

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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Due to the Jewish festival of Pesach, the next two issues of MEMO will be published on Friday 22 and Friday 29 March.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S4M-05905 Patricia Ferguson: Remzije Sherifi, Refugee Woman of the Year—That the Parliament notes that Remzije Sherifi has been named as Refugee Woman of the Year at the Migrant and Refugee Woman of the Year Awards in London; notes that Remzije, known as Rema, fled civil war in Kosovo to come to Glasgow in 1999; understands that, since then, Rema has undertaken a great amount of voluntary work, including running the Maryhill Integration Network where, along with three staff and 60 volunteers, she operates a programme of weekly activities in health, learning and art and dance; further understands that Rema was one of the first female radio journalists in Kosovo and continues to use her journalism skills as a volunteer with *Migrant Voice*, a free newspaper written by migrants to the UK; believes that Rema has previously been

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Motion (continued)

recognised for her work in the community when she was named *Evening Times* Community Champion in the north of Glasgow and when she was nominated for Scotswoman of the Year in 2009; believes that this further accolade is just recognition for all the work that Rema has carried out since coming to the UK, and congratulates her on achieving this award.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-05905&ResultsPerPage=10>

Westminster Debate

Immigration Rules: Sponsors

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130314/debtext/130314-0004.htm#13031445000004>

Westminster Ministerial Statements

Immigration Rules

The Minister for Immigration (Mr Mark Harper): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before the House a statement of changes in immigration rules as set out below.

Minor changes will be made to the general visitor rules to guard against abuse by those whose repeat visits amount to de facto residence.

New provisions are being made in the tier 1 (graduate entrepreneur) route, which we introduced last year. The category is being expanded to include additional places for talented MBA graduates from UK higher education institutions (HEIs) and to accommodate UK Trade and Investment's elite global graduate entrepreneur scheme, which was announced by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor in his autumn statement and will target the brightest and best entrepreneurs from overseas HEIs.

Changes are being made to the tier 1 (exceptional talent) route, for world leaders in science, engineering, humanities and the arts. These changes split the application process so that applicants will no longer have to pay the full fee up front, or have their passports held by the UK Border Agency while a designated competent body is considering whether to endorse them.

Changes are being made to tier 2, the route for skilled migrant workers with a job offer from a licensed employer. These changes further improve flexibility for intra-company transferees and for employers carrying out the resident labour market test. They also update the shortage occupation list, codes of practice for employers, overall salary thresholds and minimum appropriate salary rates for individual occupations, following reviews by the Migration Advisory Committee. I have also made changes that will remove the need to continually lay further rules changes to renew the tier 2 (general) limit. This means that the limit will continue to be set at 20,700 places per year unless further rule changes are made to amend it. We have previously confirmed that the current limit will remain in place until April 2014.

Changes are being made to tier 4, recently announced by the Home Secretary, that will extend the opportunities for talented graduates to stay and work after their studies. All completing PhD students will be allowed to stay in the UK for one year beyond the end of the course to find skilled work or to set up as an entrepreneur.

The provisions in tier 5 for temporary workers coming to the UK under the relevant commitments in certain international trade agreements to which the UK is a party are being updated.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

The changes will delete temporary immigration rules which facilitated the entry and stay of certain Olympic and Paralympic participants and personnel during the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. The rules ceased to have effect on 9 November 2012.

Minor changes are being made to the immigration rules on long residence and on work-related settlement, including clarifying the treatment of time spent working; in business or self-employment; or other economic activity in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

Minor changes and clarifications are being made to the immigration rules relating to family and private life, mainly reflecting feedback from legal practitioners and UK Border Agency caseworkers on the operation of the new rules.

The changes also include the removal of the now obsolete provision in the immigration rules for parents and siblings of EEA national children who exercise free movement rights in the UK as self-sufficient persons, following the amendment of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 to create provision for such persons which is compliant with European and domestic case law. This provision gave effect to the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the case of Chen (C200/02).

In the subsequent case of M (Chen parents: source of rights) Ivory Coast [2010], the upper tribunal found that “Chen” carers persons have a right of residence under European law. This determination effectively prevented the UK Border Agency continuing to require Chen carers to apply for leave under the immigration rules, because section 7 of the Immigration Act 1988 says that a person who has “an enforceable Community right” shall not require leave to enter or remain in the UK.

Amendments were made to the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 (“the regulations”) on 16 July 2012 to recognise a right of residence for persons with a derivative right of residence on the basis of Chen and to create provision for such persons to be issued with documentation confirming this right under the regulations. This provision rendered paragraphs 257C-E of the immigration rules obsolete, as all applications for a document confirming a right of residence on the basis of Chen are now assessed under the regulations.

Changes will be made to safeguard against an offender returning to the UK lawfully but in breach of a conditional caution. It replicates the effect of paragraph 320(7B)(vii) of the general grounds for refusal.

A new protection route is being introduced recognising stateless persons who are unable to leave the UK. According to article 1(1) of the 1954 UN convention an individual is stateless if they are not considered to be a national of any state under the operation of its law.

This new route has been formulated in line with the 1954 convention relating to the status of stateless persons in co-operation with UNHCR and Asylum Aid. It is limited in its scope and requires applicants to demonstrate that they are stateless and cannot leave the UK.

Changes are being made to ensure the requirements necessary for granting discretionary leave to unaccompanied asylum seeking children are within the immigration rules.

Finally, there are also a number of minor technical changes, corrections and updates to lists contained in the immigration rules. Details of these are set out in the explanatory memorandum laid today to accompany the changes.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130314/wmstext/130314m0001.htm#13031441000008>

Translation into Foreign Languages

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): In February 2012, I published my Department’s approach to integration, “Creating the Conditions for Integration” and in December 2012, I published “50 ways to save:

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

examples of sensible savings in local government". The latter recommends: "Stop translating documents into foreign languages: Only publish documents in English. Translation undermines community cohesion by encouraging segregation. Similarly, do not give community grants to organisations which promote segregation or division in society".

I would like to reaffirm my Department's approach to the use of translation and interpretation services for foreign languages by local authorities.

Some local authorities translate a range of documents and other materials into languages spoken by their residents, and provide interpretation services. While there may be rare occasions in which this is entirely necessary—for instance in emergency situations—I am concerned that such services are in many cases being provided unnecessarily because of a misinterpretation of equality or human rights legislation. Such translation services have an unintentional, adverse impact on integration by reducing the incentive for some migrant communities to learn English and are wasteful where many members of these communities already speak or understand English.

They are also very expensive and a poor use of taxpayers' money. Independent research has suggested that local authorities alone spend nearly £20 million a year translating a variety of documents. Across the wider public sector, it has been estimated that translation and interpretation costs reached over £100 million in 2006.

Of course, local authorities must comply with the duties set out in the Equalities Act 2010, including the duty not to discriminate and the public sector equality duty. But this is not a legal duty to translate documents into foreign languages. Even if publishing only in English could put some people at a particular disadvantage, such a policy may be justified if local authorities can demonstrate that the integration and cost concerns pursue a legitimate aim and outweigh any disadvantage. The equality duty does not require a particular outcome, merely that public authorities consider all the relevant factors.

Obviously, there are broader challenges with communication with groups who may have poor levels of literacy or learning difficulties. But this can be addressed by use of plain English, easy read versions of documents and using pictures instead of translation. My Department will be practising what we preach in the materials we are producing as part of our Fire Kills fire safety education campaign.

Stopping the automatic use of translation and interpretation services into foreign languages will provide further incentive for all migrant communities to learn English, which is the basis for an individual's ability to progress in British society. It will promote cohesion and better community relations. And it will help councils make sensible savings, at a time when every bit of the public sector needs to do its bit to pay off the deficit left by the last Administration.

For the avoidance of doubt, this statement effectively replaces the Department's "Guidance for Local Authorities on Translation of Publications" published under the last Administration in 2007.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130312/wmstext/130312m0001.htm#13031234000003>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Migration Advisory Committee

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 4 March (WA 370), whether the primary purpose of the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) remains the provision of "independent, transparent and evidence-based advice to Government on where labour market shortages exist that can sensibly be filled by migration"; and whether they will widen the MAC's Stakeholder

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Panel to include sectors of the economy such as local government and representatives of the unemployed.[HL6041]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The remit of the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) is as I described it in my Written Answer of 4 March (WA 370) and includes providing advice on labour market shortages. There are no plans at present to alter the constitution of the Stakeholder Panel. The MAC reaches out to a wide range of organisations in its work and employs a number of mechanisms for taking on board the views of those with an interest in its work, including workshops, face-to-face meetings and issuing open calls for evidence.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130314w0001.htm#13031444001040>

Visas

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 4 March (WA 367), how many employers are licensed by the UK Border Agency to sponsor migrants under tiers 2 and 5 of the points-based system; what fee they pay annually; for how long a registration is valid; and whether they will publish the figures of how many workers are sponsored each year by each registered employer.[HL6040]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): There were 26,179 employers on the tier 2 and tier 5 register on 2 January 2013.

There is no annual fee for a sponsor licence. The fee for a tier 2 sponsor licence only is £500 for a small sponsor or an organisation with charitable status and £1,500 for a medium or large sponsor. The fee for a tier 5 licence only is £500. Licences are granted for a four year period.

There are currently no plans to publish data relating to individual sponsoring employers, however the quarterly statistics are kept under review, taking into account the needs of users, burdens on suppliers and producers, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Home Office publishes information about the sponsorship register and on numbers of sponsored applications for visas and for extensions, within the quarterly Immigration Statistics (tables cs.01 to cs.05).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130314w0002.htm#13031444001046>

Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009

Baroness Doocoy: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all UK Border Force officials working at St Pancras International station and the related controls in France and Belgium are subject to Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009, which requires the UK Border Agency to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.[HL6023]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): All Border Force officials working at St Pancras International station have a legislative duty of care under Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 which requires Border Force to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The duty of Border Force staff to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 is required to be discharged within the United Kingdom and does not extend overseas. However, as a matter of principle, Border Force officers at juxtaposed controls work within

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the spirit of the legislation. Officers at all juxtaposed controls maintain a high degree of vigilance and work to safeguard and protect vulnerable children and those who may potentially be trafficked.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130314w0001.htm#13031444001020>

Immigration: Married People

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many in-country applications for further leave to remain as a spouse are outstanding (a) six months and (b) one year after the claimant's biometrics were taken; [143892]

(2) how many in-country applications for further leave to remain as a spouse are being processed by the UK Border Agency; [143897]

(3) what progress she has made in reducing waiting times for in-country applications for leave to remain as a spouse since service improvement plans for such applications were implemented; [143898]

(4) how many in-country applications for leave to remain as a spouse are held by the UK Border Agency; [143930]

(5) how many in-country applications for leave to remain as a spouse are outstanding (a) six months and (b) one year since the claimant's biometrics were taken. [143931]

Reply from Mark Harper: The UK Border Agency does not hold the data in the format requested.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130312/text/130312w0001.htm#13031270000043>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many nationals of other EU member states who are classified as qualified persons under the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 (a) have and (b) do not have comprehensive sickness insurance cover in the UK; and how many such nationals (i) have and (ii) do not have sufficient resources not to become a burden on the social assistance system of the UK. [143747]

Reply from Mark Harper [*holding answer 25 February 2013*]: 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 for documentation to evidence their rights.

The UK Border Agency has strict checks in place to ensure that those EU nationals who apply for registration documentation meet the requirements set out in the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006, including where appropriate the requirement to hold comprehensive sickness insurance.

For those who do choose to make an application, the data requested is not recorded centrally and the cost required to answer this would be disproportionate.

Tackling the abuse of free movement rights and reducing the pull factors, which attract migrants to the UK are priorities for the Home Office. As part of this work, I am chairing a cross-Government group of Ministers to examine controls on immigrants' access to benefits and public services.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130312/text/130312w0001.htm#13031270000042>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people who have applied for a student visa in the UK have been waiting more than four weeks for a decision on their application; [140185]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

(2) what the average waiting time for student visa applications made inside the UK was in (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and how many such applicants waited more than four weeks for a decision on their application. [140186]

Reply from Mark Harper: As of 24 February 2013 a total of 16,391 tier 4 student applications had been waiting more than four weeks for a decision.

The average waiting and processing times for tier 4 in-country student applications are provided in the following tables.

Table 1: Average processing time based on despatch date, 1 January 2010 to September 2012

<i>Despatch years</i>	<i>Tier 4 (days)</i>
2010	49
2011	41
2012 (January to September)	84

Table 2: Tier 4 applications taking more than four weeks 1 January 2010 to 30 September 2012

<i>Despatch years</i>	<i>Tier 4 (number)</i>
2010	102,406
2011	78,553
2012 (January to September)	48,647

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 (i.e. submitted at Public Enquiry Offices) applications. 4. Processing time is based on the average number of calendar days between the application raised (i.e. received) and decision despatch date.

In country growth in average processing time is due to increased intake across Temporary Migration routes. We have committed additional resource to the tier 4 route in response to the increased processing times. We anticipate achieving the current service standard; to consider 80% applications within four weeks of an applicant registering their biometrics, from April 2013.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130313/text/130313w0001.htm#13031377000024>

Higher Education: Foreign Students

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 4 March (WA 367), for how long non-European Union students sponsored by a licensed employer under tier 2 of the points-based system because of an offer of an approved graduate-level job paying at least £20,000 have leave to remain in the United Kingdom; whether such time qualifies toward obtaining United Kingdom nationality; why the figure of £20,000 was chosen; what checks are made to ascertain whether students take up the jobs offered; whether there is a cap on numbers in that category; and how many such applications have been made to date.[HL6043]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The maximum period someone is permitted to stay in the United Kingdom under the tier two (general) category of the points-based system is six years. Such time can count towards obtaining British citizenship.

The £20,000 threshold is based on analysis by the Migration Advisory Committee in 2009, which found that £20,000 was roughly equivalent to the 30th percentile of the earnings distribution for full-time workers. They concluded that it is difficult to argue that a job paying less than this is sufficiently skilled to qualify for tier 2.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Tier 2 sponsors are required to report to the UK Border Agency if a migrant they intend to sponsor and to whom they have assigned a certificate of sponsorship does not take up the post offered to them. UK Border Agency compliance officers conduct visits to tier two sponsors to check that they are making these required reports.

There is no cap on the numbers of non-European Economic Area students permitted to switch into tier two (general) from tier four or any of its predecessor student immigration categories.

It is not possible to say how many applications have been made by non-European Economic Area students because this would incur disproportionate costs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130314w0001.htm#13031444001033>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Lester of Herne Hill: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the report by Maternity Action and the Refugee Council *When Maternity Doesn't Matter: Dispersing Pregnant Women Seeking Asylum*, they will review the UK Border Agency's policies on the treatment of pregnant women seeking asylum, and in particular those who have high-risk pregnancies because of serious health conditions having fled torture, sexual violence or female genital mutilation in their own countries.[HL5908] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will implement the recommendations for the UK Border Agency and the Department of Health made in the report by Maternity Action and the Refugee Council *When Maternity Doesn't Matter: Dispersing Pregnant Women Seeking Asylum*; and, if so, when. [HL5909]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The UK Border Agency's policies relating to pregnant asylum seekers were revised in August 2012, following widespread consultation. The report by the Refugee Council and Maternity Action drew conclusions from a limited sample of cases that were dealt with before those revised policies came into effect. The policies are none the less kept under continuous review and the recommendations of the report are being considered by the UK Border Agency and the Department of Health. Some of the recommendations are covered by work that is already ongoing.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130311w0001.htm#13031129001115>

Female Genital Mutilation

Lord Lester of Herne Hill: To ask Her Majesty's Government how they ensure in asylum decisions that the risk or presence of female genital mutilation is recognised and given adequate weighting.[HL5947]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Asylum decision-makers examine claims for international protection sensitively and ensure that all evidence relating to an individual's claim is taken into account. Specific guidance and training regarding gender-specific issues, including the risk of female genital mutilation, has been issued to decision-makers. An individual who claims that she would, on return to her home country, be at risk of female genital mutilation may qualify for refugee status if she is able to demonstrate that she has a well founded fear of persecution. This may include evidence that female genital mutilation is knowingly tolerated by the authorities or they are unable or unwilling to offer sufficient or effective protection.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130312w0001.htm#13031238000264>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Deportation

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are circumstances in which they would deport a homosexual individual to a nation that criminalised homosexuality.[HL5990]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The UK Border Agency does not remove individuals who are found to be in need of international protection. It is possible that the agency might remove someone to a country where, technically, homosexuality is a criminal offence but where, in reality, there is no real risk of persecution or of the authorities taking action against gay people.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130312w0001.htm#13031238000265>

Press Releases

Changes to immigration rules boost businesses and students

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/immigration-students-April2013>

Changes announced to the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) route

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/78-tier1-ge>

Changes announced to the Tier 1 (Exceptional talent) route

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/80-tier1-et>

Rule changes announced for students

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/81-tier4>

Home Office proposals to improve documentation at the border

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/passenger-documentation>

Migration: We need a point system to attract the best and the brightest

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/content/20130308STO06282/html/Migration-We-need-a-point-system-to-attract-the-best-and-the-brightest>

News

Theresa May relaxes immigration rules for senior executives and elite graduates

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/mar/14/relax-immigration-rules-theresa-may>

Exploitation fears as firms urged to employ migrants

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/exploitation-fears-as-firms-urged-to-employ-migrants.20449191>

Stricter UK border checks 'a threat to cruise industry'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/stricter-uk-border-checks-a-threat-to-cruise-industry.20467503>

Rema is named the UK's Refugee Woman of Year

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/rema-is-named-the-uks-refugee-woman-of-year-118105n.20437279>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Stop wasting millions translating leaflets into foreign languages, Eric Pickles tells councils

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9924577/Stop-wasting-millions-translating-leaflets-into-foreign-languages-Eric-Pickles-tells-councils.html>

Eric Pickles: councils must cut back on foreign language materials

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2013/mar/12/eric-pickles-councils-foreign-languages>

Who cares if immigrants have English as a second language?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/mar/11/immigrants-english-second-language>

Asylum seekers deserve better maternity care

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/the-womens-blog-with-jane-martinson/2013/mar/11/asylum-seekers-maternity-care>

Female genital mutilation: Bristol study finds 117 cases

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-21766729>

Mahdi Hashi: How easy is it to lose British citizenship?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-21783475>

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Race Relations

Westminster Debate

British Sikh Community

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130313/halltext/130313h0001.htm#13031340000001>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012

Michael McMahon: To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the effectiveness of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012. (S4O-01901)

Reply from the Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs (Roseanna Cunningham): The overwhelming majority of football fans are law abiding and want to enjoy the friendly rivalry that is part of any game. The Government has made it clear that bigotry and religious hatred should have no place in our national game and that we wish to stamp them out wherever and whenever they occur. That is why we introduced the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012, in response to calls from the police and prosecutors to strengthen the law.

It is still early days—indeed, we do not yet have a full year's worth of statistics—

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but the latest figures show that there were convictions in 54 of the 64 cases of offensive behaviour at regulated football matches completed by the end of 2012. A full evaluation of the act will be undertaken in due course, in accordance with commitments that I made when the act was considered, but I suggest to Parliament that a conviction rate of 84 per cent demonstrates that the act is already being used effectively.

Michael McMahon: No one would disagree that the blight of sectarianism and hatred in Scotland must be challenged strenuously and determinedly, but does the minister recognise the genuine concerns of lawyers, academics and others that football supporters are facing police harassment and that their rights are being routinely eroded under the new act? With supporters being put under surveillance, stopped at airports, remanded and refused bail before cases are dropped, and subjected to what can only be described as dawn raids on their homes, is the minister as concerned as I am that, rather than challenging sectarianism, this criminalisation process is actually heightening tensions, especially when only supporters groups, such as the union bears at Ibrox and the green brigade at Celtic park, are being deliberately targeted, although the problem permeates the whole of Scottish society?

Indeed, the most offensive comments that I have seen recently were from the police officer who was responsible for overseeing such actions, who said on Facebook that he was a pest controller dealing with vermin ... Is that not the type of language that we should be dealing with?

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: Enforcing the legislation is of course a matter for the police. Like Michael McMahon, I have seen some of the extensive coverage that was in a number of newspapers a week or so ago and I have seen the allegations that have been made in a variety of different places, including social media.

The difficulty for me and others in the Government is that none of the allegations or complaints has resulted in a formal complaint being made to the police or elsewhere. No human rights points have been taken by any of the lawyers concerned. As I have not noticed that the Scottish legal profession is backward in coming forward when it comes to human rights issues, I am sure that, if it was felt that there was a human rights issue, lawyers would want to take a point.

There is an understandable feeling that people are being policed more vigorously but, in a sense, that is exactly what we want to do to ensure that the scourge of sectarianism is driven out of our national game.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7813&mode=html#job_71239

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012

Alison McInnes (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many convictions there have been under section (a) 1 and (b) 6 of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012. (S4W-13278)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: The available information as provided by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) is as follows:-

(a) Between 1 March 2012 and 31 December 2012 proceedings in relation to 64 charges had been concluded with 54 charges convicted (84%) under section 1 of the Offensive Behaviour and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012.

(b) Between 1 March 2012 and 31 December 2012 proceedings in relation to 4 charges had been concluded with 1 charge convicted (25%) under section 6 of the Offensive Behaviour and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012.

The figures provided have been taken from the COPFS management system, and

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should be regarded as provisional. COPFS uses a live operational case management system, specifically designed to receive criminal and death reports from the police and other specialist reporting agencies and to manage these cases for prosecution purposes. The information held on the system is structured for these operational needs, rather than for statistical reporting or research purposes. National Statistics on criminal proceedings and convictions will be available from the Criminal Proceedings database in November 2013.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-13278&ResultsPerPage=10>

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012

Alison McInnes (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many charges have been brought under section (a) 1 and (b) 6 of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012. (S4W-13279)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: The available information as provided by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) is as follows:-

(a) Between 1 March 2012 and 31 December 2012 there were 64 charges reported to COPFS under section 1 of the Offensive Behaviour and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 in respect of cases which had completed by the latter date. An additional 154 charges were reported under section 1 in respect of cases which were not completed by 31 December 2012, giving a total of 218 charges.

(b) Between 1 March 2012 and 31 December 2012 there were 4 charges reported to COPFS under section 6 of the Offensive Behaviour and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 in respect of cases which had completed by the latter date. An additional 14 charges were reported under section 6 in respect of cases which were not completed by 31 December 2012, giving a total of 20 charges.

The figures provided have been taken from the COPFS management system, and should be regarded as provisional. COPFS uses a live operational case management system, specifically designed to receive criminal and death reports from the police and other specialist reporting agencies and to manage these cases for prosecution purposes. The information held on the system is structured for these operational needs, rather than for statistical reporting or research purposes. National Statistics on criminal proceedings and convictions will be available from the Criminal Proceedings database in November 2013.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-13279&ResultsPerPage=10>

Learning and Justice

Siobhan McMahon: To ask the Scottish Government what projects it has funded to tackle sectarianism in each of the last two years, broken down by (a) project, (b) amount awarded and (c) date of award. (S4W-13372)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: Scottish Government funding to tackle sectarianism in 2011-12 and 2012-13 is shown in the following table, broken down by organisation and project, amount awarded and date of award:

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Organisation and Project	Funding Amount (2011-12)	Date of Award	Funding Amount (2012-13)	Date of Award
Cambridge University Technical Services – 'Integrative Complexity' Project	n/a	n/a	£167,920	06-08-2012
Children's Parliament – 'Me+Us' Project	n/a	n/a	£50,670	12-06-2012
Citizen's Theatre – 'Divided City' Project	n/a	n/a	£116,500	15-08-2012
City of Edinburgh Council – 'Community Research' Project	n/a	n/a	£6,600	15-08-2012
Conforti Institute – 'Lederach's Peace Building Model' Project	n/a	n/a	£111,141	02-07-2012
Faith in Community Scotland – 'Developing an Asset-based Approach to tackling sectarianism' Project	n/a	n/a	£69,793	12-07-2012
Festival of Spirituality and Peace – 'Civic Cafes' Project	n/a	n/a	£9,000	11-06-2012
Football Co-Ordination Unit Scotland (FoCUS)	£1,022,035	01-09-2011	£797,703	18-05-2012
The Iona Community – 'Can you hear the bigots sing' prisons' Project and 'Community Youth Work' Project	£42,000	16-03-2011	£42,000	16-04-2012
Nil by Mouth – 'Beyond Religion and Belief' and 'Champions for Change' Projects	£59,647	16-03-2011	£60,000	11-04-2012
Outward Bound Trust – 'Community Unity' Project	n/a	n/a	£60,000	15-08-2012
A Place for Hope – 'Community Mediation' Project	n/a	n/a	£50,000	16-08-2012
SACRO (Safeguarding Communities– Reducing Offending) – 'Together Project'	n/a	n/a	£100,000	15-08-2012
Scottish Community Development Centre – 'Proof of Concept' Project with Community Links, Yipworld.com and Getting Better Together Ltd	£36,700	07-12-2011	£107,537	19-06-2012

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Scottish Community Development Centre – ‘Community-led Action Research’ Project with, Fauldhouse Community Development Trust, Edinburgh and Lothian Regional Equality Council and Pilmeny Development Trust	n/a	n/a	£59,000	12-07-2012
Scottish Marriage Care – ‘Evaluate Models of Intervention’ Project	n/a	n/a	£69,690	22-10-2012
Scottish Sports Futures – ‘Stand Tall’ Project	n/a	n/a	£84,000	19-09-2012
Sense over Sectarianism – ‘Schools and Community Engagement through Education’ Project and ‘Small Grant Scheme’ Project	£150,000	16-03-2011	£150,000	11-04-2012
Show Bigotry the Red Card – ‘Anti- Sectarian Educational Work’ Project	£20,000	16-03-2011	£20,000	11-04-2012
Voluntary Action Fund – ‘Community Engagement and support’ Projects with Inverclyde Community Development Trust, Twechar Community Action and Central Scotland Regional Equality Council	£29,271	07-12-2012	£110,682	14-05-2012
Voluntary Action Fund - Community Engagement and support’ Projects with Renton Community Development Trust, Stewarty Council of Voluntary Services, Brora Community Learning Centre, Brag Enterprises, Engender, Scottish Women’s Convention, Edinburgh and Lothian’s Regional Equality Council and Scottish Women’s Library	n/a	n/a	£138,198	12-07-2012
Voluntary Action Fund – Glasgow Scoping Project	n/a	n/a	£25,000	12-07-2012
Youth Scotland – ‘Stand Up to Sectarianism’ Project.	n/a	n/a	£55,045	29-10-2012
YouthLink Scotland – ‘Web Portal’ Project.	n/a	n/a	£87,780	15-10-2012

Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

I also refer the member to the answers to questions S4W-13159 on 5 March 2013, S4W-08770 on 17 July 2012, and S4W-03239 on 25 November 2011.

All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-13372&ResultsPerPage=10>

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S4M-05944 Hanzala Malik: Challenging Negative Racial and Religious Stereotypes—That the Parliament welcomes the campaign, I Speak For Myself, which has been launched by Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre in Glasgow; understands that the campaign aims to empower Muslim women to encourage them to share their personal messages with fellow Scots in order to challenge any negative stereotypes associated with them and the Islamic faith; notes that the campaign suggests that, although Scotland is a welcoming and inclusive nation with a vibrant multicultural society, global events have caused a rise in misconceptions about and discrimination toward Muslim women and the Islamic faith and an increase in the number of citizens with negative attitudes; commends the campaign's aims to educate, dispel myths and promote awareness about the inequalities and discrimination facing the Muslim community and its work in tackling racial and religious prejudice, and notes suggestions that, in order to create a fairer Scotland, this and other campaigns, such as Show Racism the Red Card Scotland and Nil by Mouth, would benefit from an integrated and systematic approach to tackling problems of negative stereotypes and discrimination.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-05944&ResultsPerPage=10>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Jeremy Corbyn (1183) Caste discrimination in the UK – That this House supports the majority vote passed in the House of Lords to outlaw caste discrimination in the UK by including caste as an aspect of race in the Equality Act 2010; notes the UK's international human rights obligations; and calls on the Government to reconsider its position and to uphold the essential British value of equality and justice.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2012-13/1183>

New Publication

The State of the Nation: Race & Racism in Scotland - Criminal Justice

<http://www.crer.org.uk/attachments/article/SOTN13/SOTNCriminalJustice.pdf>

News

632 anti-Muslim hate incidents recorded by Tell Mama

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-21712826>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Decent, nice, liberal people – dispelling some myths about anti-Muslim hate and those who share it

<http://tellmamauk.org/decent-nice-liberal-people-dispelling-some-myths-about-anti-muslim-hate-and-those-who-share-it/>

Labour peer Lord Ahmed suspended after 'Jewish claims'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-21783467>

Labour suspends Lord Ahmed over alleged Jewish conspiracy comments

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2013/mar/14/labour-suspends-ahmed-jewish-conspiracy>

Muslim peer Lord Ahmed blames Jewish conspiracy for jailing him

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article3713009.ece>

Labour peer faces expulsion after Miliband brands remarks 'disgraceful'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article3713242.ece>

'There's no place for anti-Semitism in the Labour party': Ed Miliband condemns Lord Ahmed over claims he blamed imprisonment on 'Jewish conspiracy'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/theres-no-place-for-antisemitism-in-the-labour-party-ed-miliband-condemns-lordahmed-over-claims-he-blamed-imprisonment-on-jewish-conspiracy-8533813.html>

Labour peer suspended over 'Jewish conspiracy' claims

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9929154/Labour-peer-Lord-Ahmed-suspended-over-claims-he-blamed-imprisonment-on-Jewish-conspiracy.html>

The anti-Semites mistaken for mere eccentrics

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9930869/The-anti-Semites-mistaken-for-mere-eccentrics.html>

The Longest Hatred

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/leaders/article3712868.ece>

Partied Out

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/leaders/article3713991.ece>

Labour suspends controversial peer over claims he blamed a Jewish conspiracy for his dangerous driving jail sentence

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2293159/Lord-Ahmed-suspended-claims-blamed-Jewish-conspiracy-dangerous-driving-jail-sentence.html>

Supply teachers face racism from some schools

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-21744766>

Muslim women are caught in the crossfire between bigots on both sides

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/mar/11/muslim-women-bigots-sexism>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Question

Female Genital Mutilation

Drew Smith: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will publish guidance specifically for midwives in relation to female genital mutilation. (S4W-13276)

Reply from Alex Neil: Advice for midwives and other health professionals on specific issues such as Female Genital Mutilation is provided through their professional bodies. Therefore the Scottish Government does not plan to publish guidelines for midwives.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-13276&ResultsPerPage=10>

Parliamentary Motions

S4M-05961 Jim Eadie: Congratulations to Pope Francis—That the Parliament congratulates the Argentinian Cardinal, His Eminence Jorge Mario Bergoglio, on being named successor to Pope Benedict XVI and leader of the world's estimated 1.2 billion Roman Catholics; understands that Latin America has increasing significance in world affairs and welcomes what it sees as the region being represented by a powerful voice that will speak of piety, virtue and peace; considers that the symbolism of the name, Pope Francis, connotes the acts of St Francis of Assisi, who is associated with peace, poverty and a simple lifestyle; looks forward to His Holiness extolling such virtues to lead the Roman Catholic church into a period that champions the cause of poor and vulnerable people and that reaffirms what it believes is the church's total commitment to peace and justice, and wishes him well in his new role as Pontiff.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-05961&ResultsPerPage=10>

S4M-05959 Willie Coffey: Pope Francis—That the Parliament congratulates Argentina's Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio on his election as Pope Francis; sends him warmest wishes from Scotland for his papacy, and looks forward to hearing his message of peace and reconciliation delivered throughout the world.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-05959&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Releases

Extending the referendum franchise

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/03/referendum-franchise12032013>

Scottish Government to consider McCluskey report

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/03/Leveson15032013>

New Publication

Expert Group on the Leveson Report in Scotland

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0041/00416412.pdf>

Other Holyrood (continued) **News**

Scottish independence: Bill to lower voting age due

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-21741448>

Sturgeon outlines 'votes at 16' referendum plans

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/politics/sturgeon-outlines-votes-at-16-referendum-plans-1-2831525>

Review of Holyrood presiding officer election rules

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-21713535>

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Other Westminster

Press Release

Government launches first Islamic Finance Task Force

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-first-islamic-finance-task-force>

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Other News

Leaders put faith in Francis

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/leaders-put-faith-in-francis-118548n.20502435>

UK welcomes election of new Pope Francis

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-21773745>

Scots lead the way for donations

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/scots-lead-the-way-for-donations.20499308>

Sikh weddings crashed by protesters objecting to mixed faith marriages

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-21721519>

Pork DNA in halal sausages at Westminster primary school

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-21791513>

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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>

Bills in Progress Holyrood (continued)

**** Scottish Independence Referendum (Franchise) Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/60464.aspx>

Bill as introduced

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Scottish%20Independence%20Referendum%20Franchise%20Bill/b24s4-introd.pdf

Explanatory Notes

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Scottish%20Independence%20Referendum%20Franchise%20Bill/b24s4-introd-en.pdf

Policy Memorandum

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Scottish%20Independence%20Referendum%20Franchise%20Bill/b24s4-introd-pm.pdf

Delegated Powers Memorandum

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Scottish_Independence_Referendum_Franchise_Bill_-_DPM.pdf

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>

Consideration of Bill

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130313/debtext/130313-0001.htm#1303134700002>

**** Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill**

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

Report Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130311-0001.htm#1303117000439>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130311-0001.htm#1303117000441>

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

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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>

**** Scottish Independence Referendum (Franchise) Bill** (closing date 22 March 2013)
http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ReferendumScotlandBillCommittee/Franchise_Call_for_Evidence_12_March_2013.pdf

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>

Carriers' liability charge: consultation on proposals to increase the level of charge and introduce a new incentives scheme (closing date 4 9 April 2013)
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/carriers-liability-charge/>

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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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Volunteering Support Fund

The Fund, administered by Voluntary Action Fund, will support third sector organisations to create new volunteering projects, increase the diversity of volunteers, especially those from disadvantaged groups and improve opportunities, skills and personal development through volunteering. The Fund will also support third sector organisations to enhance

Funding Opportunities (continued)

their services and improve their capacity to deploy, support and train volunteers.

- **Voluntary Support Grants**
Grants of up to £10,000 for an individual organisation.
Application deadlines: Friday 10th May 2013 and Friday 28th February 2014.
- **Volunteering Support Cluster**
Grants of up to £30,000 for clusters of four to five organisations.
Application deadlines: Friday 19th July 2013 and Friday 31st January 2014.

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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.

**** this week!**

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>.

**** Funding Workshops**

8 April 2013 in Castle Douglas (1.30)

9 April 2013 in Melrose (10.00)

12 April 2013 in Edinburgh (9.30am and 1.30)

5 April 2013 in Glasgow (9.30am and 1.30)

17 April 2013 in Aberdeen (10.30)

18 April 2013 in Inverness (11.00)

Voluntary Action Fund workshops to promote its new grant schemes; answer enquiries

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

from potential applicants; and hold surgery sessions to discuss individual project proposals. For information contact 01383 620 780 / VSFenquiries@vaf.org.uk or see http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/files/3013/6327/3641/Roadshow_flyer.pdf

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

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.

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

Useful Links (continued)

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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