4307]

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): We are currently not in a position to be able to publish information on the number and proportion of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller prisoners relative to the population.

As mentioned previously in a Written Answer on 16 July (WA 14), following the

Other Westminster (continued)

Parliamentary Questions

addition of the new census 2011 ethnicity categories into the prison IT system, prisoners received into custody can now declare themselves as Gypsy or Irish Traveller. However, it is unlikely that existing prisoners (those already in custody prior to the new category being introduced) will have been given the opportunity to revise their previously stated ethnicity.

Current data on the number of Gypsy or Irish Traveller prisoners are therefore likely to be an undercount of the true number of prisoners who would identify themselves as Gypsy or Irish Traveller. We are committed to moving all prisoners from the 2001 census codes to the 2011 codes; however, this will take some time. We will shortly (by April 2013 under current plans) be issuing guidance to all prisons on how to conduct a one-off exercise to move existing prisoners on to the new codes.

We will monitor the use of the new code and publish the figures once the coverage and data quality are deemed sufficient to provide meaningful and accurate statistics. We currently have no estimate of when the data will be deemed fit for publication.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130108w0001.htm#13010854001784>

Forced Marriage

Baroness Uddin: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have considered upgrading the forced marriage protection order to a criminal offence as an alternative to introducing new legislation.[HL4179]

Reply from the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): The Government intend to make the breach of a forced marriage protection order a criminal offence. This is in addition to a new offence of forcing a person to marry against that person's will. We will bring forward legislation on both measures as soon as parliamentary time allows.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130108w0001.htm#13010854001774>

Committee Report

The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: The proposed section 30 Order-Can a player also be the referee?

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmsscotaf/863/86302.htm>

Scottish Affairs Committee: The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: Terminating Trident-Days or Decades?: Government Response to the Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2012-13

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmsscotaf/861/86102.htm>

Press Release

New action on female genital mutilation

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/NSPCC-genital-mutilation>

[TOP](#)

New Publications

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Annual Report 2012

http://www.oscr.org.uk/media/379910/2012-12-31_annual_review_final_layout_for_publication.pdf

Taken for granted? The needs of small voluntary and community organisations in a big society era

http://www.ippr.org/images/media/files/publication/2013/01/taken-for-granted_VCOs_Jan2013_10085.pdf

[TOP](#)

Other News

Ofsted to quiz heads on efforts to stop female genital mutilation

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/ofsted-to-quiz-heads-on-efforts-to-stop-female-genital-mutilation-8449396.html>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Holyrood

**** Freedom of Information (Amendment) Bill**

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/58293.aspx>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/58354.aspx>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/58419.aspx>

Post-16 Education Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/56717.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>

Royal Assent received, 10 January 2013

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>

** Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill

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

Committee Stage, House of Lords: Clause 56 : Commission for Equality and Human Rights

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130109-gc0001.htm#13010948000167>

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

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

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated this week

** closes this week!

Post-16 Education Bill (closing date 18 January 2013)

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_EducationandCultureCommittee/General%20Documents/Call_for_evidence\(2\).pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_EducationandCultureCommittee/General%20Documents/Call_for_evidence(2).pdf)

** closes this week!

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>

Scottish Parliament: post-legislative scrutiny (closing date 25 January 2013)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_StandardsProceduresandPublicAppointmentsCommittee/Inquiries/Call_for_views.pdf

Fee remissions in the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber)

(closing date 29 January 2013)

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/fee-remissions-immigration-asylum>

Parliamentary inquiry into new family migration rules (closing date 31 January 2013)

<http://www.appgmigration.org.uk/family-inquiry>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Equality Strategy (closing date 9 February 2012)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/tell-us-what-you-think/>

Marriage and Civil Partnership Bill (closing date 20 March 2013)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0041/00410328.pdf>

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

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

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Mainstreaming Equalities

16 January 2013 in Glasgow

6 February 2013 in Glasgow

27 February 2013 in Glasgow

20 March 2013 in Glasgow

deadline for applications: 7 January 2013

Institute of Leadership and Management training to support voluntary sector organisations to develop capacity on mainstreaming equality. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/13i-iii_equalities.pdf or contact John Robertson 0141 332 2444 / john.robertson@gcvs.org.uk.

**** this week!**

Scottish Refugee Council AGM and public meeting

18 January 2013 in Edinburgh (2.00)

Following the formal business of the AGM there will be a public meeting, the theme of which will be *Refugees and the Scottish Referendum*. The Scottish Refugee Council will launch a report which sets out the principles of a fair and just asylum system and how these should be met under the current devolved settlement or under whatever outcome of the referendum in 2014. For information contact Anna Cheung or Donna Gibson 0141 248 9799 / events@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Discrimination Law in 2013

21 January 2013 in Glasgow (9.45 – 4.15)

Equality and Human Rights Commission conference to summarise the practical implications of key judgments over the past year, and help ensure that organisations are advising on discrimination law appropriately. For information contact David Reilly 0141 228 5967 / equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com.

**** Launch: Contextualising Islam in Britain II**

21 January 2013 in Glasgow (5.30 – 7.00)

Scottish launch of the Contextualising Islam in Britain II report which explores what it means to live as a Muslim in contemporary Britain. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/13i_contextualising_islam.pdf or contact Saeko Yazaki Saeko.Yazaki@glasgow.ac.uk.

**** What does it mean to live as a Muslim in Britain today?**

22 January 2013 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (6.00 – 7.30)

Roundtable discussion to mark the Scottish launch of the Contextualising Islam in Britain II report which explores what it means to live as a Muslim in contemporary Britain. For information see

http://www.ed.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.104296!/fileManager/Contextualising%20Islam%20in%20Britain.pdf and to book a place contact Rosie Mellor rosie.mellor@ed.ac.uk by 18 January 2013.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

25 January 2013 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council training to identify fundamental issues facing asylum seekers and refugees today, and highlighting current legislation and entitlements. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/cn3znfi> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / <http://tinyurl.com/burro73>

**** Beyond 2011**

19 February 2013 in Edinburgh

21 February 2013 in Edinburgh

National Records of Scotland events to look at alternative options to the traditional census. For information see <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/beyond-2011/background/index.html> or contact Gemma Jackson 0131 314 4299 / Beyond2011@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

The Gathering

27-28 February 2013 in Glasgow

Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations networking event and exhibition. For information see <http://www.gatherscotland.org.uk/intro-text/what-is-the-gathering/>

Domestic Abuse and Minority Ethnic Women, Children & Young People

28 January 2013 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30) and 29 January 2013 (9.30 – 12.30)

25 February 2013 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30) and 26 February 2013 (9.30 – 12.30)

Shakti training course to increase awareness and understanding of issues facing Minority Ethnic women, children & young people affected by domestic abuse. For information contact Mridul, Lisa, or Aleksandra 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk.

Kick Off Together with United Glasgow FC

February 2013 onwards in Glasgow

United Glasgow Football Club programme of community inclusion and education
□ activities for young men and women from disadvantaged backgrounds aged 18-24. The project will take place over 20 weeks and □ will consist of sports sessions at Hampden Park, a college qualification from □ North Glasgow College, a sports □ first aid course, a coaching education qualification through the Scottish FA Equity Project, □ a first aid course, physiotherapy sessions for existing sports injuries and □ three fitness tests. For information contact Alan White alan@unitedglasgowfc.eu / 07808216421.

Training to support survivors of sexual violence

11 February 2013 in Dundee

Shakti and Rape Crisis Scotland training for staff and volunteers within minority ethnic organisations. For information contact Ola 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

Progressing Together?

28 March 2013 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 4.45)

CEMVO conference to explore the role of Community Empowerment in Mainstreaming of Race and Equalities across the Public Sector. For information contact Fiaz Khan 0141 248 4830 / fiaz.khan@cemvoscotland.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/d2eyumh>.

[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

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/>

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