

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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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

British Citizenship

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made any assessment as to whether current British citizens would be able to pass the new United Kingdom citizenship test.[HL5118]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were their reasons for moving from a citizenship test with a practical focus to one which is based more on history; and what is the purpose of the new citizenship test.[HL5119]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the assessment by the Migrant's Rights Network of the new citizenship test.[HL5120]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The life in the UK test is one of the ways in which migrants can satisfy the requirement that they demonstrate knowledge of language and life in the United Kingdom. It is taken by migrants applying for indefinite leave to

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remain or for naturalisation as British citizens.

The test is based on the *Life in the UK* handbook and from 25 March this year the relevant book will be the third edition of the handbook-*Life in the United Kingdom: A Guide for New Residents*.

Unlike the previous test, migrants will not be expected to answer questions on matters such as population statistics that are not generally familiar to the British public, but study of the book will still be necessary to ensure a pass. All the information for the test is in the handbook.

Increasingly, migrants are required to have five years' residence before applying for permanent status in the UK. They should already be aware of practical aspects of life in the UK. The book therefore concentrates on British history, culture, traditions and systems of government to help migrants gain a wider understanding of British democratic principles and the responsibilities that come with permanent residence.

The Government are aware of the comments on the new test from the Migrants' Rights Network but consider that the new test will help migrants acquire the wider knowledge that will help them understand the society in which they have chosen to live.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130206w0001.htm#13020694000357>

Immigration

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will give consideration to requiring non-UK EU nationals to acquire residency cards before they may settle in Britain; and what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of a similar system in operation in Spain. [141621]

Reply from Mark Harper: Spain is one of a number of other EU member states that require EU nationals residing for longer than three months to register with their authorities. Registration confirms that an EU national is exercising rights of free movement which derive from EU law.

The UK does not operate a system of mandatory registration for EU nationals, though many EU nationals choose to apply to the UK Border Agency (UKBA) for documentation to evidence their rights. UKBA has strict requirements in place to ensure that those EU nationals who apply prove that they are exercising their treaty rights.

The Home Office regularly reviews the implementation of the free movement directive and as part of this process considers developments and practices in other member states.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130207/text/130207w002.htm#13020782000014>

Immigration Controls: Data Protection

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the retention of case notes and documentation by UK Border Agency entry clearance officers and caseworkers in the UK and abroad. [140190]

Reply from Mark Harper: Entry Clearance Officers record case notes electronically and are required to retain documents (or copies) that are directly relevant to the decision. If it is not possible to retain such documents they are clearly referenced in case notes. The UK Border Agency has a programme of continuous improvement which is designed to drive up decision quality and to ensure compliance with existing policy.

The Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration also monitors

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compliance with document retention and case notes policy and two of his most recent overseas inspections in Accra and Madrid point to the success of the continuous improvement programme.

Regarding caseworkers in the UK and abroad, we have introduced a data capture tool to help casework teams considering applications to record information relevant to their decisions. In future it is planned that documents will be scanned and stored in a secure location until we reach a decision on an application, reducing the movement of physical documents around the UK Border Agency.

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to improve the (a) production of notes and (b) retention of copies of documents in UK Border Agency casework. [140191]

Reply from Mark Harper: As part of the UK Border Agency's transformation, we are ensuring all relevant information is captured digitally and in a structured way which can then be used intelligently to improve customer service and increase operational effectiveness. In addition, and as part of an agency-wide drive to improve paper record keeping, a comprehensive review of caseworkers' guidance is being undertaken to provide clarity on what documents need to be retained and for how long, in line with both the Public Records and Data Protection Act. In future, documents will be scanned and stored in a secure location until a decision is reached on an application, reducing the movement of physical documents around the UK Border Agency.

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that best practice is shared between UK Border Agency officers in the UK and their counterparts abroad. [140192]

Reply from Mark Harper: As part of the UK Border Agency's transformation plan, the organisation is looking at ways of more closely aligning operational structures and caseworking processes throughout the agency. Part of this work is ensuring that it identifies and applies best practice consistently throughout all of its operations both in the UK and abroad and learns from international partners.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130204/text/130204w001.htm#13020440000050>

Social Security Benefits: Immigrants

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many migrants residing in the UK claim benefits on behalf of children living abroad; in which countries such children reside; and at which job centres each such claim was lodged. [140858]

Reply from Sajid Javid: The main purpose of child benefit and the child tax credit is to support families in the UK. Consequently, the rules for these benefits generally do not provide for them to be paid in respect of children who live abroad.

Nevertheless, both child benefit and the child tax credit are family benefits under EC Regulation 883/2004. This regulation protects the social security rights of nationals of all member states of the European economic area (EEA), including the UK, and Switzerland when they exercise their rights of free movement under EU law.

The EC regulations have detailed rules to decide which national social security scheme a worker should pay into and which member state has responsibility for the payment of benefits, including family benefits. The EC regulations generally provide that workers should pay contributions into the social security scheme of the member state where they work and, in turn, that state is responsible for the payment of family benefits.

Consequently, nationals of other EEA member states who are working in the UK

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and paying compulsory UK national insurance contributions are entitled to claim UK family benefits in respect of children living in another member state.

I refer the right hon. Member to the reply given to him on 28 January 2013, *Official Report*, columns 619-20W, for details about the number of claims for family benefits paid under the EC regulations for children resident in another member state and which member states such children reside.

Claims for family benefits are made to HM Revenue and Customs and not through Job Centres which are administered by the Department for Work and Pensions.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130207/text/130207w0003.htm#13020784000040>

Immigration

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will publish the report estimating the number of Romanian and Bulgarian nationals expected to enter the UK in 2014. [138986]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Home Office is not aware of any report which estimates such numbers, and has not commissioned estimates of this sort. The Government accepts the view of the independent Migration Advisory Committee that to produce such estimates "would not be sensible, or helpful to policymakers". Rather than produce speculative forecasts, the Government's priority is to cut out abuse of free movement and address pull factors such as access to benefits and public services. The Home Office is working closely with other Government Departments on these issues.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many non-EEA nationals who applied to enter the UK between 9 July and 31 December 2012 as the partner of a British citizen or permanent resident stated in their application that they had one or more children in the UK; [139688]

(2) how many non-EEA nationals who applied to enter the UK between 9 July and 31 December 2012 as the partner of a British citizen or permanent resident applied to bring one or more child dependents with them. [139689]

Reply from Mark Harper: To provide an accurate answer to the questions tabled would require the examination of individual records which would incur disproportionate costs.

The latest Home Office immigration statistics on entry clearance visa applications and visa grants are published in the release *Immigration Statistics*, which is available at:

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

A copy of the latest release, 'Immigration Statistics July-September 2012' has been placed in the House Library.

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for indefinite leave to remain were made at UK Border Agency posts overseas in (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and how many such applications were granted. [140187]

Reply from Mark Harper: Indefinite leave to remain (ILR) is a status granted in the UK, not overseas, so no applications for indefinite leave to remain were made at UK Border Agency posts overseas.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the number of Romanians and Bulgarians who may seek work in the UK after immigration restrictions are lifted in 2014. [140741]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Home Office regularly monitors and analyses

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overall migration data to help inform policy decisions. However, we have not prepared forecasts of likely inflows from Romania and Bulgaria once restrictions are lifted. The Government accepts the view of the independent Migration Advisory Committee that to produce such estimates “would not be sensible, or helpful to policymakers”. Rather than produce speculative forecasts, the Government's priority is to cut out abuse of free movement and address pull factors such as access to benefits and public services. The Home Office is working closely with other Government Departments on these issues.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130204/text/130204w0001.htm#13020440000048>

Immigration

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for indefinite leave to remain were made at UK Border Agency posts overseas on the grounds of family or partners residing in the UK (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012. [140188]

Reply from Mark Harper: Indefinite leave to remain (ILR) is a status granted in the UK, not overseas, so no applications for indefinite leave to remain were made at UK Border Agency posts overseas.

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for leave to enter were considered at (a) overseas posts and (b) the UK Visa Section in Croydon in (i) 2010, (ii) 2011 and (iii) 2012. [140189]

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, provided in response to this question and appearing in the following table provide the latest available published statistics (2010 and 2011) for entry clearance visa applications issued only (see following table).

Entry clearance visas: applications, resolved(1), issued and refused, 2010 and 2011					
			<i>of which</i>		
<i>2010</i>	<i>Applications received</i>		<i>Issued</i>	<i>Refused</i>	<i>Withdrawn or lapsed</i>
Total	2,529,964	2,553,896	2,144,642	379,584	29,670
<i>of which</i>					
Decided in Croydon	24,743	—	15,638	9,105	—

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130204/text/130204w0001.htm#13020440000049>

Immigration

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish any reports that she has received containing estimates of the number of Romanians and Bulgarians who may enter the UK after 31 December 2013. [140558]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Home Office is not aware of any Government report which estimates such numbers, and has not commissioned estimates of this sort. The Government accepts the view of the independent Migration Advisory Committee that to produce such estimates “would not be sensible, or

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helpful to policymakers.” Rather than produce speculative forecasts, the Government's priority is to cut out abuse of free movement and address pull factors such as access to benefits and public services. The Home Office is working closely with other Government Departments on these issues.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130205/text/130205w0001.htm#13020571000022>

Entry Clearances

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken was for the UK Border Agency to process visa applications in each of the last five years. [141304]

Reply to Mark Harper: The following table shows the average time taken to process visas in each of the last five years. This data relates to all visas processed, and is expressed in working days excluding weekends and public holidays.

Processing times are calculated from the day of biometric enrolment to the day the decision is dispatched to the customer.

	<i>Working days</i>
2008	7.1
2009	8.3
2010	8.6
2011	8.0
2012	8.2

This data is based on internal UK Border Agency Management Information. It is provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130205/text/130205w0001.htm#13020571000016>

Entry Clearances

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken was to make a decision on an application for a sponsorship licence in the latest period for which figures are available. [140159]

Reply from Mark Harper: The average length of time taken to process a sponsorship application in the latest period 1 July 2012 to 30 September 2012 was 41 calendar days.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what target her Department has adopted for the time between promulgation of an entry clearance appeal determination when the appellant is successful and the issuing of entry clearance to that appellant. [140518]

Reply from Mark Harper: Entry clearance appeals are considered on the basis of the facts at the time of the original application not at the date of the appeal hearing. An allowed appeal means that the immigration judge has ruled that the entry clearance officer (ECO) was wrong to refuse entry clearance not that the applicant is entitled to entry clearance.

If the applicant still wants to travel, the ECO should normally issue entry clearance within eight weeks of receiving the determination unless:

there has been a significant and material change in circumstances since the refusal decision of which the HM Courts and Tribunal Service would be unaware;

or

there has been a material deception which has come to light of which the immigration judge would not have been aware; or

the results of checks that were instigated prior to refusing the application came

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back after the appeal was heard.

If the above circumstances apply, Visa Sections abroad should first consider challenging the determination.

The target is 90% within eight weeks.

The UK Border Agency is currently meeting this target.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130204/text/130204w0001.htm#13020440000044>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visa checks have been waiting for more than the guideline time for a response. [140388]

Reply from Mark Harper: The UK Border Agency carries out various checks prior to making a decision on any visa application, including Tier 4 applications.

For non-settlement visas the UK Border Agency aims to complete 90% of applications within three weeks, 98% within six weeks and 100% within 12 weeks. In 2012 the UK Border Agency completed 94% of Tier 4 visa applications within three weeks, 99% within six weeks and 100% within 12 weeks.

The latest Home Office immigration statistics on entry clearance visas applications and visa grants are published in the release Immigration Statistics, which is available at:

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

A copy of the latest release, 'Immigration Statistics July to September 2012' has been placed in the House Library.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130204/text/130204w0001.htm#13020440000045>

Overseas Students: Employment

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government is taking to reduce the length of time taken to process applications for employment registration certificates made by Bulgarian and Romanian students. [141796]

Reply from Mark Harper: For Bulgarians and Romanians applying under the student arrangements, the UK Border Agency is considering applications within five months.

In the second half of 2012, the UK Border Agency did not meet its published service standard of deciding 99% of postal applications from Bulgarian and Romanian applicants within six months. This was due to unexpectedly high application volumes across a number of immigration routes.

Extra staff were allocated to process these applications and by 7 January 2013, all applications made prior to 30 June 2012 had been decided except for a small number that required further information from customers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130206/text/130206w0002.htm#130206110000063>

Asylum

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking with her European counterparts to encourage asylum seekers to claim asylum in the first EU member state they arrive in. [140594]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Government has opted in to the amended Dublin Regulation which was given political agreement by the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 6 to 7 December 2012. The Government believes that it is in the UK's

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interests to continue our participation in the Dublin System which encourages asylum seekers to claim asylum in the first safe country and ensures that we can tackle 'asylum shopping' across the EU. Since 2004 the Dublin system has enabled the UK to remove over 10,000 asylum applicants.

It is also firmly in the UK's interests that other EU member states have well functioning border and asylum systems. We believe that this is best achieved through practical assistance to help member states build capacity; improve the quality of their asylum systems and by sharing best practice. The Government supports the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) which is leading this work, focusing in particular on assistance to Greece and the development of an 'early warning' system to prevent future migration crises.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130204/text/130204w0001.htm#13020440000038>

Asylum: Sexuality

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum cases were granted on the grounds of persecution because of sexuality in each month from July 2010 until December 2012. [139383]

Reply from Mark Harper: The UK Border Agency publishes immigration statistics annually and quarterly.

These are available from the Home Office Research and Statistics website. They can be found here:

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

Published statistics are not disaggregated according to the basis of the asylum claim. Consequently the requested information is not available through published statistics. The reasons for asylum being granted cannot be determined without undertaking a manual search of records. Nor is it possible to identify all cases in which asylum was granted on the basis of sexual orientation without manually checking records. In both cases to do so would incur disproportionate costs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130204/text/130204w0001.htm#13020440000039>

Detention Centres: Internet

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which websites detainees at immigration detention centres are blocked from accessing. [140095]

Reply from Mark Harper: The details of individual blocked websites are not held centrally and could be obtained only by examination of information held at each immigration removal centre (IRC) at disproportionate cost.

Internet access is not standardised across all IRCs, although a review of access is being undertaken to address this.

Most suppliers operating IRCs on behalf of the UK Border Agency use specialised software which screens out prohibited categories of sites or sites whose addresses contain prohibited key words rather than blocking individual website addresses. Prohibited categories are based on safety and security concerns.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130204/text/130204w0001.htm#13020440000043>

Asylum: Detainees

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether refugees and asylum seekers held in detention centres have access to social networking sites; [141310]

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(2) whether refugees and asylum seekers held in detention centres have access to (a) the Refugee Council, (b) the UN Refugee Agency, (c) the Home Office, (d) the High Court and (e) Refugee Radio websites. [141311]

Reply from Mark Harper: Social networking sites are one of the prohibited categories that detainees are not allowed to access.

The websites of the Refugee Council, the UN Refugee Agency, the Home Office, the High Court and Refugee Radio do not fall into any of the prohibited categories that screening software would block out.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130206/text/130206w0002.htm#130206110000053>

Detention Centres: Children

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were detained for immigration purposes in (a) 2010-11 and (b) 2011-12. [142105]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Home Office publishes monthly, quarterly and annual statistics on the number of children detained in the UK within Immigration Statistics. The data on children entering detention by quarter are readily available in the latest release, Immigration Statistics: July-September 2012, table dt.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/>

Figures on people held are those detained in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers and exclude those in police cells, Prison Service establishments, short term holding rooms at ports and airports (for less than 24 hours), and those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants.

Data for October-December 2012 and annual figures for 2012 will be released as part of the regular Home Office publication scheme on 28 February 2013.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130207/text/130207w0001.htm#13020782000012>

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Attorney-General pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 156-7, how many (a) prosecutions and (b) convictions for human trafficking there have been in each of the last three years; and where that information is publicly recorded. [140578]

Reply from the Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) collects data to assist in the effective management of its prosecution functions; it does not collect data which constitutes official statistics as defined in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007.

Since April 2010, all CPS areas are required to place an electronic flag on the CPS Case Management System (CMS) from the pre-charge stage for all cases of human trafficking. This includes all cases which have commenced as a human trafficking charge but then proceed to prosecution on a different charge or result in a conviction for a different offence, and 64 cases where human trafficking was the main offence. These cases were not recorded separately as my earlier answer suggested. This will be recorded in the CPS Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) annual report. The following table shows the number and outcome of cases flagged as human trafficking for the last three years to date.

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<i>CPS: Human trafficking flagged prosecutions</i>						
	2010-11		2011-12		2012-13(1)	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Convictions	73	70.9	94	66.2	78	70.3
Unsuccessful	30	29.1	48	33.8	33	29.7
Total	103	—	142	—	111	—

(1) 1 April 2012 to 7 January 2013 *Notes:* 1. Convictions comprise guilty pleas, convictions after trial and proceedings which are proved in absence. 2. Unsuccessful outcomes comprise prosecutions dropped, administrative finalisations, discharged committals and cases acquitted or dismissed following a contested hearing.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130204/text/130204w0003.htm#1302051000008>

Developing Countries: Human Trafficking

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what steps she is taking to help victims of human trafficking return to their countries of origin and provide reintegration support; [140825]

(2) which organisations and countries are in receipt of Government funding for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of human trafficking to their country of origin; and what the value of such funding is; [140826]

(3) how many victims of human trafficking and slavery have been returned to their country of origin; and how much funding her Department has provided to help with their reintegration to date. [141350]

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: Responsibility for helping victims of trafficking return to their countries of origin rests with the UK Border Agency (UKBA), with support from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). The Department for International Development (DFID) supports reintegration for victims of trafficking indirectly through its contribution to the Returns and Reintegration Fund, jointly managed by UKBA, FCO, DFID and Ministry of Justice. In 2012-13, DFID contributed £2 million.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130205/text/130205w0004.htm#13020579000055>

Human Trafficking: Children

Mr Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures the UK Border Agency has put in place to identify possible child trafficking victims. [141512]

Reply from Mark Harper: The UK Border Agency and Border Force play vital roles in disrupting trafficking attempts abroad and detecting trafficking both at the border and within the UK. All front-line staff are trained in child safeguarding and to spot indicators of human trafficking; multi-agency child safeguarding and investigation teams are in place at the UK's major ports; and a system of alerts and other intelligence tools are used to give officers the information they need to intervene in cases of suspected trafficking.

The UK Border Agency and Border Force are also two of the key agencies involved in the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the UK's framework for identifying and supporting trafficking victims. Together with other front line agencies such as the police, local authorities and voluntary sector organisations, the NRM shares information and expertise that can be used to confirm victim status and ensure appropriate care is provided.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130204/text/130204w0001.htm#13020440000047>

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Human Trafficking: Children

Henry Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to rehabilitate children who have been trafficked into the UK. [141511]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Government is fully committed to safeguarding victims of child trafficking.

Where a child has been trafficked and is identified as a child in need, the local authority must carry out an assessment to establish the child's support needs. Where a child is likely to suffer, or is suffering, significant harm, the local authority must investigate under section 47 (child protection) and provide the necessary support services. Those that come into care, and this includes unaccompanied migrant children, receive the full range of support and care that all looked after children are entitled to. A social worker must assess the needs of each child and draw up a care plan which sets out how the authority intends to respond to the full range of the child's needs. This includes access to health, education, psychological support and appropriate and safe accommodation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130205/text/130205w0001.htm#13020571000019>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Sarah Teather (1019) Asylum support rates – That this House believes that Britain can rightly be proud of its history of welcoming those fleeing persecution and war; welcomes the cross-party parliamentary report on asylum support for children and families; notes with concern the finding of that report that current asylum support levels are leaving up to 10,000 children destitute or in severe poverty; further believes that section 4 support rates are especially austere and that cashless payments impose damaging restrictions on how families buy essential items; further notes that asylum support rates have not been increased since April 2011; regrets that the previous Government broke the historic link between support rates for asylum seekers and income support; calls on the Government to increase asylum support rates so that they are at least equal to 70 per cent of income support and to up-rate support rates annually; and further calls on the Government to abolish section 4 support and implement a single cash-based support system.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2012-13/1019>

Press Releases

Illegal immigrants living in 'beds in sheds' arrested in clampdown

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/ealing-illegal-immigrants>

More funding for refugees: "The way we handle asylum seekers is frankly unacceptable"

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/content/20130201STO05566/html/More-funding-for-refugees-The-way-we-handle-asylum-seekers-is-unacceptable>

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New Publications

UK Parliament Justice Committee: Interpreting and translation services and the Applied Language Solutions contract

Vol 1 <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmjust/645/645.pdf>

Vol 2 <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmjust/645/645vw.pdf>

In search of normality: Refugee integration in Scotland

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0000/5498/4093_SRC_Refugee_Integration_Doc_V4.pdf

News

Bulgarians 'will not flock to UK'

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/bulgarians-will-not-flock-to-uk-1-2774152>

The UK's approach to Bulgarian and Romanian immigration makes me sick with shame

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/feb/05/uk-bulgarian-romanian-immigration-shame>

Romanians in UK feel pressure of negative immigration publicity

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/feb/04/romanian-community-negative-immigration-publicity>

Gay Iranian boxer has final chance to earn UK stay

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/gay-iranian-boxer-has-final-chance-to-earn-uk-stay-1-2775806>

'Gay' Iranian boxer wins fight over asylum case

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/gay-iranian-boxer-wins-fight-over-asylum-case.20129800>

Scottish justice failing child-trafficking victims

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/politics/scottish-justice-failing-child-trafficking-victims-1-2778267>

The UK is failing in its duty to protect vulnerable asylum seekers

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/feb/04/uk-failing-duty-vulnerable-refugees>

'Inhuman and degrading': Gay asylum seekers feel they must go to extreme lengths to prove their sexuality, including filming themselves having sex

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/inhuman-and-degrading-gay-asylum-seekers-feel-they-must-go-to-extreme-lengths-to-prove-their-sexuality-including-filming-themselves-having-sex-8480470.html>

Linguistic loners: It's OK if you're a Polish expat in Britain but are there any Amharic speakers in the house?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/linguistic-loners-its-ok-if-youre-a-polish-expat-in-britain-but-are-there-any-amharic-speakers-in-the-house-8487817.html>

Bar on migrant workers 'leads them to stay longer in UK and bring families'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/feb/10/immigration-restrictions-encourage-longer-stay>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Asylum seekers unable to volunteer at Commonwealth Games

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/1899_asylum_seekers_unable_to_volunteer_at_commonwealth_games

Refugees find 'asylum hangover' is bad for their health

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/1898_refugees_find_asylum_hangover_is_bad_for_their_health

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Race Relations

News

Travellers want a say on new sites

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/travellers-want-a-say-on-new-sites.20103108>

Race matters – but it must not be a bar to adoption

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/feb/05/race-matters-not-bar-adoption>

Govanhill: Glasgow's Ellis Island

<http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/scotland/govanhill-glasgow-s-ellis-island-1-2783217>

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Equality

News

Police chief Dal Babu criticises ethnic recruitment

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-21317806>

Google searches expose racial bias, says study of names

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-21322183>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Section 74 convictions

Anne McTaggart: To ask the Scottish Government how many convictions there have been under section 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003, broken down by (a) financial year and (b) procurator fiscal area. (S4W-12269)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: The question asks for figures on the number of 'convictions' under Section 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act. However, the figure that is normally counted in the statistical bulletins on criminal

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Question (continued)

proceedings is 'offences with a charge proved'. This is because convictions may include a number of charges and the database on convictions records only the main charge (the charge that attracts the most severe penalty). If we were to provide the number of convictions, this is unlikely to provide a full measure of the use of the Act. For example, in 2011-12, while there were 369 convictions in Scotland where the main charge was religiously aggravated, the total charges proved with a religious aggravation was 518. The following table therefore provides figures on the number of charges proved under Section 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003 in each of the three procurator fiscal federations for the last eight financial years. (With effect from April 2012, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service aggregated their previous 11 areas into three larger geographical areas known as federations, namely North, East and West.) Charges proved with a religious aggravator recorded, by Procurator Fiscal area, 2004-05 to 2011-12

PF Area	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
North	9	10	13	12	21	20	15	27
East	22	26	34	35	45	48	53	77
West	169	297	308	295	356	291	313	414
Total	200	333	355	342	422	359	381	518

Source: Scottish Government Criminal Proceedings Database.

The totals were published in November 2012 in the statistical bulletin Criminal Proceedings in Scotland, 2011-12 (in Table 2 of the additional datasets section). Further information on the recording of offence aggravators can therefore be found in that bulletin at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Datasets/DatasetsCrimProc/OffAgg1112>.

Figures on the number of religiously aggravated offences that resulted in a conviction in 2011-12 were also published in "Religiously Aggravated Offending in Scotland 2011-12" (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/11/7685/0>). It should be noted that the cases examined in this publication are not directly comparable to those provided in the above table. While the above table counts the number of charges proved in 2011-12 for religiously aggravated offending, the report is based on the number of religiously aggravated charges that occurred in 2011-12. Charges that occur in one year may not be proved in court until the following year.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-12269&ResultsPerPage=10>

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S4M-05616 James Dornan: Congratulating XChange Scotland—That the Parliament congratulates XChange Scotland on its Make Sectarianism a History Lesson project; notes that the project aimed to help young people in Glasgow find out more about sectarianism and to provide a positive space for discussion and a platform for creative self-expression; notes that the posters that were created during the project will be displayed in schools and communities across Glasgow; considers its work and the work of all other stakeholders key in educating Scots both young and old about the futility of sectarianism, and supports all efforts to ensure that the next generation of Scots will read about sectarianism in history books and not in newspapers.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-05616&ResultsPerPage=10>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) Press Release

Religious persecution condemned

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/02/religious06022012>

News

Travellers tell MSPs of 'harassment and abuse'

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/travellers-tell-msps-of-harassment-and-abuse-1.67955>

Can Googling be racist?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/feb/05/can-googling-be-racist>

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Other Holyrood

Debate

Human Rights

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7729&mode=html#job_70537

Parliamentary Motions

S4M-05556 Roseanna Cunningham: Promoting and Protecting Human Rights – Scotland, Europe and the Wider World—That the Parliament reaffirms the importance in a modern, democratic Scotland of the values proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; acknowledges and asserts the inalienable rights enumerated in the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and enshrined in international treaty; dedicates itself once more to the vision of an inclusive Scotland that respects, protects and realises the human rights of all; commends the work of the Scottish Human Rights Commission, Scotland's independent national human rights institution; looks forward to the development of Scotland's first national action plan for human rights over the course of 2013, and embraces the opportunities presented by Scotland's engagement in the wider world to promote respect for the universal and indivisible rights of all of humanity.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-05556&ResultsPerPage=10>

S4M-05556.1 Patrick Harvie: Promoting and Protecting Human Rights – Scotland, Europe and the Wider World—As an amendment to motion S4M-05556 in the name of Roseanna Cunningham (Promoting and Protecting Human Rights – Scotland, Europe and the Wider World), insert at end "; welcomes the First Minister's suggestion that an independent Scotland could guarantee constitutional rights to its citizens and believes that such a constitution should be developed in an open and participative way, but considers that there would be great value in enshrining the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its associated covenants and conventions, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, into a

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Motions (continued)

written constitution for Scotland."

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-05556.1&ResultsPerPage=10>

S4M-05556.2 Jenny Marra: Promoting and Protecting Human Rights – Scotland, Europe and the Wider World—As an amendment to motion S4M-05556 in the name of Roseanna Cunningham (Promoting and Protecting Human Rights – Scotland, Europe and the Wider World), insert at end ", and believes that tackling human trafficking should be an essential part of the national action plan for human rights, including a clear commitment to review the current law to ensure that the crime of human trafficking is defined as clearly and comprehensively as possible."

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-05556.2&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Releases

The transition to an independent Scotland

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/02/transition-paper05022013>

More support for victims and witnesses

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/02/victimsandwitnesses07022013>

Chinese New Year

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/02/China10022013>

Scottish Parliament re-nominates Scottish Human Rights Commission Chair

<http://scottishhumanrights.com/news/latestnews/article/remonination2013>

New Publication

Scotland's Future: from the Referendum to Independence and a Written Constitution

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0041/00413757.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Press Release

Crime Minister speaks out against female genital mutilation

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/Browne-speaks-out-FGM>

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Other News

UK donors put charity before treats

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/uk-donors-put-charity-before-treats-1-2774151>

Other News (continued)

Scots jails 'unaffected by halal meat row'

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/scots-jails-unaffected-by-halal-meat-row-114523n.20085231>

Statement on the International Day against Female Genital Mutilation

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

Religious arbitration in family law cases

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article3678779.ece>

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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>

** Victims and Witnesses Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/59133.aspx>

Bill as introduced

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Victims%20and%20Witnesses%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b23s4-introd.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Victims%20and%20Witnesses%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b23s4-introd.pdf)

Explanatory notes

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Victims%20and%20Witnesses%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b23s4-introd-en.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Victims%20and%20Witnesses%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b23s4-introd-en.pdf)

Policy memorandum

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Victims%20and%20Witnesses%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b23s4-introd-pm.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Victims%20and%20Witnesses%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b23s4-introd-pm.pdf)

Delegated powers memorandum

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Victims_and_Witnesses_Bill_DPM_-_Final.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/130205/am/130205s01.htm>

and

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmpublic/crimeandcourts/130205/pm/130205s01.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmpublic/crimeandcourts/130207/am/130207s01.htm>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2012-2013/0115/amend/psc1150502a.119-122.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2012-2013/0115/amend/psc1150502m.101-107.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2012-2013/0115/amend/psc1150702m.157-161.html>

**** Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill**

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

Bill as amended in Grand Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2012-2013/0083/2013083.pdf>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2012-2013/0083/amend/am083-b.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2012-2013/0083/amend/am083-a.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

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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**** this week!**

**Ethnicity & In-work Poverty Research Workshop
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

**** this week!**

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.

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, mental health and wellbeing, and inclusive recruitment. For information see <http://bemis.org.uk/conference/poe/poe-conference-programme.pdf> or contact 0141 548 8047 / conference@bemis.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Mainstreaming Equalities

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.

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.

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/>

Useful Links (continued)

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

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

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

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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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