

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 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>.

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Student visas

Kevin Stewart: To ask the Scottish Government what impact recent changes to international student visas have had on Scotland's universities. (S4W-13745)

Reply from Michael Russell: The impact of the negative message that the UK Government's student visa policies send to other countries is a significant concern for the higher education sector. There is evidence that student numbers from countries which normally send high numbers of students to Scotland have decreased in recent years, which may reflect the changes to student visa rules implemented since 2010.

Higher Education Statistics Agency statistics show that the number of students from India in Scottish HEIs decreased from 3290 in 2010-11 to 2445 in 2011-12, a reduction of 25.8%; and the number of students from Pakistan in Scottish HEIs decreased from 860 in 2010-11 to 645 in 2011-12, a reduction of 24.9%.

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

However, largely due to an increase in students from China, the overall non-EU student numbers at Scottish HEIs has increased from 27,880 in 2010-11 to 28,500 in 2011-12.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-13745&ResultsPerPage=10>

Kevin Stewart: To ask the Scottish Government what the financial value is of non-EU students to Scotland's universities. (S4W-13746)

Reply from Michael Russell: Scottish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) received an overall income of £337 million from non-EU student course fees in 2011-12. This figure represents 11.8% of the total income of Scottish HEIs in that year (Higher Education Statistics Agency).

This income does not include other sources of income from non-EU students, such as accommodation fees or the course fees of non-EU students studying at a Scottish HEI campus located outside Scotland, for which the Scottish Government does not hold data.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-13746&ResultsPerPage=10>

Kevin Stewart: To ask the Scottish Government what impact non-EU students have on the Scottish economy. (S4W-13747)

Reply from Michael Russell: In addition to fee income, international students also contribute to the Scottish economy through other expenditure (including accommodation and other day-to-day expenses) incurred during their studies in Scotland. According to a 2011 analysis carried out by London Economics, this expenditure is estimated at around £441 million per year.

International students also make an important contribution to the cultural diversity of our universities which enriches the intellectual environment for all students and encourages a global perspective and increased mobility among Scottish students and graduates. The international standing of our universities also reflects the ability to attract world-class researchers and staff from all parts of the international community.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-13747&ResultsPerPage=10>

Kevin Stewart: To ask the Scottish Government what the implications are for the education sector of a significant decrease in the number of non-EU students. (S4W-13748)

Reply from Michael Russell: International students bring a variety of benefits to the education sector. A reduction in international students would impact on an important source of funding for Scotland's Universities. Equally important however is the potential reduction in cultural diversity which enriches the intellectual environment for all students and encourages a global perspective and increased mobility among Scottish students and graduates. The international standing of our universities also reflects the ability to attract world-class researchers and staff from all parts of the international community. And finally, as international students are not eligible to take up Scottish Government funded university places, there is of course no impact on the places available to Scottish-domiciled and EU students.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-13748&ResultsPerPage=10>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what checks are made to determine that the UK is a country of residence for non-EU nationals. [150652]

Reply from Mark Harper: Immigration or residence status determines a non-EEA migrant's eligibility to apply for work, benefits and certain public services in the UK. Employers, Government Departments and local authorities conduct entitlement and right to work checks under a range of legislation regulating access. The Government is introducing biometric residence permits to non-EEA nationals granted permission to stay in the UK for more than six months to make these checks more effective.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130415/text/130415w0002.htm#1304164000025>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what checks are in place to determine whether an EU national has met the criteria for permanent residence in the UK and that such people remain legally a permanent resident. [150711]

Reply from Mark Harper: Strict checks are in place to ensure that those EU nationals who apply for a document confirming a right of permanent residence meet the requirements set out in the Regulations, including checks on whether the EU national has continuously exercised free movement rights. A document confirming a right of permanent residence may also be revoked where there is evidence that an EU national has ceased to have such a right or the Secretary of State considers that their removal is justified on grounds of public policy, public security or public health.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU nationals have acquired the right to permanent residence in the UK in each of the last five years. [150712]

Reply from Mark Harper: Statistics on the total number of EU nationals who have acquired the right to permanent residence are not available. The available information is of those that have applied for documents certifying their permanent residence in the UK. Some may have chosen not to apply for such documentation.

<i>Documents issued</i>	
	<i>Number</i>
2007	3,915
2008	1,718
2009	5,993
2010	9,409
2011	11,679

The latest Home Office immigration statistics on grants and refusals of applications for residence documentation from both EEA nationals and non-EEA family members are published in the release Immigration Statistics, which is available at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q4-2012/>

A copy of the latest release, 'Immigration Statistics October - December' has been placed in the House Library.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU nationals have lost the right to permanent residence in the UK after living outside the UK for over two consecutive years in each of the last five years. [150713]

Reply from Mark Harper: Data on the revocation of permanent residence cards is not broken down by reason for revocation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130415/text/130415w0002.htm#1304164000026>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigrants: English Language

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what English language training will be made available to leave to remain applicants after 28 October 2013. [151498]

Reply from Mark Harper: From 28 October 2013, applicants for indefinite leave to remain in the UK or naturalisation as British citizens will be required to pass the Life in the UK test and have an intermediate level English language speaking and listening qualification. Details of the acceptable qualifications are contained in the Statement of Intent "Knowledge of language and life in the UK for settlement and naturalisation", which was published on 8 April 2013 and is available in the House Library and at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/knowledge-of-language-and-life-in-the-uk-for-settlement-and-naturalisation-statement-of-intent>

There is a wide range of English language tuition already available within the UK from private and public sector providers. There are no plans to provide additional government-funded tuition.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130416/text/130416w0002.htm#1304171000080>

Entry Clearances: Married People

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time for processing initial decisions on marriage visas for non EU spouses was in each quarter of 2011 and 2012. [150865]

Reply from Mark Harper: The information you have requested is shown in the following table:

<i>Non-EU spouse marriage visa application processing times, January 2011 to December 2012</i>	
<i>Despatch date</i>	<i>Average processing time (days)</i>
<i>2011</i>	
January to March	37
April to June	32
July to September	34
October to December	26
<i>2012</i>	
January to March	28
April to June	35
July to September	53
October to December	66

Notes: 1. All figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. 2. Figures relate to main applicants and dependants. 3. Figures relate to non-EU spouse marriage visa applications despatched between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2012. 4. Processing time is based on external customer service working days. 5. Data generated on 3 April 2013.

The service standards for settlement visas are to decide 95% of applications within 12 weeks of the application date, and 100% within 24 weeks. Marriage applications make up the majority of settlement applications that are considered out-of-country.

The immigration rules relating to marriage applications changed in July 2012. This caused a larger than expected spike in applications, which resulted in the increase in average waiting times in the table. Service standards will be achieved

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

again by the summer. The Home Office publishes performance against service standards routinely, as part of its commitment to transparency. The next publication is due for release on 23 May 2013 and will cover the period January to March 2013.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130416/text/130416w001.htm#1304171000078>

Entry Clearances: Business

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the clarity and intelligibility of the questions asked on the UK Border Agency business visitor visa application form published in December 2012. [150548]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Government supports economic growth by delivering an effective visa service which processed over 360,000 applications for business visit visas in 2012.

The application form for a business visit visa application was reviewed and updated in December 2012. The majority of the questions on the application form are there to gather background information (personal details—including where the applicant lives and with whom, what their income is, what they do for a living, details of previous travel and so forth). These are the same questions that are asked of all visit visa applicants. The questions towards the end of the form are tailored to the specific application category, and so these forms ask who the applicant is coming to the UK to see/do business with, who is funding the trip, where the applicant will stay and so forth.

Since the form was updated, the UK Border Agency has processed over 50,000 business visa applications worldwide, and has issued over 90% of them.

Currently, around 95% of applicants apply through the Agency's online application system. We are working to improve the online application process for all visa application categories (including business visit visa applications) to make it a more intuitive and customer friendly web application, including better signposting to the right visa application category and improved help text (which will be available in a number of key languages).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130415/text/130415w002.htm#1304164000021>

Entry Clearances

David Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government is taking to monitor the regional effect of the new family migration rules which came into force in July 2012. [151287]

Reply from Mark Harper: We will monitor the impact of the new family migration rules. The Migration Advisory Committee, in providing advice on the level of the minimum income threshold for the sponsorship of a family migrant, discussed whether the minimum income threshold should vary by region, but advised that there was no clear case for this approach.

David Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many successful family visa applications were accepted from (a) Bradford, (b) Yorkshire and Humber, (c) London and (d) the UK between July 2010 and July 2011; [151290]

(2) how many successful family visa applications were accepted from (a) Bradford, (b) Yorkshire and Humber, (c) London and (d) the UK between July 2011 and July 2012; [151288]

(3) how many successful visa applications under the new family migration rules have been accepted from (a) Bradford, (b) Yorkshire and Humber, (c) London and (d) the UK since July 2012. [151289]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Mark Harper: Entry clearance visa applications are made from outside the UK. The available information relates to the total number of visas issued and does not provide a breakdown by the location of the visa applicant's sponsor. The numbers issued are given in the following table:

<i>Entry clearance visas issued by category</i>												
<i>Category</i>	<i>2010</i>				<i>2011</i>				<i>2012</i>			
	<i>Q1</i>	<i>Q2</i>	<i>Q3</i>	<i>Q4</i>	<i>Q1</i>	<i>Q2</i>	<i>Q3</i>	<i>Q4</i>	<i>Q1</i>	<i>Q2</i>	<i>Q3</i>	<i>Q4</i>
Total family route	12,968	12,587	13,720	14,438	12,023	10,005	13,163	10,532	10,885	10,703	10,030	9,307
<i>Of which:</i>												
Family route: Partner	9,080	8,939	9,571	10,824	8,555	7,041	9,870	8,030	8,021	7,986	7,636	6,800
Family route: Partner (for settlement)	674	495	529	354	309	392	397	238	318	306	241	233
Family route: Child	23	30	29	25	21	33	26	17	19	11	26	22
Family route: Child (for settlement)	1,248	1,446	1,579	1,318	1,340	1,088	1,220	948	1,106	1,117	934	848
Family route: Other	1,091	1,075	1,367	1,354	1,324	920	1,131	931	922	871	791	1,127
Family route: Other (for settlement)	852	602	645	563	474	531	519	368	499	412	402	277

Source: Immigration Statistics, October-December 2012, table be.04.q

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130417/text/130417w0001.htm#13041769000026>

Entry Clearances

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time for tier 2 (intra-company transfer) applications was in (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012; and how many such applicants waited more than (i) six and (ii) 12 months for a decision on their application. [148726]

Reply from Mark Harper: The figures requested are provided in the following tables and have been separated into postal applications and premium (in person) applications.

Table 1: Tier 2 intra-company transfer application average waiting times, January 2010 to December 2012

<i>Dispatch year</i>	<i>Average processing time (calendar days)</i>	
	<i>Postal applications</i>	<i>Premium applications</i>
2010	34	2
2011	42	2
2012	54	3

Notes: 1. All figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. 2. Figures relate to main applicants only. 3. Figures relate to postal applications and to premium applications submitted at UKBA public enquiry offices (PEOs). 4. All figures relate to tier 2 intra-company transfer applications decided and dispatched between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2012. 5. Processing time is based on the average number of calendar days from application raised (i.e. received) date

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

to decision dispatch date. Figures relate to completed applications only. 6. Data generated on 14 March 2013. 7. Premium Service is a service at our public enquiry offices for applicants in the UK who want to submit their application in person and receive a decision on the same day.

Table 2: Tier 2 intra-company transfer 'postal' applications decided based on length of time taken to reach decision, January 2010 to December 2012

<i>Dispatch year</i>	<i>0 to 6 months</i>	<i>6 to 12 months</i>	<i>12-plus months</i>	<i>Total</i>
2010	5,635	*	*	5,640
2011	5,165	*	*	5,170
2012	6,300	25	5	6,330
Total	17,100	30	10	17,140

Notes: 1. All figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. 2. Figures relate to main applicants only. 3. Figures relate to postal applications in table 2, and to premium applications submitted at UKBA Public Enquiry Offices (PEO) in table 3. 4. All figures relate to tier 2 intra-company transfer applications decided and dispatched between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2012. 5. Time taken to reach decision based on the number of calendar days from application raised (i.e. received) date to decision dispatch date. 0 to 6 months based on 0 to 182 days; 6 to 12 months based on 183 to 365 days; and 12-plus months based on more than 365 days. Figures relate to completed applications only. 6. Figures rounded to the nearest 5 ('—' = 0, '*' = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding. 7. Data generated on 14 March 2013.

Table 3: Tier 2 intra-company transfer 'premium' applications decided based on length of time taken to reach decision, January 2010 to December 2012

<i>Dispatch year</i>	<i>0 to 6 months</i>	<i>6 to 12 months</i>	<i>12-plus months</i>	<i>Total</i>
2010	1,205	—	—	1,205
2011	1,615	*	—	1,615
2012	2,625	—	*	2,625
Total	5,440	*	*	5,445

Notes: 1. All figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. 2. Figures relate to main applicants only. 3. Figures relate to postal applications in table 2, and to premium applications submitted at UKBA Public Enquiry Offices (PEO) in table 3. 4. All figures relate to tier 2 intra-company transfer applications decided and dispatched between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2012. 5. Time taken to reach decision based on the number of calendar days from application raised (i.e. received) date to decision dispatch date. 0 to 6 months based on 0 to 182 days; 6 to 12 months based on 183 to 365 days; and 12-plus months based on more than 365 days. Figures relate to completed applications only. 6. Figures rounded to the nearest 5 ('—' = 0, '*' = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding. 7. Data generated on 14 March 2013.

Table 4: Tier 2 intra-company transfer postal applications decided within published customer service standard targets, January 2010 to December 2012

<i>Dispatch year</i>	<i>Published service standard (Percentage of applications within four weeks)</i>	<i>Applications decided within service standard (Percentage)</i>
January to March 2010	75	97
April 2010 to March 2011	75	99
April 2011 to March 2012	75	93
April 2012 to December 2012	90	69

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Notes: 1. All figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. 2. Figures relate to main applicants only. 3. Figures relate to postal applications only. 4. All figures relate to tier 2 intra-company transfer applications decided and dispatched between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2012. 5. Time taken to reach decision based on the number of calendar days from application raised (i.e. received) date to decision dispatch date. 6. Data generated on 14 March 2013.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130415/text/130415w0002.htm#130416400020>

Overseas Students

Frank Field: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects enough data to have been collected to allow analysis of student migration patterns following the addition of a new question to the International Passenger Survey in 2012 asking passengers leaving the UK their reasons for initially coming to the country. [150408]

Reply from Nick Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Glen Watson, dated March 2013:

... ONS produces estimates of Long-Term International Migration (LTIM), primarily based on the International Passenger Survey (IPS). The IPS is a continuous voluntary sample survey conducted by ONS and is the prime source of long-term international migration data for the UK providing estimates of both inflows and outflows.

In January 2012 new questions were added to the IPS to ask emigrants what their main reason for migrating was when they originally immigrated to the UK. The first provisional data from these new questions will be published on 29 August 2013, referring to migration flows for 2012. This publication will consist of a table of emigration flows by original reason for migrating to the UK, categorised by broad citizenship groups. ONS has plans to publish an additional table on 28 November (based on final data) showing original reason for migration by year of arrival to the UK. This publication will also include a short analytical report that will provide further detail by reasons for migrating to the UK, including study.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130416/text/130416w0002.htm#130417100089>

Asylum: Pregnant Women

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the dispersal of pregnant women seeking asylum; and what assessment she has made of whether the policy on dispersal represents an efficient use of NHS resources; [151318]

(2) what recent assessment she has made of the practice of dispersing pregnant women seeking asylum; and what steps she has taken to ensure the welfare of such women. [151321]

Reply from Mark Harper: There have been no discussions at ministerial level. Officials have discussed the issue.

The policy on providing accommodation to pregnant asylum seekers is regularly reviewed in consultation with refugee and maternity groups that have an interest in the issue. The majority of pregnant asylum seekers who become homeless are placed in an "Initial Accommodation Centre", where there are medical staff on site. An assessment is then made of their individual circumstances and suitable longer term ("dispersal") accommodation identified. The longer term accommodation is generally provided outside London and the south-east of England, but each case is considered individually and exceptions are made where appropriate.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

No specific assessment has been made of the impact of the policy on NHS resources. However, part of the overall rationale for the dispersal policy is to relieve the pressure on public services in London and the south-east.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130416/text/130416w0001.htm#1304171000070>

Deportation

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost is of each attempt to remove from the UK an individual who no longer has permission to remain. [150352]

Reply from Mark Harper: In financial year 2011-12, the average cost to the UK Border Agency of each removal was £3,281. This has been calculated by dividing the total cost of our removal activity by the volume of removals in that financial year. The cost of unsuccessful attempts at removal is absorbed within this average cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130415/text/130415w0002.htm#1304164000017>

Human Trafficking

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consider re-labelling offences as aggravated where human trafficking is involved. [149804]

Reply from Damian Green: Human trafficking is a serious crime and there are specific offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (trafficking for sexual exploitation) and under the Asylum and Immigration Act 2004 (for other exploitation) which carry maximum penalties of 14 years' imprisonment. Victims of trafficking may have been subjected to other offences such as rape, false imprisonment and assault, which carry maximum penalties up to a life sentence. Prosecutors will consider the range of offences depending on the facts of the case and the choice of charges should reflect the full extent of the criminality and enable the court to sentence accordingly, including taking into account that the victim was subject to trafficking.

We have no plans to change the law.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130415/text/130415w0004.htm#1304167000065>

Press Releases

Court of Appeal dismisses human rights challenge to Immigration Rule

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/court-of-appeal-dismisses-human-rights-challenge-to-immigration-rule>

Changes to 'knowledge of language and life' requirements

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/84-nigeria-settlement1>

Trafficking in human beings: more victims in the EU but Member states are slow to respond

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-322_en.htm

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

New Publications

Identifying and Supporting Victims of Human Trafficking: Guidance for Health Staff
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/187041/A5_Human_Trafficking_Guidance_leaflet.pdf

A Question of Credibility: Why so many initial asylum decisions are overturned on appeal in the UK
http://www.amnesty.org.uk/uploads/documents/doc_23149.pdf

Giving back to communities of residence and of origin
http://www.philanthropy-impact.org/sites/all/files/downloads/giving_back_to_comms_of_res.pdf

New website: Day of informal interactive hearings with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector
<http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/HLD2013/hld2013.html>

News

British citizenship test tightened to include English test
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-22158482>

The benefits of granting third country nationals equal rights to work
<http://www.enargywebzine.eu/spip.php?article284&lang=en>

How could politicians put a more positive spin on benefits of equality for third country nationals in the workplace and our society?
<http://www.enargywebzine.eu/spip.php?article279&lang=en>

How would Europe survive without immigrants?
<http://www.enargywebzine.eu/spip.php?article280&lang=en>

Asymmetrical Employment Rights for Non-EU Nationals - Addressing the Gaps in the Next Generation of EU Labour Migration Policy
<http://www.enargywebzine.eu/spip.php?article285&lang=en>

Debunking the myths of the EU Seasonal Workers Directive
<http://www.enargywebzine.eu/spip.php?article286&lang=en>

A trade union perspective on migration and equal rights at work for third country nationals
<http://www.enargywebzine.eu/spip.php?article281&lang=en>

The case for equal labour rights for undocumented migrant workers
<http://www.enargywebzine.eu/spip.php?article282&lang=en>

Legal Action Group looking for cases of people with insecure immigration status for 'Chasing Status' research
<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/news/2013/legal-action-group-looking-cases-people-insecure-immigration-status-chasing-status-research>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

Press Release

PM praises 'immense contribution' of British Sikhs at Vaisakhi reception

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/vaisakhi-reception/>

News

Muslim Council attacks Gove's proposed history curriculum

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2013/apr/14/muslim-council-attacks-school-history-proposals>

Anglican school that is 75% Muslim drops hymns

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Education/article1248686.ece

[TOP](#)

Equality

Press Release

Change to ministerial remit

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/04/ministerial-remit17042013>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Sectarianism

Siobhan McMahon: To ask the Scottish Government what educational programmes there are to help schools tackle sectarianism. (S4O-01999)

Reply from the Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages (Dr Alasdair Allan): We are aware of a number of educational programmes to help schools tackle sectarianism. The promotion of diversity and equality is an important element of curriculum for excellence.

Education Scotland, which is the national body for supporting quality improvement in Scottish education, promotes diversity and equality in its work and has a specific work stream on combating sectarianism. That work focuses on identifying and sharing good practice, reviewing and improving resources and engaging in professional dialogue across education in Scotland. All approved resources are available directly from the Education Scotland website.

Siobhan McMahon: Does the minister agree that education is the key to tackling sectarianism among young people? Is he aware of the Mark Scott leadership for life award, which, over the past 15 years, has helped to bring together young people who are often separated by their different backgrounds, by sectarianism, by racism or by territorialism? Will he join me in congratulating the pupils of Cardinal Newman high school and Bellshill academy who successfully took part in the Mark Scott leadership award community project?

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Alasdair Allan: I am happy to join the member in congratulating them and in commending all efforts that have been made in our schools to combat sectarianism. I have been struck on a number of recent visits to schools by the enthusiasm that many pupils have shown for projects such as those using the novel "Divided City", which engages young people in the issues around sectarianism. I am more than happy to agree that those are all efforts to be applauded.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8056&mode=html#job_73230

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Football: Racial Discrimination

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions she has had with the Football Association and the Professional Footballers' Association concerning racism in football; and if she will make a statement. [151063]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Basingstoke (Maria Miller), and I continue to meet with, and support the football authorities in their attempts to make progress in this area.

We have welcomed the 92 point action plan from the football authorities, published in December, setting out a way forward to tackle discrimination within the game. While we have made significant progress in this area over the last two decades, recent incidents have shown a need for concerted action. We want to see this action plan implemented and the football authorities to show strong leadership on anti-discrimination, at both the professional and grassroots levels of the game.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130417/text/130417w0002.htm#1304181000044>

News

Caste discrimination: Campaigners vow to fight for legislation

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-22163269>

British Asians to protest against caste discrimination outside parliament

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2013/apr/15/british-asians-parliament-caste-discrimination>

Caste discrimination in the UK must be outlawed

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/apr/15/caste-discrimination-uk-outlawed>

Stephen Lawrence: fight against racism continues, says archbishop

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/apr/20/stephen-lawrence-archbishop-of-york-fight-racism>

Christians launch landmark human rights case

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10007641/Christians-launch-landmark-human-rights-case.html>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Race row as locals fight boarding school for inner-city pupils

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/secondaryeducation/10008359/Race-row-as-locals-fight-boarding-school-for-inner-city-pupils.html>

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Parliamentary Question

Faith Schools

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of (a) primary and (b) secondary schools are designated as faith schools; and how many such schools are (i) Catholic, (ii) Protestant, (iii) Muslim, (iv) Jewish, (v) Hindu, (vi) Sikh and (vii) other faiths. [147885]

Reply from Elizabeth Truss: Data held by the Department records the religious character declared by the school.

(a) As of 8 March 2013, there were 16,783 state-funded mainstream primary schools in England, of which 37% (6,194) were recorded as faith schools. Of these: 4,386 were recorded as Church of England; 1,662 were recorded as Roman Catholic; six were recorded as Muslim; 33 were recorded as Jewish; three were recorded as Hindu; three were recorded as Sikh; and 101 were recorded as other faiths (other Christian, mixed types, Quaker, and Methodist).

(b) As of 8 March 2013, there were 3,281 state-funded mainstream secondary schools in England, of which 19% (628) were recorded as faith schools. Of these: 207 were recorded as Church of England; 323 were recorded as Roman Catholic; eight were recorded as Muslim; ten were recorded as Jewish; three were recorded as Hindu; one was recorded as Sikh; and 77 were recorded as other faiths (other Christian, mixed types, and Quaker).

Source: Edubase <http://www.edubase.gov.uk/edubase/home.xhtml>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130418/text/130418w0002.htm#13041838000089>

[TOP](#)

New Publication

Drug prevention interventions targeting minority ethnic populations: issues raised by 33 case studies

http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_197631_EN_TDXA13001ENN.pdf

[TOP](#)

Other News

Happy ever after with a part-time husband: the rise of polygamy in Muslim Britain

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/newsreview/features/article1248019.ece>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Holyrood

Post-16 Education Bill

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

Scottish Independence Referendum Bill

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

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>

Justice Committee: Stage 1 evidence

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8054&mode=pdf>

Health and Sport Committee: Stage 1 evidence

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8061&mode=pdf>

Bills in Progress Westminster

Draft Communications Data Bill

Draft Bill as published

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

Crime and Courts Bill

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

**** Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill**

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

Commons consideration of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130416/debtext/130416-0002.htm> - 13041638000004

Commons disagreements, amendments to words so restored to the Bill and amendments in lieu

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2012-2013/0095/20130095.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated this week

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>

Consultations (continued)

Design of the Data Sharing and Linking Service (closing date 29 May 2013)
<http://www.isdscotland.org/Products-and-Services/eDRIS/DSLS-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

See Hear: A strategic framework for meeting the needs of people with a sensory impairment in Scotland (closing date 28 June 2013)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0041/00417992.pdf>

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!**

Challenging Fuel Poverty

23 April 2013 in Glasgow (2.30 – 4.00, and 5.30 – 7.00)

West of Scotland Regional Equality Council event challenging fuel poverty and supporting minority ethnic communities to make their homes more energy efficient. For information contact admin@wsrec.co.uk / 0141 337 6626.

**** this week!**

BEMIS AGM

24 April 2013 in Glasgow (5.30 – 8.30)

For information contact mail@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

**** this week!**

Meet the Charity Regulator

25 April 2013 in Oban (6.00 – 8.15)

1 May 2013 in Wick (10.00 – 12.15)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator events to provide an opportunity to hear about the latest developments in charity regulation, equality and fundraising. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/c8f7kh8> or contact Lorna Edwards communications@oscr.org.uk / 01382 220446.

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.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

The Human Rights Question: What sort of Scotland, and what sort of constitutional future?

1 May 2013 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.00)

Seminar to examine how those involved in civil society groups are working to promote and protect rights, and consider the extent to which the referendum context affects this work. For information see <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/5386404882>.

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>.

Muslim Families' Experiences of the Education System in England and Scotland

13 May 2013 in Edinburgh (2.00 – 5.30)

Centre for Research in Education Inclusion and Diversity launch of research findings about Muslim pupils' educational outcomes in England and Scotland, Muslim families' educational aspirations, Muslim families' negotiation of school choice and attitudes to faith schools, and Home/school negotiations of cultural practices. For information contact Fannie Kong creid@ed.ac.uk or see <http://mpeees.eventbrite.co.uk>

Influencing Politicians and Political Structures

22 May 2013 in Glasgow (10.30 – 4.30)

Coalition for Equality and Rights training to communicate effectively with political decision makers. For information contact Nadia nadia@crer.org.uk / 0141 418 6530 or see <http://www.crer.org.uk/training/influencing-politicians-political-structures>

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>.

[TOP](#)

Useful Links

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

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

Useful Links (continued)

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

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

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com>

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <http://www.oscr.org.uk/>

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) <http://www.crbs.org.uk/>

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

[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/>

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