

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

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S4M-05800 Jenny Marra: EHRC Inquiry into Human Trafficking in Scotland—That the Parliament congratulates the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) on the publication of its progress report on human trafficking in Scotland subsequent to the recommendations of what is considered its groundbreaking inquiry in December 2011; welcomes the progress since the original inquiry report, particularly the commitment by ministers to introduce a statutory human trafficking aggravation to Scots criminal law as well as the Human Trafficking Summit in October 2012 and the subsequent Anti-trafficking Progress Group (ATPG); looks forward to the APTG reporting back on activity on a range of specific action points over the next 18 months, however, considers that, in light of both the EHRC's recommendations and the most recent evaluation of the UK's implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, more remains to be done in areas such as a comprehensive review of legislation on human trafficking, better information-sharing between statutory partners, asset recovery and ensuring that victims of human trafficking are identified early, given

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Motion (continued)

appropriate support and treated consistently as victims of a profound human rights violation.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-05800&ResultsPerPage=10>

Westminster Debate

Asylum Support (Children and Young People)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130227/halltext/130227h0001.htm#13022755000001>

Westminster Ministerial Statements

Charging for Immigration and Nationality Services 2013-14

The Minister for Immigration (Mr Mark Harper): I am announcing proposals to change the fees for immigration and nationality applications made to the UK Border Agency and services provided by the agency. The Government review these fees on a regular basis and make appropriate changes as necessary.

In developing these proposals, the UK Border Agency has sought to limit most increases to 3%, which is in line with recent measures of inflation. There are further targeted increases for applications made within the UK, where the value of the entitlements provided to successful applicants is greater, and new fees for European residence documents.

The UK Border Agency has given careful consideration to its fee levels, to ensure they provide the funding necessary to operate effective immigration controls and invest in improving service levels to customers. This is balanced against the need to ensure that the UK continues to attract and welcome the “brightest and best” migrants from around the world and those that make a valued contribution to British society. Given the ongoing need to reduce public spending, we believe it is right that we continue to reduce the contribution made by UK taxpayers towards delivering the immigration system by asking those who use and benefit directly from the system to make a greater contribution.

For certain application categories, we will continue to set fees higher than the administrative cost to reflect their value to successful applicants. This helps to provide resources to run the UK immigration system and enables the agency to set lower fees elsewhere in support of wider Government objectives to attract those businesses, workers, students and visitors who most benefit the UK.

I have laid regulations for fees set higher than cost. In addition, I will shortly lay another set of regulations in Parliament for fees set at or below cost. Further details explaining all fees changes are provided in the explanatory memoranda for both sets of regulations. Subject to parliamentary approval the Government intend to bring new fees into force from 6 April 2013.

To continue reading the lengthy statement see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130225/wmstext/130225m0001.htm#13022520000008>

Immigration Concession for Syrian Nationals

The Minister for Immigration (Mr Mark Harper): I am today announcing the renewal of concessions to the immigration rules for Syrian nationals lawfully in the UK.

In the light of the ongoing violent conflict in Syria it has been decided that the UK Border Agency (UKBA) should continue to operate some discretion to enable Syrians legally in

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

the UK to extend their stay here.

Syrians in the UK with valid leave (or leave which has expired within the last 28 days) in specified visa categories will continue to be able to apply to extend their stay in that visa category, or switch into a different specified category from within the UK (with some restrictions) rather than being required to return home first. Those applying will still need to meet the requirements of the relevant visa category, pay the appropriate fee, and adhere to the normal conditions of that category—no access to public funds, for example. If a required document is not accessible due to the civil unrest in Syria UKBA may apply its discretion and the requirement to provide that document may be waived where appropriate. These concessions will remain in force for one year from today. The Government continue to monitor the situation in Syria closely in order to ensure our response is appropriate and that any emerging risks are addressed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130228/wmstext/130228m0001.htm#1302284400004>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration

Lord Lester of Herne Hill: To ask Her Majesty's Government what evidence they have as to the effect of frequent changes to the Immigration Rules on charities and lawyers that help with immigration applications.[HL5230]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The Government are aware of the cumulative impact on charities and lawyers which frequent changes in the Immigration Rules may have. Over the past two years, the Government have made major reforms to the work, study and family immigration routes to bring net migration to the UK back towards sustainable levels and restore public confidence in the immigration system. While we will make further adjustments where these are needed to achieve the Government's objectives, we anticipate that, with the principal measures now in place, there should be a period of relative stability in policy and therefore in the Immigration Rules. However, we will need to make rules changes where policy change is desired, where legal judgments require or where stakeholders have raised practical issues. The Government will endeavour to ensure this is done in an orderly manner.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what provisions are in place to assist destitute migrants residing in the United Kingdom who are not entitled to access to public funds.[HL5264]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): There are strict legal controls on foreign nationals' entitlement to claim specified income-related and disability benefits and social housing (public funds). These are necessary to protect the taxpayer from additional burdens arising from migration. Controls also apply to the eligibility of non-EEA and EEA nationals with community care needs to receive safety net national assistance support from local authorities in cases of destitution. Such support is only available in limited circumstances, where children are involved or where human rights would otherwise be breached. In other cases, migrants are expected to avoid the consequences of destitution by returning to their own countries. The UK Border Agency is working with local authorities to produce a comprehensive record of all migrants in receipt of local authority support so these cases can be dealt with more effectively.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130225w0002.htm#13022514001901>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Married People

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration applications for residence as the spouse of an EU citizen are outstanding (a) six months and (b) one year after the claimant's biometrics were taken. [143890]

Reply from Mark Harper: European Economic Area nationals and their families are not required to have biometrics taken when making an application to the UK Border Agency.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many live appeals there are against refusal of leave to remain as a spouse; [143891] (2) how many immigration appeals against refusal of leave to remain as a spouse are outstanding (a) six months and (b) one year after the appeal was made. [143893]

Reply from Mark Harper: The UK Border Agency does not record information on the number of live outstanding appeals in a format which would enable it to answer these questions. Undertaking an exercise to manually collate these figures would incur disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130225/text/130225w0006.htm#13022610000109>

Immigration: Applications

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases at the UK Border Agency for (a) first time applications for family cases, (b) applications for extensions for visit visas and (c) settlement applications extensions following the two year probationary period are outstanding. [141042]

Reply from Mark Harper: The requested numbers of outstanding family, visit and settlement extension applications are shown in the following table:

<i>Applications awaiting decision by case type as of 27 January 2013</i>	
<i>Case type</i>	<i>Total</i>
(a) Family(1)	24,549
(b) Visiting the UK*	162
(c) Settlement	29,766

(1) Figures relating to 'Family' and 'Visiting the UK' applications relate to both first time applications and extensions. To disaggregate the data would incur disproportionate costs. *Notes:* 1. All figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. 2. Figures relate to main applicants only. 3. Figures relate to postal and premium applications, 4. Figures relate to applications pending a decision as of 27 January 2013. 5. Applications cannot be completed until we have received applicants' biometric data and it is sometimes necessary for us to undertake further checks on the evidence submitted in support of applications, or to request further evidence be submitted to clarify what is being claimed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130228/text/130228w0001.htm#13022873000023>

Migration

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they are currently undertaking with the Governments of (1) Romania, and (2) Bulgaria, with regard to the perception of life in the United Kingdom in those countries; and if they are not holding such discussions, whether they intend to do so.[HL5269]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): No such discussions have taken place and there are no current plans to do so. The Government are, however, considering ways to reduce the pull factors for migration to the UK.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Ashcroft: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of studies conducted in Bulgaria suggesting large numbers of the population of that country are planning to emigrate to the United Kingdom after 1 January 2014. [HL5505]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: Her Majesty's Government are not aware of any such studies.

The Government accept the view of the independent Migration Advisory Committee that to produce estimates of the number of Romanians or Bulgarians planning to emigrate to the UK after January 2014 "would not be sensible, or helpful, to policymakers". The Government's priority is to cut out abuse of free movement and to 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/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130225w0002.htm#13022514001913>

Immigration

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many (a) blue and (b) yellow immigration cards were issued to Romanian and Bulgarian citizens in each year since 2006; [141700]

(2) how many claims for (a) blue and (b) yellow immigration cards from Romanian and Bulgarian citizens are outstanding. [141701]

Reply from Mark Harper: The number of blue and yellow immigration cards issued to Romanian and Bulgarian citizens in each year since 1 January 2007 is shown in the following table. The cards were not introduced until Bulgaria and Romania acceded to the EU.

<i>Bulgarian and Romanian blue and yellow registration certificates issued between 1 January 2007 to 30 September 2012</i>			
<i>Year of issue</i>	<i>Blue route</i>	<i>Yellow route</i>	<i>Total</i>
2007	8,074	18,851	26,925
2008	8,300	11,622	19,922
2009	10,860	11,230	22,090
2010	11,107	10,144	21,251
2011	13,664	11,804	25,468
2012	4,787	4,356	9,143
Total	56,792	68,007	124,799

Notes: 1. The figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. 2. Figures relate to main applicants and dependants. 3. Figures relate to A2 cases with decision despatched date between 1 January 2007 and 30 September 2012 and with a blue or yellow route outcome. 4. Figures for 2012 cover the period January to September 2012.

A blue or exempt card would be issued to a Bulgarian or Romanian applicant who is exempt from worker restrictions because they have completed 12 months legal employment in the UK, or they have applied under the Highly Skilled Migrant or International Graduate Schemes. Dependants of exempt applicants would also qualify under this category.

A half blue card would be given to dependants of Bulgarian and Romanian applicants, where the applicant has proved that they are exercising their treaty rights. It entitles the dependants to work without restrictions in the UK.

A yellow card would be issued to someone who has registered on the scheme through either self-employment, self-sufficient or the student routes. Students

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qualify for exemption if they have completed 12 months of legal employment. Outstanding applications are not categorised by the blue/yellow format until after a decision has been made. The information requested could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130228/text/130228w0001.htm#13022873000022>

Schools: Immigration

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has set aside any funding for any increase in school pupil numbers as a result of inward migration from Romania and Bulgaria. [144763]

Reply from David Laws: The Department for Education does not hold back any capital funding for school places. To date, in the current spending review period, we have allocated £2.7 billion to local authorities in order to support them in providing additional pupil places. This funding is allocated using data on the forecast demand for places provided by local authorities, who will factor in a range of demographic considerations to their forecasts, including inward migration. We will announce future allocations shortly.

Over the whole spending review period we will spend more than £5 billion on school places—compared to only £1.9 billion in the previous spending review period (2007-11).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130301/text/130301w0003.htm#13030166000163>

Immigration Controls

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for further leave to remain under tier 1 immigration remain outstanding (a) four weeks after biometrics were taken, (b) three months after biometrics were taken and (c) longer than three months after biometrics were taken. [143894]

Reply from Mark Harper: The following table show the numbers of Tier 1 postal applications with biometrics enrolled, pending decisions.

<i>Applications work in progress (WIP)</i>	<i>Number of cases</i>
0 to 1 month (0 to 4 weeks)	2,409
1 to 3 months	1,733
Over 3 months	2,833
Total	6,975

Notes: 1. All figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. 2. Figures relate to main applicants only. 3. Figures relate to Tier 1 postal applications only. 4. Figures relate to Tier 1 cases in work in progress (WIP), pending a decision. 5. Time in WIP based on the average number of calendar months from biometric enrolment or case creation date to 14 February 2013.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130227/text/130227w0001.htm#1302284000045>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many tier 4 immigration applications were not completed within three weeks in the latest period for which figures are available. [143252]

Reply from Mark Harper: Of the 234,715 Tier 4 visa applications resolved overseas in 2012, 14,938 (6.4%) were not processed within three weeks. The remaining 219,777 (93.6%) Tier 4 cases were completed within three weeks. The

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UK Border Agency service standard is to process 90% of visa applications within three weeks, so the service standard was exceeded in 2012.

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130228/text/130228w0001.htm#13022873000018>

Entry Clearances

David Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa decisions were withdrawn by the UK Border Agency before they went to tribunal in 2012; and what the cost of those decisions was. [142301]

Reply from Mark Harper: A total of 11,637 (3.4%) out of country visa decisions were withdrawn by the UK Border Agency before they went to tribunal in 2012.

(1) The figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

(2) Figures relate to main applicants and dependants.

(3) Figures for 2012 cover the period January to December 2012.

(4) Figures extracted from the UK Border Agency's Central Reference System.

It is not possible to estimate the cost associated with decisions withdrawn before an appearance is made before the tribunal, as this information has not been collated within the normal course of business and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130228/text/130228w0001.htm#13022873000017>

Entry Clearances: Appeals

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the changes in visa application rules implemented in June 2012, how many appeals against visa refusals as a result of these changes have been submitted in (a) the UK, (b) Scotland and (c) Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency; how many such appeals were successful; how many such appeals went to tribunal; and what the cost to the Exchequer was of such appeals. [142908]

Reply from Mark Harper: In June 2012 changes to the immigration rules for family settlement visas were laid before Parliament. These changes were implemented on 9 July 2012. Additionally, the Government laid the Immigration Appeals (Family Visitor) Regulations 2012 which were also implemented on 9 July 2012, and which changed the categories qualifying for a full right of appeal against the refusal of a visa to visit a family member in the UK.

HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) collate data relating to appeals, which is published and available at:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/tribunals/quarterly>

Appeals data is affected by various factors and is not solely linked to these particular policy changes. Consequently, the data cannot be broken down in the way that you have requested.

Appeal costs can range from approximately £900 in lower cost appeal types, such as visit visa appeals, to more than £1,800 in more complex appeal types.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130225/text/130225w0005.htm#13022610000096>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Entry Clearances: Fees and Charges

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the target time is for refunding visa fees to the public where these are owed by her Department; [144127]

(2) what estimate she has made of the amount owed to members of the public by her Department in refundable visa fees; [144128]

(3) what estimate she has made of the (a) average and (b) longest time taken by her Department to refund fees owed to members of the public in relation to visas in the latest period for which figures are available. [144129]

Reply from Mark Harper: There is no target time for refunding visa fees, as our policy is only to issue refunds on an exceptional basis. Visa decisions are made at decision making hubs, outside the UK (with the exceptions of the two visa sections that are in the UK, in Sheffield and Croydon). Refunds are only issued: where a customer has applied for a visa and paid the fee, but withdraws their application prior to submitting their biometric data—that is, where we have not begun to process their application (e.g.: if the customer changes their mind about travelling to the UK, or where a customer has applied and paid for the wrong visa, or where a customer has paid twice in error)

if it is apparent that there has been maladministration of the application.

Refunds are issued by the decision making hub that received the visa application.

No estimate is made of outstanding refunds.

The time taken to issue refunds relating to visa applications made outside the UK is not recorded as it not a regular business activity.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130227/text/130227w0001.htm#1302284000040>

Asylum

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in each of the last 10 years, how many asylum applications were received; how many asylum decision were made; how many of those decisions were to

(a) approve the application,

(b) refuse the application and

(c) grant temporary leave to remain; how many failed applicants were removed; how many cases were unresolved, with the total time since the application was given in year bands; and in how many cases all files have been lost. [143065]

Reply from Mark Harper: Table 1 shows asylum applications received and decisions made and Table 2 shows number of removals between 2002 and 2011. Figures relate to main applicants and dependants.

It is not possible within these figures to say at what stage in the asylum process individuals have reached at the time of their removal, including whether their claim has failed at that point, as those departing voluntarily can do so at any stage without necessarily notifying the UK Border Agency (UKBA).

Following a change to the published categories that separated removals and voluntary departures, figures for 2002 and 2003 are not directly comparable with those for 2004 onwards.

Table 3 shows the number of asylum cases pending at the end of 2011, broken down by total time since application. 'Pending' cases are those asylum applications from applicants, including fresh claims, lodged since 1 April 2006 which were still under consideration at the end of 2011.

Annual figures on asylum applications and decisions and asylum cases pending are published in Table as .02 and annual figures for removals from 2004 are

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published in Table rv.01 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/>

The latest annual figures published are for 2011. 2012 figures will be published on 28 February 2013.

Home Office records are managed in accordance with relevant legislation and established policy. Within the UKBA staff are made aware of the importance of managing information securely and carefully to prevent unauthorised disclosure and to protect the agency's and the public's interest. It is important for the organisation to note those cases where records cannot be immediately located.

Recording a record or part of a record as "lost" on the File Tracking System is simply an indication that a member of staff has been unable to locate it at a particular point in time. It does not signify that a record has actually physically been 'lost' or what action has been taken to locate a record and experience shows that in many cases a more thorough search might result in the record or the missing part of the record being successfully located. We do not record such cases by calendar year.

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2013, *Official Report*, column 21W, on asylum, what assessment she has made of the efficacy of (a) the Dublin System, (b) the European Asylum Support Office and (c) other measures in tackling asylum shopping; and if she will make a statement. [143258]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Dublin System plays an important role in establishing the member state responsible for determining an application for asylum. The Government is committed to the Dublin System, as it reinforces the principle that asylum should be claimed in the first safe country and helps tackle the problem of people making multiple claims in different EU member states. Since 2004, we have removed over 10,000 asylum applicants under the Dublin System which has resulted in significant financial savings and has also sent a powerful message that the UK can and will act against those who try to abuse our asylum system.

The Government is broadly satisfied with the progress that the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) has made since its creation in 2010. We fully support the work EASO has carried out so far and believe it has made a meaningful contribution to member states, such as Greece, that are in need of practical cooperation and capacity building measures. The Government is also pleased that EASO has taken on and further developed a number of practical cooperation measures which have already been undertaken in recent years, such as a common approach to information on countries of origin and the establishment of the European Asylum Curriculum.

We also look forward to the establishment of the Early Warning and Preparedness System which will be a vital tool to ensure that member states can adequately respond to any particular asylum pressures they may face.

There are no plans for the Secretary of State for the Home Department to make a statement in relation to this issue.

To read the lengthy tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130225/text/130225w0003.htm#13022610000080>

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many asylum legacy cases are outstanding; [143978]

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(2) how many outstanding asylum legacy cases have been identified as being criminal to date; [143979]

(3) when she expects the non-criminal asylum legacy cases to be completed. [143980]

Reply from Mark Harper: Rob Whiteman's letter to the Home Affairs Select Committee of 18 December 2012 noted that, as of 19 November 2012, there were 40,900 live legacy cases. This breaks down between 33,900 asylum cases and 7,000 migration cases.

These are complicated cases that will take time to work through. It is important that we do everything possible to ensure every attempt is made to consider each one in detail, reach the right decision and take appropriate action.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130225/text/130225w0003.htm#13022610000080>

Asylum

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the (a) average, (b) range and (c) maximum length of time is for which asylum seekers in receipt of section 95 support had been receiving that type of support in the last 12 months. [134459]

Reply from Mark Harper: We do not hold data on the amount of time people stay on section 95 support in a format that is compatible with National Statistics protocols. It is possible to provide an indication of the average time by taking a snapshot of the management information available about the current section 95 population. The average time is 525 days and more than half of these cases have been supported for less than one year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130227/text/130227w0001.htm#13022840000036>

Asylum Seekers

The Lord Bishop of Ripon and Leeds: To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to ensure that the rate of financial support for children and their families needing asylum support while they are in the United Kingdom is adequate to prevent children being left destitute. [HL5707]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The level of support provided to asylum seekers and their children is kept under review, but the Government are satisfied that it is sufficient to meet their essential living needs and prevent them being left destitute.

The Lord Bishop of Ripon and Leeds: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to uprate the level of financial support for children and their families needing asylum support while they are in the United Kingdom. [HL5708]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: There are no current plans to change asylum support rates. However, we will continue to keep them under review. Any changes to the rates will be notified to Parliament.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130228w0001.htm#13022847000265>

Asylum: Pregnant Women

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many pregnant women in receipt of Section 95 support from the UK Border Agency were dispersed or relocated in (a) 2009, (b) 2010, (c) 2011 and (d) 2012; [144823]

(2) how many pregnant women in receipt of Section 4 support from the UK Border Agency were dispersed or relocated in (a) 2009, (b) 2010, (c) 2011 and (d) 2012. [144824]

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Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many pregnant women and new mothers in receipt of (a) Section 95 and (b) Section 4 support from the UK Border Agency attempted suicide in (i) 2009, (ii) 2010, (iii) 2011 and (iv) 2012; [145084]

(2) how many pregnant women were receiving (a) Section 95 and (b) Section 4 support from the UK Border Agency in (i) 2009, (ii) 2010, (iii) 2011 and (iv) 2012. [145086]

Reply from Mark Harper: The information could be provided only by examining individual case records, which would result in disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130228/text/130228w0001.htm#13022873000014>

Immigrants: Detainees

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department uses a risk-based assessment to determine whether to detain individuals at immigration removal centres; and if she will publish any relevant assessment criteria. [145351]

Reply from Mark Harper: Decisions to detain are taken on an individual basis in the light of all relevant circumstances known. The factors which should be considered and the guidance available to assist UK Border Agency officers in reaching these decisions are published in Chapter 55 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance.

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/enforcement/detentionandremovals/chapter55.pdf?view=Binary>

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to set a maximum period of detention at immigration removal centres. [145352]

Reply from Mark Harper: There are no plans to set a maximum period for detention at immigration removal centres.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130228/text/130228w0001.htm#13022873000021>

Deportation

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to ensure that the UK Border Agency complies with the recommendations of HM Inspectorate of Prisons on the treatment of children and pregnant women in removal practices. [143231]

Reply from Mark Harper: The UK Border Agency considers all HM Inspectorate of Prisons recommendations carefully and responds to them formally with a service improvement plan, copies of which are placed in the House Library.

The recommendation that force should never be used to effect the removal of pregnant women or of children has been rejected. Established principles for managing difficult or violent behaviour by pregnant women and children are already in place which emphasise verbal de-escalation and persuasion techniques and engaging with family members, including children, to help them work through their concerns and the source of their anxiety. Only as a last resort is non-compliance or violence managed through other means, by staff who have received the appropriate training. Physical intervention is subject to a vigorous risk assessment and undertaken on a planned basis with the authority of a senior member of staff. The UK Border Agency is working to develop a behaviour policy for children to ensure that they continue to be protected throughout the Returns Process, including during stays at Cedars Pre-Departure Accommodation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130225/text/130225w0005.htm#13022610000092>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking

Lord McColl of Dulwich: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children identified as potential victims of human trafficking have gone missing from local authority care in each financial year from 2005-6 up to and including 2011-12; and what mechanisms are in place to monitor the problem.[HL4890]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Nash): Data on the number of children who go missing from their care placements for more than 24 hours are collected by the Department for Education and shown in the table below. While these figures will include some children who may have been trafficked, it is not possible to disaggregate the number of trafficked or potentially trafficked children.

There are however significant differences between the data collected by DfE and the police on children who go missing from care. We want better, consistent data, and more importantly, better practice to keep these young people safe. An expert group on data has been looking at this issue and has made recommendations.

We will pilot a new data collection over the next few months. This will, for the first time, collect information on all children who go missing from their placement, not just those missing for 24 hours, enabling better analysis and more effective practice to safeguard these young people. Local authorities have an overall statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This includes preventing and mitigating the risk of them going missing from care. Local authorities work in close co-operation with the police and the UK Border Agency to support, and provide protection for, potentially trafficked children. Our forthcoming revised statutory guidance on children who go missing from home or care will include advice on how to safeguard trafficked children. We have also asked the Refugee Council and the Children's Society to carry out a review of the practical care arrangements for children in care who may have been trafficked.

Years ending 31 March 2006 to 2012							
Coverage: England							
	numbers						
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Children looked after who went missing during the year	890	970	980	930	820	950	1,510

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130226w0001.htm#13022685000540>

Press Releases

Net migration continues to fall

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/net-migration-feb-28>

Revisions to the codes of practice for skilled migrant workers

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2013/march/01-codes-of-practice>

Codes of Practice for skilled migrant workers

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/parliamentary-business/written-ministerial-statement/skilled-migrant-workers/>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

Equality (Language Analysis – Palestinian, Syrian and Kuwaiti Testing) Authorisation

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/parliamentary-business/written-ministerial-statement/equality-language-auth-wms/>

New Publications

Immigration Statistics October - December 2012

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q4-2012/>

Monthly asylum application tables - December 2012

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

Children entering detention held solely under Immigration Act powers January 2013

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/child-detention-jan2013?view=Binary>

When maternity doesn't matter

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0002/6402/When_Maternity_Doesn_t_Matter_-_Ref_Council_Maternity_Action_report_Feb2013.pdf

Children First and Foremost

<http://picum.org/picum.org/uploads/publication/Children%20First%20and%20Foremost.pdf>

News

Foreign students to stay in migration figures

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-21592765>

Pregnant asylum seekers failed by border officials

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/pregnant-asylum-seekers-failed-by-border-officials-1-2808021>

Pregnant asylum-seekers 'at risk' of developing mental and physical health problems

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/pregnant-asylumseekers-at-risk-of-developing-mental-and-physical-health-problems-8508623.html>

UKBA's dispersal policy 'puts pregnant asylum seekers at risk' says report

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/feb/25/pregnant-asylum-seekers-dispersal>

Sierra Leone man given chance for Scots asylum

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/sierra-leone-man-given-chance-for-scots-asylum-1-2805975>

UK net migration falls by a third

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-21614086>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Sharp drop in immigration is due to fewer foreign students

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/sharp-drop-in-immigration-is-due-to-fewer-foreign-students-8515760.html>

Net migration to UK drops to 163,000

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/feb/28/net-migration-to-uk-drops>

Net migration falls by a third after clampdown on bogus students

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/9900125/Net-migration-falls-by-a-third-after-clampdown-on-bogus-students.html>

Analysis: Net migration

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/9900727/Analysis-Net-migration.html>

The real cost of falling migration numbers

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/feb/28/real-cost-falling-migration-numbers>

BBC criticised for treating immigration campaign group as 'neutral analysts'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/feb/27/bbc-immigration-campaign-group-neutral>

MPs launch inquiry into immigration from Bulgaria and Romania

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9904804/MPs-launch-inquiry-into-immigration-from-Bulgaria-and-Romania.html>

Romanians and Bulgarians snap up 175,000 jobs in the UK already... and that's before the borders have even opened

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2287116/Romanians-Bulgarians-snap-175-000-jobs-UK--thats-borders-opened.html>

28,000 Romanians are held for crimes in UK over 5 years... and there are only 68,000 of them living here!

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2285177/28-000-Romanians-held-crimes-UK-5-years--68-000-living-here.html>

Romanian crime a 'matter of concern' for Scotland Yard

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article3699134.ece>

Up to one in three Romanians arrested, figures show

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/9896121/Up-to-one-in-three-Romanians-arrested-figures-show.html>

Romanian PM: 'We will not rush to Britain'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/romanian-pm-we-will-not-rush-to-britain-8509579.html>

Clampdown on NHS care for migrants

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Society/article1224542.ece

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Race Relations

News

Neighbourhood ethnic segregation: has it decreased?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2013/feb/27/neighbourhood-ethnic-segregation-decreased>

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Equality

News

Oxford University accused of bias against ethnic minority applicants

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2013/feb/26/oxford-university-ethnic-minority-applicants>

Oxford and Cambridge universities need to tackle race issues head-on

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/feb/28/oxford-cambridge-universities-race-issues>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Caste

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Women and Equalities (Mrs Helen Grant): This Government believe that no one should suffer prejudice because of caste. That is why we have been giving the issue careful consideration in order to identify the most appropriate and effective way of tackling the problem.

We are therefore pleased to announce that the Government Equalities Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government have appointed Talk for a Change to engage with the affected communities to run an educational programme to help tackle this complex and sensitive issue.

Talk for a Change will be working with interested organisations and individuals, particularly from within the Hindu and Sikh communities, to find practical solutions to the problems and harm that caste-based prejudice can cause. Talk for a Change has extensive experience of facilitating difficult conversations and working with local partners to address tough issues, helping to build positive relationships and resilient communities. This educational programme will be used to raise awareness of those channels of help and redress that are already open to those who feel themselves to have been victims of caste discrimination or harassment. The programme will also be used to generate educational material that will subsequently be made available to local authorities, schools, colleges, employers, police and any others who may be likely to come into contact with caste-related issues.

Talk for a Change will be engaging with partners from local communities to deliver regional events in London, the midlands and the north. Participation in these events will be open to all individuals and organisations who wish to take part in this opportunity.

We believe that this programme will be an appropriate and targeted way of dealing with incidents relating to caste and which are not already susceptible to criminal law or other remedies. We have decided not to exercise the caste power contained in the Equality Act

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

2010 at the present time—though we have no plans to remove the power from the Act, in case the position should change.

In addition to the work being done by Talk for a Change, we have also been in discussion with the Equality and Human Rights Commission about caste discrimination. The Government Equalities Office and the commission have agreed that the latter can usefully contribute to this issue by examining over the next few months the nature of caste prejudice and harassment as evidenced by existing studies, and the extent to which this problem is likely to be addressed by either legislative or other solutions. The commission will publish its findings later in 2013.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130301/wmstext/130301m0001.htm#13030170000002>

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Islam

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Attorney-General what assessment he has made of the draft guidelines issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions on social media crimes in preventing Islamophobia online; and if he will make a statement. [144625]

Reply from the Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) views all religious and racist crime seriously as it has a real and lasting effect on individuals, communities and society as a whole. Interim guidelines on prosecuting cases involving communications sent via social media were issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in December 2012, and they are intended to help prosecutors when considering cases referred to them by the police for a prosecution decision. The religiously aggravated element of any offence is a relevant consideration in the interim guidelines and prosecutors should follow the approach set out in the guidelines when dealing with such cases.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130225/text/130225w0001.htm#1302266000017>

News

Anti-sectarian legislation 'working well'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-21626656>

Lothian and Borders Police in racist and sexist email probe

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-21591295>

Fears over police misuse of anti-sectarian powers

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/fears-over-police-misuse-of-anti-sectarian-powers.20366385>

15 arrested and smoke bombs hurled at police as English Defence League confront anti-fascist group

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2287027/15-arrested-smoke-bombs-hurled-police-English-Defence-League-confront-anti-fascist-group.html>

Stephen Lawrence inquiry 'could have been turning point' for UK policing

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/mar/01/stephen-lawrence-turning-point-policing>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Fan banned for sectarian song at Ibrox

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/fan-banned-for-sectarian-song-at-ibrox-1-2814286>

Jews face 'volatile synergy of hate' in Europe, Republicans warn

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/us-politics/9898856/Jews-face-volatile-synergy-of-hate-in-Europe-Republicans-warn.html>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Questions

Post-mortems (West of Scotland)

Duncan McNeil (Greenock and Inverclyde) (Lab): 6. To ask the Scottish Government what action the Cabinet Secretary for Justice will take to reduce delays in post-mortems in the west of Scotland. (S4O-01854)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Kenny MacAskill): NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, which provides mortuary services for the two west of Scotland health boards—NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and NHS Lanarkshire—and for the procurator fiscal in its Southern general hospital mortuary facility in Glasgow has advised that there are currently no delays to those services, with the hospital post-mortems being carried out within three to four working days.

All post-mortem examinations that are requested as a result of deaths reported to the procurator fiscal on Friday 22 February 2013 were scheduled for examination at the Southern general hospital on Thursday 28 February, which is within the three to four working days period.

Since December 2012, almost all the post-mortem examinations that are instructed by the procurator fiscal in the west of Scotland are being undertaken at the newly established Southern general hospital mortuary facilities in Glasgow. That state-of-the-art, modern mortuary facility has replaced the services that were previously provided at the 80-year-old Glasgow city mortuary, which has now closed. The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Services works with the national health service and the pathologists who conduct the post-mortem examinations at the Southern general mortuary facility, and all are committed to ensuring that the post-mortem process is conducted timeously.

Duncan McNeil: I thank the cabinet secretary for that response, although the information that I have is clearly different from the information that his officials have provided to him. I am sure that the cabinet secretary appreciates the traumatic experience of a sudden death in any family. The information that I have is that the average wait for a post-mortem in the Southern general hospital is 10 days. It can go beyond that, of course. In a recent, but not isolated, incident in my constituency, my constituent's mother passed away on the seventh of the month, the post-mortem did not take place until the 22nd and the funeral could not take place until the 26th. I am sure that the cabinet secretary would agree that that is an unacceptable wait for any bereaved family, and that it adds to the trauma of a sudden death.

Will the cabinet secretary work with the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing to investigate those matters and end the unacceptable delays that affect bereaved families in the west of Scotland?

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: I certainly agree that a sudden death is traumatic for the relatives and that we must look after the interests of those who are suffering.

I understand that the matter has been raised previously in correspondence by Mr McNeil. That correspondence was passed to Mr John Green, the head of the Crown Office's Scottish fatalities investigation unit, to consider. Mr Green telephoned Mr McNeil's office on 1 February 2013. I understand that Mr McNeil was absent, but Mr Green spoke to one of Mr McNeil's staff, appraised him of the situation and indicated that he would be happy to discuss anything further with Mr McNeil upon his return. So far, I understand that no follow-up contact has been received by Mr Green, but I suggest that Mr Green is still willing to engage with Mr McNeil and that, in order to try to achieve the outcome that Mr McNeil and I agree on, which is a reduction in the trauma for the victims, Mr McNeil should speak to Mr Green.

Duncan McNeil: Mr Green confirmed the details that I have outlined this morning, which contradict the cabinet secretary. There was a 10-day wait, according to Mr Green. However, the point is that there are two cabinet secretaries involved in this matter—the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing. Since I spoke to Mr Green, I have asked the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing questions about the issue. Both cabinet secretaries should get together and get it sorted.

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: Under the constitutional arrangements, it is the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service that deals with this matter. ...

That is perfectly appropriate, because it is challenged to look after the best interests of our communities. It does so in an impartial way, and that is how post-mortems are carried out. I suggest, therefore, that Mr McNeil should take up Mr Green's offer to discuss the matter. The Government is happy to do what we can—my colleague, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing will deal with the particular medical matters—but post-mortems are a matter for the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, and Mr McNeil would do well to speak to Mr Green, the head of the Crown Office's Scottish fatalities investigation unit, who called him on 1 February.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7772&mode=html#iob_70896

Voluntary Sector

Anne McTaggart: To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the reported budget restraints facing local authorities, what action it is taking to support the voluntary sector in delivering high-quality services. (S4W-12808)

Reply from John Swinney: The Scottish Government will be providing local government in Scotland with over £9.7 billion in revenue funding in 2013-14. The vast majority of this funding, including any funding to support the voluntary sector will be provided by means of a block grant. It is the responsibility of each local authority to allocate the total financial resources available to it on the basis of local needs and priorities having first fulfilled its statutory obligations and the jointly agreed set of national and local priorities including the Scottish Government's key strategic objectives.

Full and early involvement of the third sector in the co-production of service design and planning is likely to lead to arrangements that are satisfactory to all parties and the role of the community planning partnership is key here. The Scottish Government also supports the third sector by supporting the network of local third sector interfaces and through Ready for Business and Just Enterprise.

The Scottish Government is implementing a shift to preventative spending, with

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

specific funding of £500 million over the three year period to 2014-15 to encourage joint working across the public sector in adult social care, early years and tackling re-offending. The funding will support a transition across public services away from dealing with the symptoms of disadvantage and inequality towards tackling their root causes. The third sector has a crucial role to play in delivery, because of its specialist expertise, its ability to engage with vulnerable groups and its flexible and innovative approach. We are working across Government and with the third sector and the public sector to ensure that the role of the third sector in preventative spending can be maximised.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-12808&ResultsPerPage=10>

Charities

Mark McDonald: To ask the Scottish Government whether charities that have authority to operate in Scotland but are registered only in England and Wales have to meet the same registration conditions in Scotland. (S4W-13119)

Reply from John Swinney: By law in Scotland only bodies which are entered in the Scottish Charity Register may refer to themselves as a “Scottish charity” or “a charity registered in Scotland”.

Some bodies which operate from other parts of the UK or abroad can call themselves a “charity”, but they must also refer to the fact that they are based in another country e.g. “a charity registered in England and Wales” or “a French charity”. Additionally, they cannot occupy land or premises or carry out activities in shops etc. in Scotland.

The regulation of English and Welsh charities is set out in separate Westminster legislation, principally the Charities Act 2011.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-13119&ResultsPerPage=10>

Charities

Mark McDonald: To ask the Scottish Government whether the use of door-to-door collection bags by charities is subject to the same rules as other types of charitable collection. (S4W-13120)

Reply from John Swinney: The current public charitable collection legislation provides for the collection from the public of money for charitable purposes taken either in a public place or by means of visits from place to place.

Sections 84 to 92 of the Charities and Trustees (Scotland) Act 2005, which have not yet been commenced, set out a new system of licensing public benevolent collections, which includes collections of money, direct debits and goods.

In 2010 officials conducted a consultation with local authorities on introducing the provisions of sections 84 to 92. The consultation findings showed there was little appetite for changing the current regulatory scheme and a number of local authorities voiced concern that any new licensing scheme could be an unnecessary administrative burden.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-13120&ResultsPerPage=10>

Charities

Mark McDonald: To ask the Scottish Government what action can be taken against charities that operate without authority. (S4W-13121)

Reply from John Swinney: Under the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (the Act) the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) has a variety

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

of powers to investigate charities (including those calling themselves charities that may not actually be charities) and bodies which are controlled by charities.

Following an inquiry OSCR has further powers to take action. These powers include directing a body which is not actually a charity to stop representing itself as such. Where there has been misconduct, OSCR can suspend any person who is involved in the management of the charity where that person has been responsible for or has contributed to the misconduct. OSCR can also direct the charity so to limit the transactions it can enter into without OSCR's consent, and it can direct financial institutions not to part with money held on behalf of a charity (i.e. freeze bank accounts). Charity fundraising is mostly governed on a self-regulating basis and the Fundraising Standards Board is the independent self-regulatory body in the UK. There are some additional provisions about fund raising by professional bodies in the Act.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-13121&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Release

Proposals to transform Scotland's courts

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/02/courts27022013>

News

Post-mortems backlog leads to funeral delays

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/post-mortems-backlog-leads-to-funeral-delays.20388714>

Funeral delay agony for Glasgow families

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/funeral-delay-agony-for-glasgow-families-117113n.20368507>

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Other Westminster

News

Cameron vows to end horror of mutilation

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/Politics/article1224515.ece>

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Other News

Scotland achieves Fair Trade Nation status

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-21571772>

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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>

Victims and Witnesses Bill

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

Bills in Progress Westminster

Draft Communications Data Bill

Draft Bill as published

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

**** Crime and Courts Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2012-2013/0137/amend/psc1372702a.807.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2012-2013/0137/amend/psc1372802a.809-810.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2012-2013/0137/amend/psc1372702a.807.html>

**** Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2012-2013/0083/amend/su083-ia.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2012-2013/0083/amend/su083-ib.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>

Consultations (continued)

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>

Victims and Witnesses Bill (closing date 9 April 2013)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/59875.aspx>

** Asylum (closing date 15 April 2013)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/asylum/>

Making Justice Work - Courts Reform Bill (closing date 24 May 2013)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/02/5302/downloads>

Tackling Racism Through Youth Work (no closing date given)

<http://www.crer.org.uk/survey-for-youth-workers>

** Our Communities, Your Duties (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KN9FT6N>

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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!*

Beyond 2011

5 March 2013 in Edinburgh (choice of 10.00 – 12.00 and 2.00 – 4.00)

8 March 2013 in Edinburgh (choice of 10.00 – 12.00 and 2.00 – 4.00)

11 March 2013 in Edinburgh (choice of 10.00 – 12.00 and 2.00 – 4.00)

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>

and to book see <http://beyond2011.eventbrite.co.uk> or contact Gemma Jackson 0131 314 4299 / Beyond2011@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

More information about Beyond 2011 is available on the Knowledge Hub site <https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk/web/scottishbeyond2011programmebeyond2011scotland/welcome>

** *this week!*

Multicultural Musical Evening

5 March 2013 in Glasgow (6.00 – 8.00)

Concert organised jointly by BEMIS and the St Patrick's Festival with Irish, Lebanese/Palestinian and other musicians who will explore their individual musical identities. For information see <http://www.glasgowstpatricksfestival.co.uk/#!/multicultural-event/cq4r>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

St Patrick's Festival

5 – 17 March 2013 in Glasgow

Festival to promote and celebrate the rich Irish cultural heritage of Glasgow and Scotland. For information see http://www.glasgowstpatriksfestival.co.uk/#!whats_on/c66t.

Ethnic Minority 3rd Sector Network

13 March 2013 (10.30 – 3.00)

BEMIS and Cemvo seminar on using the Public Sector Equality Duties to influence better equality practice and outcomes. For information contact Fiaz Khan 0141 248 4830 / Fiaz.khan@cemvoscotland.org.uk or Graham O'Neill 0141 548 8047 / graham.oneill@bemis.org.uk or see http://bemis.org.uk/event_calendar.html or

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

14 March 2013 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

30 April 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.

**** Race Equality in Scotland: The Next 10 Years**

21 March 2013 in Glasgow (4.00 – 7.00)

Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights symposium to discuss the landscape of race equality in Scotland today, and what it may look like in 10 years' time. For information contact Nadia Rafiq nadia@crer.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/c7aw8ao>.

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>.

**** The Essentials of Asylum: understanding what causes refugees to flee and the process of seeking protection**

28 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 contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/bf86cuy>.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** UKBA asylum support**

8 May 2013 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore the support arrangements available to asylum seekers from the beginning to the end of the asylum process. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/9l2b3te>.

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

30 May 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 contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/c9wuzp9>.

**** Working with interpreters**

30 May 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 contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/c8k983b>.

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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

Useful Links (continued)

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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