

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Debate

Visas: Student Visa Policy

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130131-0002.htm#13013135000371>

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Immigration Rules

The Minister for Immigration (Mr Mark Harper): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before the House a statement of changes in the immigration rules that will bring about urgent changes to tackle abuse in the entrepreneur migration route while protecting genuine entrepreneurs. The changes will take effect on 31 January.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

In April 2011 we made some changes to the investor and entrepreneur routes to encourage greater uptake. These changes have successfully brought about a steady increase in applications from overseas.

However, it is clear that, following our tightening of other migration routes, the entrepreneur route is now being targeted by applicants seeking to abuse the immigration rules. There is strong evidence that funds to prove eligibility are being recycled among different applicants and that artificial businesses are being created. We need to tighten the current rules to allow for a meaningful assessment of the credibility of an applicant for this route.

I am therefore acting promptly to tackle this abuse, without damaging the legitimate applicants who are important to our economic growth. I am introducing a "genuine entrepreneur" test which will give UK Border Agency caseworkers the ability to test the credibility of suspicious applicants. I am also making a further change to require the necessary minimum funds to be held, or invested in the business, on an ongoing basis rather than solely at the time of the application. This will apply to those already in the UK and those who apply to come here under the entrepreneur route.

I emphasise that these are technical but important changes to improve the effectiveness of the current rules. Those seeking to abuse the immigration system will always seek new methods to do so. We are vigilant and will take swift action where we see evidence of abuse. At the same time, we will protect genuine entrepreneurs and continue to encourage them to invest in the UK where they will be made welcome.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130130/wmstext/130130m0001.htm#13013055000006>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration: Married People

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date her Department's policy was changed so that applicants to enter, remain and settle in the UK on the basis of marriage and civil partnerships who were refused were referred to the right of appeal rather than being granted a review of their case. [140339]

Reply from Mark Harper: The UK Border Agency implemented its reconsiderations policy, and published it on its website, on 13 November 2012. The policy states the limited circumstances in which the UK Border Agency is prepared to reconsider casework decisions, including decisions on applications to enter, remain and settle in the UK on the basis of marriage and civil partnerships.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130130/text/130130w0001.htm#13013071000004>

Immigration: Married People

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for marriage visas to non-EU citizens were (a) received and (b) fully processed by her Department in (i) August and (ii) September 2012. [139141]

Reply from Mark Harper: Information on the total number of entry clearance visa applications and entry clearance visas resolved (total decisions) is currently published annually. Corresponding information 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 visas relating to partners provided in response to this question and appearing in the following table provide the latest available published statistics (2011) for entry clearance visa applications, entry clearance visas resolved (total

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

decisions), and (2012 Q1 to Q3) for entry clearance visas issued.

<i>Entry clearance visas for partners: applications, resolved(1), issued and refused, 2011</i>					
<i>Family route</i>	<i>Applications</i>	<i>Total resolved</i>	<i>Of which:</i>		
			<i>Issued</i>	<i>Refused</i>	<i>Withdrawn or lapsed</i>
Partner	36,205	40,499	33,480	6,765	254
Partner (for settlement)(2)	1,559	1,505	1,324	164	17
Total	37,764	42,004	34,804	6,929	271

<i>Family route entry clearance visas for partners issued, 2012 Q1 and Q2 and Q3</i>			
<i>Family route</i>	<i>2012 Q1</i>	<i>2012 Q2</i>	<i>2012 Q3</i>
Partner	8,022	7,995	7,678
Partner (for settlement)(2)	318	307	242
Total	8,340	8,302	7,920

(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. Notes: Figures for visa applications and resolutions are currently 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-September 2012, which is available from the Library of the House and on the Department's website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q3-2012/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130125/text/130125w0002.htm#13012551000110>

Entry Clearances: Married People

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications by non-EU citizens for marriage visas were (a) received and (b) fully processed in (i) October and (ii) November 2012. [139837]

Reply from Mark Harper: Information on the total number of entry clearance visa applications and entry clearance visas resolved (total decisions) is currently published annually. Corresponding information 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 visas relating to partners provided in response to this question and appearing in the following tables provide the latest available published statistics (2011) for entry clearance visa applications, entry clearance visas resolved (total decisions), and (2012 Q1 to Q3) for entry clearance visas issued.

<i>Entry clearance visas for partners: Applications, resolved(1), issued and refused, 2011</i>					
<i>Family route</i>	<i>Applications</i>	<i>Total resolved</i>	<i>Of which:</i>		
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Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

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

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q3-2012/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130128/text/130128w0001.htm#1301284000013>

Entry Clearances: Business

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how her Department distinguishes between people who want to obtain UK visas for (a) business purposes and (b) other reasons. [137992]

Reply from Mark Harper: Different visit categories for visa purposes are outlined in the Immigration Rules. The business visit category outlines permitted activities for film crews, news media, academic and religious workers, consultants, trainers as well as listing permitted categories for general business purposes such as attending meetings or arranging deals.

Those who want to invest in the UK by setting up or taking over, and being actively involved in running of, a business or businesses may enter the UK by applying for tier 1 (Entrepreneur) visa.

Student graduates may also apply for a tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) visa if they have outstanding business ideas that they wish to put into practice.

Other reasons for visits are also outlined in legislation. We have separate visa categories for:

Visiting friends/tourism

Student visa

Sportsperson

Entertainer

Marriage/Civil partnership

Medical treatment

Transiting the UK

Details of each category can be found on the UK Border Agency website at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/visiting/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130125/text/130125w0002.htm#13012551000108>

Entry Clearances

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for family dependent visas to non-EU citizens were (a) received and (b) fully processed by her Department in (i) August and (ii) September 2012. [139142]

Reply from Mark Harper: Information on the total number of entry clearance visa

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

applications and entry clearance visas resolved (total decisions) is currently published annually. Corresponding information 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 dependent visas provided in response to this question and appearing in the following tables provide the latest available published statistics (2011) for entry clearance visa applications, entry clearance visas resolved (total decisions), and (2012 Q1 to Q3) for entry clearance visas issued.

Family dependant entry clearance visas: applications, resolved(1), issued and refused, 2011

Family route	Applications	Total resolved	Of which:		
			Issued	Refused	Withdrawn or lapsed
Child(3)	113	110	97	13	0
Child (for settlement)(2)	6,835	7,045	4,584	2,389	72
Other(4)	5,151	5,709	4,307	1,265	137
Other (for settlement)(2,)() (5)	2,653	2,743	1,885	834	24
Total	14,752	15,607	10,873	4,501	233

Family dependent entry clearance visas issued, 2012 Q1 and Q2 and Q3

Family route	2012 Q1	2012 Q2	2012 Q3
Child(3)	19	11	26
Child (for settlement)(2)	1,108	1,118	936
Other(4)	922	871	795
Other (for settlement)(2,)() (5)	499	413	404
Total	2,548	2,413	2,161

(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 and resolutions are currently 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/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q3-2012/>

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications by non-EU citizens for family dependent visas were (a) received and (b) fully processed in (i) October and (ii) November 2012. [139836]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Mark Harper: Information on the total number of entry clearance visa applications and entry clearance visas resolved (total decisions) is currently published annually.

Corresponding information 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 dependent visas provided in response to this question and appearing in the following table provide the latest available published statistics (2011) for entry clearance visa applications, entry clearance visas resolved (total decisions), and (2012 Q1 to Q3) for entry clearance visas issued.

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<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130128/text/130128w0001.htm#13012840000012>

Visas

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications for visas from overseas students currently studying in the United Kingdom have been received during the past 12 months; how long it takes on average to issue visas; and how many applications remain to be determined beyond a period of three months.[HL4703]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Data for applications for students applying through the tier 4 route from overseas: Visa applications received in the 12 months to September 2012: 215,867 of these, number issued: 194,660.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Average time to resolve applications (irrespective of outcome): 7.5 days
applications unresolved after 90 days on 8 Jan 2013: 194.

The data are for main applicants only and do not include applications from dependents.

Some students issued visas under tier 4 during the period shown will have completed their studies, whereas others would have applied for further leave to remain in the UK.

These data are based on internal UK Border Agency management information. They are provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130128w0001.htm#13012819000643>

Asylum

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers are supported by the National Asylum Support Service; and what the equivalent number was in (a) 2009, (b) 2010 and (c) 2011. [140052]

Reply from Mark Harper: The National Asylum Support Service was disbanded in 2006. Asylum support is now managed through regional asylum teams. The legislation in respect of eligibility for asylum support, and the categories of support available, has not changed.

Support may be provided under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute until their asylum claim is determined. Section 95 support can be provided as both accommodation and subsistence, or accommodation or subsistence only.

At the end of Q3 2012, the most recent published figure available, 19,366 asylum seekers were in receipt of Section 95 support.

Corresponding figures for previous years are:

	<i>Number</i>
2009 Q3	29,071
2010 Q3	22,985
2011 Q3	20,639

Figures on Section 95 support are published on a quarterly basis. Latest figures are available in Table as.16.q of 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/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130128/text/130128w0001.htm#13012840000006>

Deportation

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have been returned from the United Kingdom to (1) Romania, and (2) Bulgaria, in each year since those countries acceded to the European Union, by reason of (a) failure to be able to maintain themselves economically, (b) criminal conviction, and (c) other reasons.[HL4681]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The number of people removed or who departed voluntarily to Romania and Bulgaria since the beginning of 2007 is:

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Removals and voluntary departures to Romania and Bulgaria by type ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾				
Year	Country of destination	Total enforced removals	Total refused entry at port and subsequently departed	Total voluntary departures
2007	Bulgaria	7	3	1
2007	Romania	67	14	12
2008	Bulgaria	17	3	0
2008	Romania	108	28	5
2009	Bulgaria	19	16	4
2009	Romania	166	30	9
2010	Bulgaria	28	7	5
2010	Romania	217	18	5
2011 ^(P)	Bulgaria	33	4	1
2011 ^(P)	Romania	283	16	22

⁽¹⁾ Destination as recorded on source database; all nationals returned to Bulgaria and Romania.

⁽²⁾ Removals are recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

^(P) Provisional figures. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

The numbers of people removed or who departed voluntarily by reason of (a) failure to be able to maintain themselves economically or (c) other reasons is not available without examination of the individual records. To do so would incur disproportionate cost.

It is our policy not to disclose the countries to which we remove or deport foreign national offenders as this could jeopardise our diplomatic relations and our ability to continue to do so.

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 destination and type are available in the latest release, *Immigration Statistics: July-September 2012*, tables rv.06 and rv.06.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-December 2012 and annual figures for 2012 will be published as part of the regular Home Office publication scheme on 28 February.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130128w0001.htm#13012819000601>

Press Releases

Changes to Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) route

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/75-tier1-entrepreneur>

Overseas students who want to study in UK on the rise

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/overseas-students-rise>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

New Publications

Monthly asylum application tables - November 2012

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

Children entering detention held solely under Immigration Act powers December 2012

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/child-detention-dec2012?view=Binary>

'Migrants in Europe': Commission launches Europe-wide multimedia competition

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-83_en.htm?locale=en

News

Anger over citizenship test

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/anger-over-citizenship-test.20022206>

UK says immigration route for entrepreneurs 'being abused'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-21261353>

Immigration from Romania and Bulgaria: Government accused of 'farcical' strategy

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-21235165>

Government warned not to repeat 'folly' of Uganda anti-immigration adverts

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-21259047>

Row breaks out between UK and Romania over targeting of migrants

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/feb/02/romania-uk-immigrants-diplomatic-row>

Campaign to deter Romanian and Bulgarian immigrants 'farcical'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/jan/28/campaign-deter-romanian-bulgarian-immigrants-farcical>

Bulgarians react with dismay to British anti-immigration campaign

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/feb/01/bulgarians-british-anti-immigration-campaign>

Romanians aren't about to 'invade' Britain – so stop the negative campaign

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jan/30/romania-immigration-negative-campaign>

The great escape: European migrants fleeing the recession

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2013/jan/30/great-escape-european-migrants-fleeing-recession>

How migrants' money makes the world go round

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2013/jan/30/uk-migrants-money-makes-world-go>

The British dream: why Europe's African citizens come to Britain

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jan/28/british-dream-europe-african-citizens>

138,000 speak no English - census

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-21259401>

Polish becomes England's second language

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/jan/30/polish-becomes-englands-second-language>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Polish is second most spoken language in England, as census reveals 140,000 residents cannot speak English at all

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/polish-is-second-most-spoken-language-in-england-as-census-reveals-140000-residents-cannot-speak-english-at-all-8472447.html>

Languages mapped: what do people speak where you live?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/interactive/2013/jan/30/languages-mapped-england-wales-census>

Misery of Pakistan's abandoned wives

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-21177601>

Welcome to Britain's most diverse street! Road where half of residents speak English as a second language is home to migrants from across the globe

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2272308/Welcome-Britains-diverse-street-Road-half-residents-speak-English-second-language-home-migrants-globe.html#axzz2Job6ynWA>

New UK Citizenship Test To Emphasise 'British Values And Principles' Says Home Office

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2013/01/27/new-uk-citizenship-test-overhaul_n_2561051.html?utm_hp_ref=uk

Why the new British citizenship test distorts history

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/culture/2013/jan/30/british-citizenship-test-distorts-history>

Trafficked Women In UK Prisons Have No Support Or Protection, University Of Cambridge Report Finds

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2013/01/29/trafficked-women-uk-prisons_n_2573999.html?utm_hp_ref=uk

Migration target must leave out students, MPs say

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/jan/31/migration-target-exclude-student-visas>

Asylum-support system is pushing families into severe poverty, say MPs

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/jan/30/asylum-support-families-severe-poverty>

For failed asylum seekers, life on section 4 is a nightmare worse than Kafka

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jan/30/asylum-theresa-may-private-fiefdom>

Asylum-seekers 'forced into prostitution' by support system failures

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/asylumseekers-forced-into-prostitution-by-support-system-failures-8471717.html>

Games ban on refugees faces legal challenge

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/games-ban-on-refugees-faces-legal-challenge.20078586>

Scottish Refugee Council challenges inaccurate reporting

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/1896_scottish_refugee_council_challenges_inaccurate_reporting

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Race Relations

Press Release

Ombudsman encourages Commission to issue guidelines on dialogue with religious and non-religious organisations

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_EO-13-2_en.htm?locale=en

News

Hijab for a day: Non-Muslim women who try the headscarf

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-21283301>

Tory plan for mixed-race adoptions challenged

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2013/feb/03/tory-plans-for-interracial-adoption-challenged>

How a generation of orphans fared when they were matched to mixed-race couples

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2013/feb/03/hong-kong-orphans-uk>

Census 2011 mapped and charted: England & Wales in religion, immigration and race

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/interactive/2012/dec/11/census-england-wales-maps-religion>

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Equality

News

Universities challenged over lack of minority professors

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/education/universities-challenged-over-lack-of-minority-professors-1-2765063>

Police chief calls for positive discrimination

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/9830754/Police-chief-calls-for-positive-discrimination.html>

Diversity in top jobs will benefit the whole of society

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/feb/02/diversity-essential-in-police-and-business>

Why are there so few top black British police officers?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/jan/30/why-top-black-police-officers>

Why diversity in Britain's police force isn't just a PC matter

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jan/28/britain-police-force-diversity>

How do police forces break down by ethnic minority officer strength?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2013/jan/28/police-force-ethnic-minority-officers>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Human Rights

Lord Morris of Aberavon: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will place in the Library of the House the instructions to counsel who appeared before the European Court of Human Rights on behalf of the United Kingdom in the case of Eweida, Chaplin, Ladele and McFarlane; and whether those instructions were approved by the Attorney General.[HL4721]

Reply from Baroness Stowell of Beeston: Litigation instructions are covered by legal professional privilege and are not normally placed in the public domain. It should also be noted that, for the time being, there remains the possibility of these cases being subject to further review by the European Court of Human Rights. For these reasons it would not be appropriate to publish the instructions. In accordance with the Law Officers' convention, I can neither confirm nor deny whether the Attorney-General approved the instructions.

Lord Morris of Aberavon: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will place in the Library of the House a transcript of the submission of counsel who appeared on behalf of the United Kingdom in the cases of Eweida, Chaplin, Ladele and McFarlane in the European Court of Human Rights.[HL4722]

Reply from Baroness Stowell of Beeston: No transcript of this hearing exists, because the European Court of Human Rights does not have a transcription service. However, I am able to provide a link to the court's website, which makes available a video recording of the court's hearing of 4 September, including the statement by counsel for the UK Government:

<http://www.echr.coe.int/ECHR/EN/Header/Press/Multimedia/Webcasts+of+public+hearings/Webcasts2012.htm>;

<http://www.echr.coe.int/ECHR/EN/Header/Press/MultimedialWebcasts+of+public+hearings/Webcasts2012.htm>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130131w0001.htm#13013136000330>

Press Releases

Holocaust Remembrance Day: remembering what should never be forgotten

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/content/20130123STO05466/html/Holocaust-Remembrance-Day-remembering-what-should-never-be-forgotten>

Never forget: Remembering the victims, learning from the past, continuing the legacy

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-13-67_en.htm?locale=en

Fighting deadly hate speech requires 'multi-layered approach,' UN official says

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44056&Cr=genocide&Cr1=#.UQ6VeqXRcTw>

News

BNP rejects calls to curb its EU money as 'totalitarianism'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-21258530>

Conservative councillor suspended for alleged racism against Muslims

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2013/feb/01/conservative-councillor-chris-joannides-facebook>

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Other Holyrood

Press Releases

Government accepts all Electoral Commission recommendations

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/01/electoral-commission-report30012013>

Gypsy/Traveller site near Aberdeen to host parliamentary meeting

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/59286.aspx>

Alan Miller nominated for second term as chair of Scottish Human Rights Commission

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/59425.aspx>

News

MSPs to hold meeting at traveller site for first time

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/politics/msps-to-hold-meeting-at-traveller-site-for-first-time-1-2768365>

Electoral Commission

Electoral Commission publishes its assessment of Scottish independence referendum question and its advice on campaign spending limits

<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/news-and-media/news-releases/electoral-commission-media-centre/news-releases-referendums/electoral-commission-publishes-its-assessment-of-scottish-independence-referendum-question-and-its-advice-on-campaign-spending-limits>

Electoral Commission publishes its assessment of Scottish independence referendum question and its advice on campaign spending limits

<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/news-and-media/news-releases/electoral-commission-media-centre/news-releases-referendums/electoral-commission-publishes-its-assessment-of-scottish-independence-referendum-question-and-its-advice-on-campaign-spending-limits>

Referendum on independence for Scotland: Advice of the Electoral Commission on the proposed referendum question

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/153691/Referendum-on-independence-for-Scotland-our-advice-on-referendum-question.pdf

Referendum on Scottish Independence: Question Testing

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/153689/Ipsos-MORI-Scotland-question-testing-report-24-January-2013.pdf

Electoral Commission advice on spending limits for the referendum on independence for Scotland

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/153697/Report-on-spending-limits-for-the-referendum-on-independence-for-Scotland.pdf

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Other Westminster

Press Release

Michael Moore welcomes Electoral Commission report

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/michael-moore-welcomes-electoral-commission-report>

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New Publications

Volunteering in Scottish Charities

Presentation report

<http://www.vds.org.uk/Portals/0/documents/0-Legacy%20Event/Result%20Powerpoint.pptx>

Tables

<http://www.vds.org.uk/Portals/0/documents/0-Legacy%20Event/Web%20Tables.xlsx>

Technical Note

<http://www.vds.org.uk/Portals/0/documents/0-Legacy%20Event/Technical%20Note.docx>

Making sense of the Big Society: perspectives from the third sector

<http://www.tsrc.ac.uk/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=O%2fFyly5402A%3d&tabid=980>

Monitoring poverty and social exclusion in Scotland 2013

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/poverty-exclusion-scotland-summary.pdf>

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Other News

Company suspends supplier of halal meat containing pork

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-21312004>

'Traces of pork DNA' found in halal prison meat

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-21302925>

'Traces of pork' found in prison food served as halal

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2013/feb/01/traces-pork-prison-food-halal>

'Traces of pork DNA' found in Halal prison meat

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/foodanddrink/foodanddrinknews/9843850/Traces-of-pork-DNA-found-in-Halal-prison-meat.html>

Halal meat pies and pastries for prisoners found to contain pork DNA

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article3676407.ece>

Halal pies and pasties given to Muslim prisoners found to contain PORK in latest meat contamination scandal

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2272304/Halal-pies-pasties-given-Muslim-prisoners-contain-PORK-latest-meat-contamination-scandal.html#axzz2Job6ynWA>

Other News (continued)

High Court opens way to Sharia divorces

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article3674837.ece>

Divorce cases could be settled by Sharia and religious courts after landmark High Court ruling over Jewish couple's dispute

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2271682/Divorce-cases-settled-Sharia-religious-courts-landmark-High-Court-ruling.html#axzz2Job6ynWA>

Midwife 'role' as NHS targets female genital mutilation

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-21306861>

Bid to end intrusive criminal record checks

<http://www.thirdforcenews.org.uk/2013/02/bid-to-end-intrusive-criminal-record-checks/>

European network receives more than £100,000 in grants to help charities share ideas

http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/bulletin/third_sector_daily_bulletin/article/1169120/european-network-receives-100000-grants-help-charities-share-ideas/?DCMP=EMC-CONThirdSectorDaily

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Holyrood

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>

Public Bill Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmpublic/crimeandcourts/130129/am/130129s01.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmpublic/crimeandcourts/130129/pm/130129s01.htm>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/pivotgrid.aspx?dataSetVars=ds-2443-lh-37-yn-2011->

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2012-2013/0115/amend/psc1153101a.91-97.html>

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

**** Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill**

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

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130128-gc0001.htm#1301288000167>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130131-gc0001.htm#13013150000535>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2012-2013/0045/amend/su045-ixa.htm>

and

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

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

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

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Consultations

**** new or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

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>

**** All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into electoral conduct in the UK**

(closing date 29 March 2013)

<http://www.antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Call-For-Papers.pdf>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

**** new or updated this week**

**** this week!**

Show Racism the Red Card

5 February 2013 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (6.00 – 8.00)

Show Racism the Red Card showcase event. Free, but advance booking is essential. For information contact 0141 222 2058 / info@theredcardscotland.org

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

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.

**** this week!**

Ethnicity & In-work Poverty Research Workshop

6 February 2013 in Glasgow (9.45 – 1.00)

CEMVO workshop to discuss key findings from research commissioned by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, including factors which contribute to in-work poverty, and possible routes out of poverty. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/b5usfd5> or contact Pei Ying Kek or Kamaljit Kaur 0141 248 4830 / enquiries@cemvoscotland.org.uk.

**** this week!**

GRAMNet & BEMIS Film Series 2012/2013

6th February 2013 in Glasgow (5.30)

Showing, in observance of World Day of Social Justice, of “Nickel City Smiler”, a documentary chronicling a refugee's fight for survival and hope in the American Rust Belt. For information see <http://bemis.org.uk/PDF/gramnet-film-series-2012-2013.pdf>

**** this week!**

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

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.

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.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

SNAP! What Does it Mean for Race Equality?

21 February 2013 in Glasgow (1.00 – 4.00)

Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights seminar to explore the new Scottish National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP), its implications for race equality and the importance of involvement in the development of SNAP for Scotland's minority ethnic communities. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/a9h5srb> or contact Nadia 0141 418 6530 / nadia@crer.org.uk.

Domestic Abuse and Minority Ethnic Women, Children & Young People

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

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.

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.

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

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.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Human Rights and Scotland's Constitutional Future: Where we are now? Human Rights and the Independence Debate**

18 March 2013 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (10.30 – 3.45)

Seminar to discuss how the independence debate may influence human rights protections; whether it will provide opportunities to further promote and protect, or threaten human rights, or whether it is an irrelevance. For information see <http://scffevent.eventbrite.com> or contact aw.events@ed.ac.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>.

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/home.htm>

Scottish Government <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Home>

Westminster Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>

One Scotland Many Cultures <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Scottish Inter Faith Council <http://www.scottishinterfaithcouncil.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>

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/>

Useful Links (continued)

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

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

BBC Parliament online

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

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



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



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

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