

## Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

### Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Race Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)

[Other Holyrood](#)

[Other Westminster](#)

[New Publications](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Events/Conferences/Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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

**Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to [MEMO@scojec.org](mailto:MEMO@scojec.org) and requests to be added to circulation to [mail@bemis.org.uk](mailto:mail@bemis.org.uk)**

**Due to the Jewish festival of Pesach, the next issue of MEMO will be published on Friday 29 March.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

**S4M-05986 Kevin Stewart: Loss of Overseas Students**—That the Parliament understands that changes to international student visas are discouraging overseas students from choosing Scotland's universities; believes that such students contribute significantly to the finances of the education sector; understands that the University of Aberdeen alone has lost £600,000 as a direct result of these changes; considers that multicultural campuses improve the university experience for students; condemns the UK Border Agency and the Home Office for these changes; believes that the UK Government is pursuing these policies without regard to the impact on universities, and calls for the changes to be reversed.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-05986&ResultsPerPage=10>

## Immigration and Asylum (continued) Westminster Parliament Grand Committee

### Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2013

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130318-gc0001.htm#13031810000139>

## Westminster Parliamentary Questions

### Entry Clearances

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average waiting time was for Business Visitor Visa applications in (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; [148727]

(2) what the average waiting time was for Family Visitor Visa applications in (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; [148728]

(3) what the average waiting time was for student visitor visa applications in (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; [148729]

(4) what the average waiting time was for general visitor visa applications in (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012. [148730]

**Reply from Mark Harper:** The information the hon. Member has requested is shown in the following table:

<i>Visa type</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>
General visit	5	6	6
Business visit	5	5	5
Family visit	7	8	8
Student visit	6	7	8

*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 individuals. 3. Data relate to all specified visa applications processed between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2012. 4. Processing time is based on the average number of working days from biometric enrolment to decision date. Figures relate to completed applications only. 5. Student visas include visitor visas for English Language students, 6. Data generated on 14 March 2013.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130319/text/130319w0001.htm#13031983000035>

### Overseas Students: Entry Clearances

**Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the number of visa-holding foreign undergraduate and graduate students with visas on (a) economic growth and (b) average university funding. [149005]

**Reply from David Willetts:** We have not made any specific assessment on the effect that visa holding overseas students have made on economic growth. However, the value of further and higher education exports (which includes economic value brought to the economy by overseas students) was valued at £9 billion in 2009/09 and we estimate this will double by 2025.

BIS recently released a report on HE Education Exports which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-exports-estimating-their-value-to-the-uk>

No specific assessment of the effect of overseas visa holding students on average

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

university funding has been made. However, in 2011/12, tuition fee income from non-EU students was worth around £3.2 billion in UK Higher Education Institutions, up from around £2.6 billion in 2009/10. This represents around 12% of total UK HEIs income or around 36% of all tuition fee income received by HEIs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130319/text/130319w0001.htm#13031983000017>

### **Marriage: Foreign Proxy Marriages**

**Lord Lester of Herne Hill:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the circumstances under which foreign proxy marriages are recognised as valid for the purposes of immigration control; and what is the basis for any such recognition under United Kingdom law.[HL6224]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach):** A proxy marriage where the ceremony takes place in the UK would not be recognised for immigration purposes. A proxy marriage which takes place overseas and is considered valid in the country where the ceremony took place would be recognised for immigration purposes, provided appropriate evidence relating to the marriage was received. The basis for the recognition of overseas proxy marriages is set out in case law.

To obtain a spouse visa, other relationship requirements of the Immigration Rules must also be satisfied, including that the couple must have met in person and that their relationship is genuine and subsisting. Applicants must also satisfy other Immigration Rules relating to criminality, financial requirements and English language requirements before being granted a visa to enter the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130320w0001.htm#13032057000279>

### **Asylum Seekers**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve access to legal representation for asylum seekers whose (1) applications and (2) appeals have been refused.[HL6078]

**Reply from the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally):** Asylum cases will continue to qualify for legal aid funding when the reforms to legal aid in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 are implemented from April this year. This includes legal aid for appeals to the First-tier Tribunal, the Upper Tribunal and the higher courts.

The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is in the process of finalising the award of new legal aid contracts for asylum work. These contracts will start on 1 April. There was significant demand for the available work with organisations bidding for more than three times the advertised work across England and Wales. The process of verifying successful tenders and entering into contracts is still ongoing but the LSC anticipates that there will continue to be good access to asylum advice funded by legal aid from April.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130319w0001.htm#13031974001724>

### **Asylum: Children**

**Jonathan Ashworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to end the detention of children seeking asylum in the UK. [148296]

**Reply from Mark Harper:** The Government made a commitment to end child detention for immigration purposes and has met that commitment by radically changing the system to ensure that the welfare of the child is at the heart of the

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

decision and returns process. In exceptional circumstances, however, unaccompanied children may be held very briefly while alternative arrangements are made for their care and safety. To release unaccompanied children before social workers have arrived to collect them could potentially put them at greater risk.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130319/text/130319w0001.htm#13031983000031>

### Human Trafficking: Illegal Immigrants

**Emily Thornberry:** To ask the Attorney-General what information is held by the Crown Prosecution Service on the number of victims of human trafficking who have been prosecuted for illegal immigration offences since 2010. [148282]

**Reply from the Solicitor-General:** I am unable to provide data on the number of victims of human trafficking who have been prosecuted for immigration offences. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Case Management System (CMS) cannot identify if a defendant who has been charged with an immigration offence is also a victim of human trafficking. The CPS is committed to bringing the perpetrators of human trafficking and criminal gangs exploiting people in the first place to justice.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130319/text/130319w0003.htm#13031993000122>

## Press Releases

### Businesses urged to sign human trafficking charter

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/people-trafficking-charter>

### Codes of practice for skilled workers – update

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/79-cop>

## News

### Expert: Citizens test is 'unfit for purpose'

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/expert-citizens-test-is-unfit-for-purpose-1-2842326>

### Romania and Bulgaria immigration: 'No idea' on numbers

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-21850751>

### A flood of immigrants? More like a trickle says Whitehall research into end of restrictions for Romanians and Bulgarians

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/a-flood-of-immigrants-more-like-a-trickle-says-whitehall-research-into-end-of-restrictions-for-romanians-and-bulgarians-8541200.html>

### Fewer than 13,000 Romanian and Bulgarian migrants predicted

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article3718031.ece>

### G4S 'struggling to fulfil its obligation to house asylum-seekers'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/g4s-struggling-to-fulfil-its-obligation-to-house-asylumseekers-8541248.html>

[TOP](#)

## Race Relations

### News

#### **Islam conference aims to improve community relations**

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/islam-conference-aims-to-improve-community-relations-1-2842332>

#### **Bonds of affection and friendship between Aberdeen Church and Mosque**

[http://www.scotland.anglican.org/index.php/news/entry/bonds\\_of\\_affection\\_and\\_friendship\\_between\\_aberdeen\\_church\\_and\\_mosque/](http://www.scotland.anglican.org/index.php/news/entry/bonds_of_affection_and_friendship_between_aberdeen_church_and_mosque/)

#### **Christians share church with Muslims**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/christians-share-church-with-muslims.20538758>

#### **Reverend opens his church doors to Muslims so they can have place to worship**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/reverend-opens-church-doors-muslims-1772825>

#### **Aberdeen church opens doors to Muslims**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/mar/18/aberdeen-muslims-christians-share-church>

[TOP](#)

## Equality

### Press Release

#### **Commission launches new guidance for Businesses**

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2013/march/commission-launches-new-guidance-for-businesses/>

### New Publications

#### **Understanding legal definitions of discrimination and unlawful behaviour in the Equality Act**

[http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded\\_files/ea1.pdf](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/ea1.pdf)

#### **Your role as an employer under the Equality Act**

[http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded\\_files/ea2.pdf](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/ea2.pdf)

#### **Your role as a service provider under the Equality Act**

[http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded\\_files/ea3.pdf](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/ea3.pdf)

#### **A Guide to Business and Human Rights**

[http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded\\_files/sme\\_hr.pdf](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/sme_hr.pdf)

#### **Guidance on Business and Human Rights: a Review**

[http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded\\_files/middlesex\\_university\\_report\\_final\\_draft.doc](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/middlesex_university_report_final_draft.doc)

[TOP](#)

# Racism and Religious Hatred

## Westminster Parliamentary Questions

### **Racially Aggravated Offences**

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Association of Chief Police Officers on issuing guidance to chief constables in respect of dealing with racist incidents. [148512]

**Reply from Jeremy Browne:** The Government is committed to tackling all forms of hate crime and works closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers and other partners. The Association of Chief Police Officers issued guidance for dealing with hate crimes to police forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2005. The guidance is currently being updated and new guidance will be sent out to all police forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland shortly.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130318/text/130318w0002.htm#13031832000113>

### **Anti-Semitism**

**Michael Ellis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of trends in the level of anti-Semitism across the world. [147621]

**Reply from David Lidington:** We strongly condemn anti-Semitism anywhere that it occurs and our embassies and high commissions around the world monitor manifestations of it. We also promote policies to tackle anti-Semitism through a range of international organisations, and speak out regularly to condemn instances of violence and discrimination, as the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), did when he condemned the horrific murders of Jewish children and a teacher last year in France.

EU and Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) reports in 2012, on anti-Semitism in the EU and hate crimes respectively, reached no clear conclusions about trends because of the lack of clear-cut data. Nevertheless we have been working through the OSCE and bilaterally to help other countries to collect hate crimes data drawing on the work of the Community Security Trust.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130318/text/130318w0004.htm#1303191000068>

## Press Releases

### **No Hate Speech Movement kicks off at the Council of Europe**

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=2046757&Site=DC&ShowBanner=no&Target=self&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE>

### **Sport must lead by example in combating racism**

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=2046165&Site=DC&ShowBanner=no&Target=self&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE>

### **Declaration by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on behalf of the European Union on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/136393.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/136393.pdf)

### **Joint statement on International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Austerity is no excuse for racism**

[http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/131-21\\_03\\_2013\\_Anti-racism%20day%20joint%20statement%20\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/131-21_03_2013_Anti-racism%20day%20joint%20statement%20_en.asp)

## Racism and Religious Hatred

### Press Releases (continued)

#### Bad times for Muslims in Europe

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/13-03-20%20shadow%20report%202011-12%20final.pdf>

[TOP](#)

## Other Holyrood

### Press Release

#### Scotland decides on 18 September 2014

Scotland's referendum will be held on 18 September next year, First Minister Alex Salmond announced in the Scottish Parliament today. ...

First Minister Alex Salmond said: "On 18 September 2014 people across Scotland will vote to determine their country's future. It will be a historic day, and one on which this ancient nation decides its place in the world.

"People will be able to choose if they want a Scotland that is independent and able to make her own decisions – with a Scottish Parliament that is responsible for making the most of Scotland's rich resources to benefit its communities and safeguard the welfare of our most vulnerable citizens and accountable for how we engage other nations around the world.

"Devolution has shown how we can use Holyrood's powers to improve lives in the policy areas where we are already effectively independent. ...

"But we can and must do more – and only the powers of an independent Parliament with control of the economy, of international representation and of security will allow us to make the most of our huge national potential. ...

*To read the full press release see*

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/03/referendum-date21032013>

#### Royal Charter on the Self-Regulation of the Press – Implications for Scotland

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/61338.aspx>

### News

#### Scottish independence: Referendum to be held on 18 September, 2014

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-21828424>

[TOP](#)

## Other Westminster

### Debate

#### Royal Charter on Press Conduct

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130318/debtext/130318-0001.htm#13031811000002>

## Other Westminster (continued)

### Parliamentary Questions

#### Meat: Ritual Slaughter

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of animals, by species, that were slaughtered for human or other consumption were slaughtered according to (a) Halal slaughter doctrine, (b) Kosher slaughter doctrine and (c) otherwise were not stunned before slaughter in the last four years for which figures are available. [148913]

**Reply from David Heath:** The Food Standards Agency undertook a one week survey in approved slaughterhouses in September 2011. The survey indicated that the number of animals slaughtered by Halal and Kosher methods during the survey period were as follows:

Species	Halal		Kosher		Total number of animals slaughtered in the week
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
Poultry and Rabbits	4,759,586	30	71,236	0.5	16,101,844
Cattle, Sheep and Goats	156,526	45	2,413	0.7	351,284

During the survey period, it was found that three per cent of cattle, 10% of sheep and goats and 4% of poultry were slaughtered without prior stunning. The survey also showed that over 80% of animals slaughtered as Halal were stunned before being slaughtered.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the clear labelling of non-stun slaughtered animals. [148914]

**Reply from David Heath:** DEFRA consulted on measures to implement Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 (on the protection of animals at the time of killing) during September and October 2012. Although outside the scope of the consultation, many consultees confirmed their support for the introduction of method of slaughter labelling. We are currently considering the responses received and will be publishing a summary of the responses together with the Government's response to all the points made. Separately, DEFRA has, and continues to receive, a regular flow of correspondence on this issue from members of the public and others with an interest.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much and what proportion of meat consumed in each of the last four years for which figures are available was sold as (a) Halal, (b) Kosher and (c) other meat which was not stunned before slaughter. [148915]

**Reply from David Heath:** We do not keep records of the proportion of meat consumed according to method of slaughter applied.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will discuss with (a) abattoirs, (b) the meat trade, (c) the retail sector, (d) the veterinary sector, (e) consumers and (f) religious groups the clear labelling of non-stunned before slaughter meat products. [148916]

**Reply from David Heath:** I discussed method of slaughter labelling with representatives of the British Veterinary Association at a meeting on 7 March 2013. Labelling was also one of the topics raised during a meeting between DEFRA, Food Standards Agency and Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) officials and representatives of the Jewish and Muslim Communities which took place on 14 March 2013. DEFRA officials also attended a meeting with the Sikh Council UK on 27 February 2013 which was hosted by DCLG, and which discussed method of slaughter labelling issues.

I have no specific plans at this time for further meetings to discuss this issue with

## Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

any of the other groups mentioned in this question. However, I do maintain regular contact with them and this will provide an opportunity for further discussion of this topic if appropriate.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will undertake a review of the estimate of non-stun before slaughter practice in abattoirs. [148917]

**Reply from David Heath:** I have no plans to undertake a review of the estimate of non-stun before slaughter practices in abattoirs. However, I understand the Food Standards Agency Board has agreed to repeat the survey of approved slaughterhouses which was undertaken in September 2011. It is anticipated this will take place in September 2013. This will provide further information on the extent of non-stun slaughter practices.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has made an estimate of the (a) amount and (b) proportion of meat sold in the UK from animals which has not been stunned before slaughter, but which has not been labelled clearly as such. [148918]

**Reply from David Heath:** There is currently no legal requirement in European Union or national law to indicate method of slaughter on meat labels. However, where meat is labelled voluntarily to show method of slaughter, this must be accurate and must not mislead the consumer. We have no information to show the proportion of meat sold in the United Kingdom from animals which have not been stunned before slaughter.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has plans to review the regulation of labelling of meat products in respect of the animal welfare standards employed during slaughter. [148919]

**Reply from David Heath:** The Government supported the compromise agreement reached in the context of proposals for the European Union Food Information for Consumers Regulation 1169/2011, that method of slaughter labelling should be considered by the EU Commission in a welfare context. The Government will be working with the Commission to ensure all measures that help minimise the suffering of animals slaughtered without stunning are considered.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130320/text/130320w0002.htm#13032074000062>

## Press Release

**The Prime Minister held an Easter Reception for Christian faiths at Downing Street on 20 March**

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/transcript-of-prime-ministers-speech-at-downing-street-easter-reception/>

[TOP](#)

## New Publication

**The Future of Human Rights in Scotland**

[http://scottishhumanrights.com/application/resources/documents/Final\\_Human\\_Rights\\_in\\_Scotlands\\_Future\\_2013.doc](http://scottishhumanrights.com/application/resources/documents/Final_Human_Rights_in_Scotlands_Future_2013.doc)

[TOP](#)

## Other News

### **Press regulation deal struck by parties**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-21825823>

### **New support for action on forced marriages**

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/politics/new-support-for-action-on-forced-marriages-1-2844267>

### **Project supplies teachers with resources to help spot signs of forced marriage**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/project-supplies-teachers-resources-help-1771871>

### **Girls at risk of mutilation 'lack help from teachers'**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-21845996>

### **Disability hate crime is 'overlooked and under-reported'**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-21865264>

[TOP](#)

## Bills in Progress

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Holyrood**

#### **\*\* Post-16 Education Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/56717.aspx>

Committee welcomes principles of post-16 education reform

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/61334.aspx>

Stage 1 Report

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_EducationandCultureCommittee/Reports/edR13-02w.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_EducationandCultureCommittee/Reports/edR13-02w.pdf)

#### **\*\* Scottish Independence Referendum Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/61076.aspx>

Bill as introduced

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_Bills/Scottish%20Independence%20Referendum%20Bill/b25s4-introd.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Scottish%20Independence%20Referendum%20Bill/b25s4-introd.pdf)

Explanatory Notes

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_Bills/Scottish%20Independence%20Referendum%20Bill/b25s4-introd-en.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Scottish%20Independence%20Referendum%20Bill/b25s4-introd-en.pdf)

Policy Memorandum

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_Bills/Scottish%20Independence%20Referendum%20Bill/b25s4-introd-pm.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Scottish%20Independence%20Referendum%20Bill/b25s4-introd-pm.pdf)

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

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

#### **Victims and Witnesses Bill**

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

## Bills in Progress (continued) 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>

House of Commons consideration of Bill as amended in the Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130318/debtext/130318-0003.htm#13031839000001>

Consideration of Bill

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2012-2013/0137/amend/psc1371803m.1043-1049.html>

Manuscript amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2012-2013/0137/amend/137day1803.pdf>

Commons amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2012-2013/0090/2013090.pdf>

Explanatory Notes on Commons amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2012-2013/0090/en/2013090en.pdf>

### \*\* Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill

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

Motion to Approve

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130318-0001.htm#1303189000350>

Report Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130318-0001.htm#1303189000352>

Bill as amended on Report

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2012-2013/0089/2013089.pdf>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2012-2013/0089/amend/ml089-i.htm>

Third Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130320-0002.htm#13032062000577>

[TOP](#)

## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

**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](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4/ReferendumScotlandBillCommittee/Franchise_Call_for_Evidence_12_March_2013.pdf)

## 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>

### Carriers' liability charge: consultation on proposals to increase the level of charge and introduce a new incentives scheme (closing date 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>

### \*\* Beyond 2011: user requirements for future population and socio-demographic information (closing date 10 June 2013)

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/beyond-2011/consultations-events/consultations/user-requirements.html>

### \*\* Design of the Data Sharing and Linking Service (closing date 29 May 2013)

<http://www.isdscotland.org/Products-and-Services/eDRIS/DLSL-consultation/>

### \*\* Scottish Independence Referendum Bill (closing date 6 June 2013)

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_ReferendumScotlandBillCommittee/RefBill\\_call\\_for\\_evidence\\_21\\_March\\_2013.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ReferendumScotlandBillCommittee/RefBill_call_for_evidence_21_March_2013.pdf)

### 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>

[TOP](#)

## Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* new or updated this week

### \*\* *this week!*

#### 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](mailto:fiaz.khan@cemvoscotland.org.uk) or see <http://tinyurl.com/d2eyumh>.

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**\*\* this week!**

### **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](mailto: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 from potential applicants; and hold surgery sessions to discuss individual project proposals. For information contact 01383 620 780 / [VSFenquiries@vaf.org.uk](mailto:VSFenquiries@vaf.org.uk) or see [http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/files/3013/6327/3641/Roadshow\\_flyer.pdf](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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see <http://tinyurl.com/c8k983b>.

[TOP](#)

## Useful Links

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

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

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

**Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)**

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT\\_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw](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](http://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](http://www.acas.org.uk)

**SCVO** <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Home/Home.aspx>

**Volunteer Development Scotland** [www.vds.org.uk](http://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](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm)

[TOP](#)



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



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



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

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