

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 Holyrood](#)

[Other Westminster](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Events/Conferences/Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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

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

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Baroness Lister of Burtersett: To ask Her Majesty's Government why they are yet to make a decision on an updated level of asylum support under Sections 4 and 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 for the year 2012-13.[HL4402]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): There is no statutory obligation to carry out an annual review, or make an annual announcement. There are no current plans to change asylum support rates. However, we will continue to keep them under review.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130115w0001.htm#13011550000070>

Visas

Lord Storey: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) tier 4 (general), (2) tier 4

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

(child), (3) student visitor, (4) child visitor and (5) prospective student, visa applications have been outstanding for more than six months.[HL4032]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The number of applications unresolved for six months or more as at December 2012 are:

Endorsement	Unresolved (more than 6 months) 192
Tier 4 General	192
Tier 4 (Child)	10
Student Visitor	337
Child Visitor	373
Prospective Student	1

These data are based on internal UK Border Agency Management information, which is provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130115w0001.htm#13011550000074>

Entry Clearances

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) applications were made and (b) grants of family visas were awarded in respect of the category of (i) child (probationary period), (ii) child (indefinite leave to enter), (iii) partner (probationary period), (iv) partner (indefinite leave to enter) and (v) other adult and elderly dependants (indefinite leave to enter) between 1 January and 30 June 2012; and what the aggregate rate of grant of applications was in that period. [136307]

Reply from Mark Harper: Information on applications and entry clearance visas issued for 2012 on a quarterly basis, is planned to be published on 28 February 2013, as part of the Home Office's quarterly Immigration Statistics release.

The figures for family visas provided in response to this question and appearing in the following tables are from the latest available published statistics.

<i>Family route</i>	<i>Applications</i>	<i>Resolved</i>	<i>Issued</i>	<i>Proportion issued (percentage)</i>
Partner	36,205	40,499	33,480	83
Partner (for settlement)(2)	1,559	1,505	1,324	88
Child(3)	113	110	97	88
Child (for settlement)(2)	6,835	7,045	4,584	65
Other(4)	5,151	5,709	4,307	75
Other (for settlement)(2,5)	2,653	2,743	1,885	69
Total	52,516	57,611	45,677	79

<i>Family route</i>	<i>2012</i>	
	<i>Q1</i>	<i>Q2</i>
Partner	8,022	7,995
Partner (for settlement)(2)	318	307
Child(3)	19	11
Child (for settlement)(2)	1,108	1,118
Other(4)	922	871
Other (for settlement)(2,5)	499	413
Total	10,888	10,715

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

(1) The information provided relates to applications received and cases resolved in the calendar year 2011. Some applications received may be resolved in a subsequent year. (2) Relates to visas issued for Indefinite Leave to Enter the United Kingdom. (3) Does not include children of a parent given limited leave to enter or remain in the UK for a probationary period. (4) Relates to those given Limited Leave to Enter as pre-existing family members of those recognised as Refugees or afforded Humanitarian Protection. (5) Relates to those dependants who are not partners or children, such as adult relatives and Ghurkhas and their dependants. Elderly adult dependent relatives cannot be separately identified from published entry clearance figures. *Note:* Figures for visa applications are published on annual basis in the release 'Immigration Statistics'. *Source:* Immigration Statistics, July to September 2012

The latest Home Office immigration statistics on entry clearance visas are published in the release Immigration Statistics July to September 2012, which is available from the Library of the House and on the Department's website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people applying for a Tier 1 visa in the UK are currently waiting more than four weeks for a decision on their application to be made; [136801]

(2) what the average waiting time for Tier 1 visa applications made inside the UK was in (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and how many such people waited more than four weeks for a decision on their application. [136804]

Reply from Mark Harper: The following table gives the average processing time for tier 1 cases despatched each year between January 2010 and December 2012.

<i>Despatch year</i>	<i>Processing time calendar days</i>
2010	30
2011	42
2012	83

The number of cases despatched after four weeks is shown in the following table:

<i>Despatch year</i>	<i>Number of cases</i>
2010	25,338
2011	57,364
2012	63,704

As of 9 January 2013 a total of 6,546 tier 1 applications have been waiting more than four weeks for a decision. This is outside our service standard to decide 90% of applications within four weeks of the applicant attending a biometric appointment. A plan is in place to address this by the end of March 2013.

All figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130115/text/130115w001.htm#13011569000008>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a verbally checked student record of attendance at lectures and seminars meets the UK Border Agency's criteria of the evidence required to prove engagement of non-EU students for visa purposes. [136034]

Reply from Mark Harper: All Tier 4 sponsors must have a system in place to continually monitor student attendance and to identify when a student has missed

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

10 consecutive expected contacts. It is for the sponsor and not the UK Border Agency to define what the 10 consecutive expected contacts should be. This enables sponsors to consider what is appropriate for their institution, taking into account differences in study methods.

A verbal check of a student's record of attendance at lectures and seminars would meet the requirements set out in the Tier 4 sponsor guidance provided that the information is recorded and kept in either an electronic or manual format.

Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a signed student record of attendance at lectures and seminars meets the UK Border Agency's criteria of the evidence required to prove engagement of non-EU students for visa purposes. [136035]

Reply from Mark Harper: All Tier 4 sponsors must have a system in place to continually monitor student attendance and to identify when a student has missed 10 consecutive expected contacts. It is for the sponsor and not the UK Border Agency to define what the 10 consecutive expected contacts should be. This enables sponsors to consider what is appropriate for their institution, taking into account differences in study methods.

A signed student record of attendance at lectures and seminars would meet the requirements set out in the Tier 4 sponsor guidance provided that the information is recorded and kept in either an electronic or manual format.

Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there is any size threshold of lecture or seminar which must be satisfied before a student record of attendance at lectures and seminars meets the UK Border Agency's criteria of the evidence required to prove engagement of non-EU students for visa purposes. [136036]

Reply from Mark Harper: All Tier 4 sponsors must have a system in place to continually monitor student attendance and to identify when a student has missed 10 consecutive expected contacts. It is for the sponsor and not the UK Border Agency to define what the 10 consecutive expected contacts should be. This enables sponsors to consider what is appropriate for their institution, taking into account differences in study methods.

A signed student record of attendance at lectures and seminars, whatever its size, would meet the requirements set out in the Tier 4 sponsor guidance provided that the information is recorded and kept in either an electronic or manual format.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which universities and higher education institutions have been examined by the UK Border Agency (UKBA) in respect of their international students; and how many visits UKBA officials have made to such institutions in each of the last three years. [136499]

Reply from Mark Harper: The UK Border Agency is unable to provide figures on the number of visits it has conducted to universities and other educational institutions in each of the last three years. The information requested is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only by a manual check of all records at disproportionate cost.

Since the introduction of the points based system all educational institutions wishing to bring foreign students to the UK must be registered as a sponsor with the UK Border Agency.

The UK Border Agency has visited all sponsors under Tier 4 of the points based system at least once.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Tier 4 applications were (a) made, (b) initially accepted, (c) approved after discussion and (d) refused in each of the last five years. [136500]

Reply from Mark Harper: The available information requested for entry clearance visas based on latest published figures appears in the following table:

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

<i>Tier 4 (and pre-PBS equivalent) entry clearance visa applications and resolution by category</i>							
					<i>Of which:</i>		
		<i>Applications</i>	<i>Resolved</i>	<i>Issued</i>	<i>Refused</i>	<i>Withdrawn</i>	<i>Lapsed</i>
2007	Main applicant	283,868	284,750	193,775	88,976	1,366	633
	Dependant	24,335	24,298	19,277	4,831	140	50
2008	Main applicant	311,538	301,966	207,774	92,180	1,386	626
	Dependant	31,734	30,913	24,201	6,473	202	37
2009	Main applicant	384,873	373,695	273,207	93,278	6,487	723
	Dependant	43,946	40,651	30,156	9,990	396	109
2010	Main applicant	322,726	344,804	253,786	77,450	13,114	454
	Dependant	44,463	46,805	31,758	13,008	1,987	52
2011	Main applicant	277,177	283,421	237,028	41,565	4,574	254
	Dependant	33,241	34,384	24,377	9,374	601	32

Notes: 1. The information provided relates to applications received and cases resolved by calendar year. 2. Some applications received may be resolved in a subsequent year. 3. The information provided includes cases approved after administrative review. 4. Tier 4 of the points based system was introduced in 2009
Source: Immigration Statistics, July to September 2012, table be.01

Corresponding information for 2012 is planned to be published on 28 February 2013, as part of the Home Office's quarterly Immigration Statistics release.

The latest Home Office immigration statistics on entry clearance visas, are published in the release Immigration Statistics release, which is available from the Library of the House and on the Department's website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130114/text/130114w0002.htm#1301151000049>

Migration

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government why they propose to disaggregate the totals for net migration to indicate the student element when the international standard is to include migrating students; whether they will distinguish between students at universities and those at private colleges; and how they intend to improve the quality of data on students leaving the country.[HL4423]

Reply from Lord Wallace of Saltaire: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Glen Watson, Director General for ONS, to Lord Laird, dated January 2012.

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to respond to your Parliamentary Question ...

ONS does not intend to remove students from official net migration estimates and will continue to use the UN definition of a long-term international migrant.

ONS uses data from the International Passenger Survey (IPS) to estimate long-term international migration (LTIM) with adjustments made for asylum seekers, people whose intentions change with regards to their length of stay, and migration to and from Northern Ireland. Net LTIM estimates will continue to adhere to the UN

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

definition of a long-term international migrant, which states that a long-term migrant is a person who changes his or her country of usual residence for a period of at least a year. This definition applies to all migrants, regardless of their reason for migration.

Since 2009, student migration forms the largest single category of long-term migration to the UK. Until January 2012, the IPS only collected information on a person's main reason for migrating. This means that a person may have arrived to study, but left several years later for a different reason, such as work. Therefore it was not possible to identify how many migrants who originally arrived to study have since left the UK.

In January 2012, new questions were added to the IPS to ask those leaving the UK what their main reason for migrating was when they originally arrived in the UK. A further new question asks all emigrants if they have studied while in the UK. These changes will provide better information on emigrants who originally arrived in the UK to study or who arrived for another reason but studied while they were in the UK. These new data, relating to the year ending December 2012, will be available in August 2013.

ONS is unable to distinguish between students at universities and those at private colleges as that information is not collected on the IPS.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130117w0001.htm#13011758000574>

Asylum: Housing

John Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of accommodation for asylum seekers in the last three years for which figures are available. [136650]

Reply from Mark Harper: The UK Border Agency has paid the following amounts for accommodating asylum seekers in last the three years:

	<i>£ million</i>
2009-10	397.5
2010-11	287.5
2011-12	200.3

These costs include expenditure on supporting failed asylum seekers as well as unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASCs) and former UASCs where local authorities retain some responsibilities beyond the age of 18. The figures include some non-accommodation costs which are included in accommodation costs charged to the agency. It is not possible to disaggregate such expenditure without incurring disproportionate costs.

Other Government Departments and local authorities also make a contribution to accommodation costs for some categories of asylum seekers. The UK Border Agency does not hold sufficient information to make a reliable estimate of these costs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130117/text/130117w0001.htm#13011772000063>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 8 January (WA 7-8), whether they will ensure that (a) women caseholders and female interpreters are provided for women seeking asylum, and (b) country information on the treatment of women is accurate and regularly updated. [HL4457]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Taylor of Holbeach): The UK Border Agency's policy provides that, if the applicant requests a gender specific interviewer and interpreter, this should as far as possible be accommodated, especially if this has been requested in advance of the interview. In practice the agency makes every effort to ensure that women can be interviewed by another woman if they wish to be.

The Agency's Country of Origin Information Service (COIS) publishes country information reports on the 20 countries generating the most asylum claims in the United Kingdom. These reports contain information on a range of human rights issues, including the treatment of women, and are regularly updated with information provided from a wide range of recognised and respected sources. COIS also provides an information request service which produces responses to specific country-based enquiries, including women's rights. All decision-makers have access to this service and the up-to-date country reports, which focus on the main asylum and human rights issues of a particular country.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130117w0001.htm#13011758000557>

Asylum Seekers: Children

Baroness Lister of Burtersett: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the asylum system on children's development.[HL4401]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): No formal assessment has been made of the impact the asylum system has on children's development. However, the UK Border Agency is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the UK under Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009.

Local authorities also have due regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of asylum-seeking children, offering the same level of support and protection as to children who are UK nationals.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130115w0001.htm#13011550000064>

Deportation

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were deported from the UK in each of the last five years. [136685]

Reply from Mark Harper: The following table provides the total number of enforced removals in each year from the UK, January 2007 to September 2012.

<i>Total enforced removals from the U.K(1,2) January 2007 to September 2012(3)</i>						
<i>Number of departures</i>						
	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012(3) (January to September)</i>
Enforced removals from the UK	17,770	17,239	15,252	14,854	15,063	10,844

(1) Enforced removals are where it has been established that a person has breached UK immigration laws and has no valid leave to remain within the United Kingdom. The UKBA enforces their departure to ensure they leave the UK. (2) Removals are recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken. (3) Provisional figures. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

Deportations are included in published enforced removals statistics which are either following a criminal conviction (foreign national offenders) or when it is

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good; the deportation order prohibits the person returning to the UK until such time as it may be revoked. It is not possible to separately identify deportations from enforced removals.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK within Immigration Statistics. The data on removals and voluntary departures by type is available in the latest release, Immigration Statistics: July-September 2012, tables rv.01 and rv.01 .q, from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science, research and statistics web pages at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>

Data for October 2012 onwards are not yet available, but quarterly data for October-December 2012 will be published as part of the regular Home Office publication scheme on 28 February.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130114/text/130114w0002.htm#1301151000046>

Deportation

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the answer of 19 December 2012, *Official Report*, column 778W, on immigration controls, how many foreign nationals subject to deportation orders visas to remain in the UK have expired; [136054]

(2) how many foreign nationals subject to a deportation order have criminal convictions for offences committed in the UK; [136055]

(3) what the nationality is of each of the foreign nationals subject to a deportation order. [136056]

Reply from Mark Harper: Under the 1971 Immigration Act a deportation order invalidates any leave to enter or remain in the UK given to an individual before an order is made or while it is in force.

All foreign national offenders subject to a deportation order have criminal convictions in the UK. Since 2006, the UK Border Agency has removed over 28,000 foreign national offenders. It is our policy not to disclose the countries to which we remove or deport foreign national offenders as this could jeopardise our continuing ability to do so.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130115/text/130115w0001.htm#13011569000005>

Westminster Early Day Motion

George Galloway (914) New family immigration rules – That this House notes that the new family immigration rules impose a minimum earnings requirement of £18,600, with an additional £3,800 for the first child and £2,400 for each additional child, in respect of partners and children from outside the EU seeking to join their partners and parents resident in the UK; further notes that the sponsoring partner is subject to enforced separation in that she or he is required to work in the UK for at least six months before the application can be made; further notes that the new immigration rules are to be challenged in the Administrative Court in Birmingham from 5 to 8 February 2013; believes that the new immigration rules are irrational and discriminate against British citizens, those settled in the UK and those with refugee or humanitarian protection leave on grounds including gender and race-ethnicity; further believes that the new rules are

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Early Day Motion (continued)

preventing British and settled families on lower incomes from being reunited and enjoying family life with their non-EEA family members contrary to the European Convention on Human Rights and other international instruments; and calls on the Government immediately to withdraw that aspect of the new family immigration rules which impose the minimum earnings requirement reverting back to the predecessor rule which adequately ensured that there was no recourse to public funds.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2012-13/914>

Press Releases

New £6 million competition fund for English language learning

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-6-million-competition-fund-for-english-language-learning>

Governments should act in the best interest of stateless children

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=2020729&Site=DC&ShowBanner=no&Target=self&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE>

New Publications

Improving the Lives of Refugees in Scotland after the Referendum: An Appraisal of the Options

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0000/5456/SRC_REPORT_-_Refugees_in_Scotland_After_the_Referendum.pdf

Website: Life without papers: Stories of undocumented migrant families and young people

<http://www.lifewithoutpapers.co.uk>

Fair and democratic migration policy: A principled framework for the UK

http://www.ippr.org/images/media/files/publication/2013/01/fair-democratic-migration-policy_Jan2013_10188.pdf

Beyond borders: Human trafficking from Nigeria to the UK

<http://www.ippr.org/publication/55/10189/beyond-borders-human-trafficking-from-nigeria-to-the-uk>

News

Eric Pickles admits EU influx may 'cause problems'

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/eric-pickles-admits-eu-influx-may-cause-problems-1-2735548>

Migration Watch warning on Romania and Bulgaria immigration

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-21039087>

Romanian migrant figures stay secret

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9809736/Romanian-migrant-figures-stay-secret.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Strict benefit rules would deter a new wave of migrants

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/9812780/Strict-benefit-rules-would-deter-a-new-wave-of-migrants.html>

Doctors ask court to decide whether refugee on hunger strike can be forcibly fed

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/doctors-ask-court-to-decide-whether-refugee-on-hunger-strike-can-be-forcibly-fed-8456451.html>

We need to find new ways to teach English to immigrants so they don't miss out on the joy of 'The Only Way Is Essex', says Eric Pickles

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/we-need-to-find-new-ways-to-teach-english-to-immigrants-so-they-dont-miss-out-on-the-joy-of-the-only-way-is-essex-says-eric-pickles-8453242.html>

Tough new rules to be introduced on which foreign drivers can get a British licence

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/tough-new-rules-to-be-introduced-on-which-foreign-drivers-can-get-a-british-licence-8452202.html>

Stop all the demonising of new EU migrants

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/editorial-stop-all-the-demonising-of-new-eu-migrants-8456428.html>

Archbishop: Asylum seekers are expected to return to danger or freeze

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/archbishop-asylum-seekers-are-expected-to-return-1546048>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

Press Release

Bringing people together in strong, united communities

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/bringing-people-together-in-strong-united-communities>

News

The ethnic mix of the suburbs is changing

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/jan/14/ethnic-mix-suburbs-changing>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Hanzala Malik: To ask the Scottish Government whether its Race Equality Statement will be updated. (S4O-1708)

Reply from Alex Neil: The Scottish Government's 2008-11 Race Equality

Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Question (continued)

Statement set out our approach to race equality. We are currently considering our approach to race equality over the next three years. Our current thinking will be published in April and we will work with stakeholders and publish a Race Equality Statement at the end of the summer. This will provide more detail on our plans and will coincide with the autumn budget considerations.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4O-01708&ResultsPerPage=10>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Employment: Religious Faith

Lord Warner: To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements are in place to monitor the adverse impact on people affected by any discriminatory employment practices of organisations with a declared religious ethos.[HL4440]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Viscount Younger of Leckie): Government collect data in relation to the number of claims which go through the employment tribunals. The Equalities and Human Rights Commission is the relevant regulator and has the power to investigate if it believes there are particular issues with organisations with declared religious ethos.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130115w0001.htm#13011550000068>

Press Releases

Right to manifest religion at work is protected but must be balanced against rights of others

<http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/webservices/content/pdf/003-4221189-5014359>

Commission welcomes European Court of Human Rights ruling on religious discrimination cases

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2013/january/commission-welcomes-european-court-of-human-rights-ruling-on-religious-discrimination-cases/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission: New Board and Budget Mark a New Era

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/media_releases/9660.aspx

New Publications

Case of Eweida and Others v. the United Kingdom: Full Judgement

<http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/sites/fra/pages/search.aspx?i=001-115881>

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty Scotland

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/EqualityAct/psed_technical_guidance_scotland.doc

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) **News**

Sectarianism? Segregation? Senseless!

<http://caledonianmercury.com/2013/01/13/sectarianism-segregation-senseless/0036752>

West Ham send message to racist fans with Holocaust ceremony

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/west-ham-send-message-to-racist-fans-with-holocaust-ceremony-8458299.html?origin=internalSearch>

Christian discrimination claims heard by Europe court

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-19467554>

British Airways Christian employee Nadia Eweida wins case

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-21025332>

Milestone left in Christian-secular debate

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-21037173>

BA employee wins religious discrimination case

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/ba-employee-wins-religious-discrimination-case.19925327>

British Airways employee backed by EU court for wearing crucifix but three other cases thrown out

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/british-airways-employee-backed-by-eu-court-for-wearing-crucifix-but-three-other-cases-thrown-out-1-2737674>

Human rights ruling that changes very little in how the law will operate

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/analysis-human-rights-ruling-that-changes-very-little-in-how-the-law-will-operate-1-2739706>

British Airways employee wins legal battle over discrimination against her faith

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/british-airways-legal-battle-1535054>

BA worker wins Euro fight over cross ban

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/ba-worker-wins-euro-fight-over-cross-ban-112644n.19926698>

Pickles: Christian cases 'should not go to Strasbourg'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9803811/Eric-Pickles-Christian-cases-should-not-go-to-Strasbourg.html>

BA worker: cross victory 'a lonely battle'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9803586/Christian-BA-worker-cross-victory-a-tough-and-lonely-battle.html>

Christians face 'lawful exclusion' from jobs despite cross victory

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9803137/Christians-face-lawful-exclusion-from-jobs-despite-cross-victory-lawyers-warn.html>

Archbishop: Christians should be able to wear religious symbols

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9802421/Christians-should-be-able-to-wear-religious-symbols-Archbishop-of-York-says.html>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) **News**

Christian who lost BA job over cross wins case in Europe

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article3658075.ece>

Christian rulings by European court are a mixed blessing

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article3658236.ece>

Equalities watchdog wants new law to protect workers wearing crosses

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article3658382.ece>

Religious freedom in the workplace

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article3659221.ece>

Lillian Ladele is the real loser in Christian discrimination rulings

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2013/jan/17/lillian-ladele-loser-christian-discrimination-rulings>

What a religious discrimination ruling means for local government

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/local-government-network/2013/jan/16/religious-discrimination-rule-local-government>

Landmark victory for BA employee over right to wear a cross at work

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2013/jan/15/landmark-victory-ba-cross-work>

Cross ban did infringe BA worker's rights, Strasbourg court rules

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2013/jan/15/ba-rights-cross-european-court>

The BA Christian case was judged rightly, and a true test of tolerance

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jan/15/ba-christian-case-judged-rightly>

Ruling on Christian's right to wear cross 'does not trump other human rights'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2013/jan/15/ruling-christian-cross-human-rights>

Balancing Christian and gay rights isn't easy - give Strasbourg some credit

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2013/jan/15/christian-gay-rights-strasbourg>

Religious freedom: Strasbourg's balancing act

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jan/15/religious-freedom-strasbourg>

Case Comparisons: Why Nadia Eweida won her religious discrimination case over wearing cross at work

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/case-comparisons-why-nadia-eweida-won-her-religious-discrimination-case-over-wearing-cross-at-work-8452915.html>

Religious freedom is not an absolute right

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/jerome-taylor-religious-freedom-is-not-an-absolute-right-8452912.html>

Christian woman wins landmark religious discrimination case over wearing cross at work, but ECHR rules rights of three other Christians were not violated

<http://tinyurl.com/independent-landmark-case>

[TOP](#)

Other Holyrood

Press Releases

People of Scotland to have written constitution

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/01/written-constitution16012013>

Blogging for an independent Scotland

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/01/independence-blogs15012013>

New Publication

Responding to Forced Marriage: Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0041/00412492.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Health Services: Ethnic Groups

Sir Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to incentivising the collection of ethnicity data in primary and secondary care; and if he will make a statement. [136439]

Reply from Norman Lamb: There are national coding systems for data collection, which include race and ethnicity in place. 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 and decision-making and key processes such as the joint strategic needs assessments, but also allows national comparisons to be made.

The Department, in collaboration with key stakeholders, is producing a short document that provides practical guidance for the national health service and councils (with social services responsibilities) on the collection of equality monitoring data about patients, service users, communities and staff. The document focuses on the equality characteristics, including race and ethnicity, given protection under the Equality Act 2010, as well as carer status and language.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130115/text/130115w0002.htm#13011576000069>

Religious Faith

Lord Warner: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Warsi on 8 November 2012 (WA 232), what guidance they give the Minister of Faith and Communities in applying faith considerations to the formulation and implementation of public policy in the light of (1) the 2011 Census finding that those declared as having "no religion" outnumbered those of a declared non-Christian faith by more than 2 to 1, and (2) the long-term trend in the number of citizens with no religious belief or identity. [HL4438]

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

The Government believe that religious belief is an important motivation for service to community. However, it is obvious that the needs and perspectives of all

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

interested groups, whether religious or non-religious, should be taken into consideration when policy is formulated and implemented.

Lord Warner: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Warsi on 8 November 2012 (WA 232), what criteria are used by the Minister for Faith and Communities to balance the conflicting needs and perspectives of different religious and non-religious groups in the formulation and implementation of public policy.[HL4439]

Reply from Baroness Warsi: The Government recognise that both religious and non-religious groups have valid perspectives to contribute to the formulation and implementation of policy, and departments are committed to proper engagement processes. The specific role of the Minister for Faith and Communities is to ensure that the voice of people of faith is heard, which has not always been the case.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130117w0001.htm#13011758000575>

Ritual Slaughter

James Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the slaughter of farm animals for Qurbani/Udhia purposes under the provisions of the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations 2012. [R] [136916]

Reply from David Heath: The slaughter of farm animals for Qurbani/Udhia purposes is currently regulated under the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 (WASK). It will in future be regulated by Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing and stricter national rules introduced by individual member states. The Regulations for enforcing this law and introducing national rules in England have been consulted on but have not yet been laid before Parliament for approval.

WASK permits slaughter by a religious method, including Muslim slaughter for Qurbani/Udhia, to be carried out in a licensed slaughterhouse which is under official veterinary supervision. It must be carried out by a licensed Muslim slaughterman by the Muslim method for the food of Muslims.

It is illegal to slaughter animals or birds without stunning, including slaughter for Qurbani/Udhia in any other place, even for private domestic consumption.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130117/text/130117w0001.htm#13011772000060>

Press Release

Moore: "Scottish Government cannot 'fast forward' through independence debate"

<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/18402.html>

[TOP](#)

Other News

Nominations are open for the National Diversity Awards 2013

<http://www.nationaldiversityawards.co.uk>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Holyrood

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

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

Stage 3

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7683&mode=html#iob_70164

Debate – *Bill passed*

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7683&mode=html#iob_70165

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>

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>

Second Reading, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130114/debtext/130114-0002.htm#1301142000001>

Money resolution, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130114/debtext/130114-0004.htm#1301155000004>

Ways and Means resolution, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130114/debtext/130114-0004.htm#1301155000005>

**** Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2012-2013/0045/amend/ml045-viii.htm>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130114-gc0001.htm#13011425000051>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130116-gc0001.htm#13011657000101>

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

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

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

**** Scotland Act 1998 (Modification of Schedule 5) Order 2013**

Motion to approve, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130116-0001.htm#13011646000401>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

**** new or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

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](#)

**** this week!**

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.

**** this week!**

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.

**** this week!**

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.

**** this week!**

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/cn3znfj> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / <http://tinyurl.com/burro73>

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.

Mainstreaming Equalities

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.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Equality and Involvement with the Public Sector**

7 February 2013 in Glasgow (12.00 – 5.00)

Coalition on Racial Equality and Rights seminar to bring together Voluntary and Community Sector organisations which have experience of engaging with the Public Sector to identify some key rights, responsibilities and opportunities for change. For information contact nadia@crer.org.uk / 0141 418 6530.

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

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.

**** An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees**

25 January 2013 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

14 March 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/burro73> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.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.

**** The housing journey from seeking asylum to settling in Scotland**

14 February 2013 in Glasgow (1.15 – 4.45)

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work with people seeking asylum and refugees to provide an introduction to core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/9lca9cg> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk.

**** Working with interpreters**

26 February 2013 in Glasgow (1.15 – 4.45)

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Positive on Employment Conference**

26 February 2013 in Glasgow

Conference organised in partnership between BEMIS, the STUC, the Scottish Refugee Council, 'see me', Interfaith Scotland, and GRAMNet to discuss positive action on employment in relation to diversity, migrants and employment, religion and faith in relation to employment, mental health and wellbeing, and inclusive recruitment. For information see <http://bemis.org.uk/conference/poe/poe-conference-flyer.pdf> or contact 0141 548 8047 / conference@bemis.org.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/>

**** The essentials of asylum**

1 March 2013 in Glasgow (1.15 – 4.45)

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work with people seeking asylum and refugees to provide an introduction to core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/bf86cuy> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.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/>

Useful Links (continued)

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com>

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/>

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