

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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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 and requests to be added to circulation to mail@bemis.org.uk

The UK Parliament will return from recess today.

Immigration and Asylum

Press Releases

Commission launches EU Civil Society Platform against trafficking in human beings
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-484_en.htm?locale=en

Eurosur: Parliament and Council agree on new border surveillance system
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20130530IPR10806/html/Eurosur-Parliament-and-Council-agree-on-new-border-surveillance-system>

An asylum seeker may, on the basis of national law, be detained for the purposes of removal on the ground of illegal stay where the application for asylum has been made with the sole aim of delaying or jeopardising enforcement of the return decision

http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/P_99391/

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **New Publication**

Asylum Information Database: The United Kingdom

<http://www.ecre.org/component/downloads/downloads/738.html>

News

Cable warns overseas students in 'immigration panic'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-22705868>

Immigration panic 'puts off overseas students,' warns Vince Cable

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/immigration-panic-puts-off-overseas-students-warns-vince-cable-8636688.html>

Legal aid residency tests 'will leave migrant children destitute'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2013/jun/02/residency-tests-migrant-children>

UK faces European Court over immigrants' benefits

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-22712569>

IDS defiant over immigrants' benefits access

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/ids-defiant-over-immigrants-benefits-access-1-2950331>

UK faces court action over EU migrant benefits

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/may/30/uk-court-action-migrant-benefits-eu>

European Commission sets out its reasons for its legal challenge to the UK on the 'right to reside' test

<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/news/2013/european-commission-sets-out-its-reasons-its-legal-challenge-uk-right-reside-test>

MPs: Pay up if you want visa

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/Politics/article1268200.ece>

Mothers-in-law important for integration of migrants, says report

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2013/may/28/migrant-integration-mothers-in-law>

UK's 'absurd' visa policies have hurt student recruitment from India

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2013/may/29/uk-visa-policy-india-students>

Asylum seeker drama built on a fraught family portrait

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/arts-ents/stage/asylum-seeker-drama-built-on-a-fraught-family-portrait.21145665>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Debate

Shia Community (Sectarian Attacks)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8173&mode=html#job_74158

News

Far right won't gain foothold in Scotland, say faith groups

<http://www.thirdforcenews.org.uk/2013/05/far-right-wont-gain-foothold-in-scotland-say-faith-groups/>

Woolwich murder: 200 Islamophobic incidents since Lee Rigby's killing

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/may/28/woolwich-murder-200-islamophobic-incidences>

Attacks on Muslims: numbers in detail

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2013/may/28/attacks-on-muslims-numbers-detail>

The truth about the 'wave of attacks on Muslims' after Woolwich murder

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/10093568/The-truth-about-the-wave-of-attacks-on-Muslims-after-Woolwich-murder.html>

After Woolwich, don't ban hate speech, counter it. Hate it, too

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/may/30/woolwich-hate-speech-censorship>

Stop Demonising the Mainstream Muslim Community, the Biggest Barrier to Violent Extremism

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/omar-ali/muslim-community-stop-demonising-them_b_3343147.html?utm_hp_ref=uk

Islamic Hate Crime Won't Last: The UK Is a Tolerant Place

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/jamie-bartlett/hate-crime-islam_b_3364169.html?utm_hp_ref=uk

Hate mustn't be made a thought crime – only acting on it is

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/10092764/Hate-mustnt-be-made-a-thought-crime-only-acting-on-it-is.html>

Scotland 'hostile to Catholics' - genuine response to prejudice or lingering sense of victimhood?

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/are-claims-that-scotland-is-hostile-to-catholics-a-genuine-response-to-prejudice-or-just-a-lingering-sense-of-vic>

Scotland has an issue with anti-Catholicism. That's a fact ... and we have to face it

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/columnists/scotland-has-an-issue-with-anti-catholicism-thats-a-fact-and-we-have-to-face-it.21235091>

Contemplating Catholic controversy

<http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/opinion/comment/andrew-wilson-contemplating-catholic-controversy-1-2951943>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

European judges deny appeals by Christians

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/european-judges-deny-appeals-by-christians-1-2946353>

European Court of Human Rights rejects Christians' cases that their religious rights were violated by employers

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/european-court-of-human-rights-rejects-christians-cases-that-their-religious-rights-were-violated-by-employers-8634687.html>

Christians' discrimination cases rejected by human rights court

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/may/28/christians-discrimination-cases-rejected-human-rights-court>

Rejection of religious discrimination claims raise fears of 'exclusion of Christians'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10085169/Rejection-of-religious-discrimination-claims-raise-fears-of-exclusion-of-Christians.html>

Celtic fan who sang IRA song is cleared of football offence

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/celtic-fan-who-sang-ira-song-is-cleared-of-football-offence.21190285>

Fifa racism measures could see teams expelled or relegated

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/football/22728162>

58 arrested as BNP and anti-fascists clash in London protest

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/58-arrested-as-bnp-and-antifascists-clash-in-london-protest-8640630.html>

SDL protest held outside Scottish Parliament

<http://www.scotsman.com/edinburgh-evening-news/latest-news/sdl-protest-held-outside-scottish-parliament-1-2951895>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Questions

Proposed Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill

Marco Biagi: To ask the Scottish Government when it will introduce the proposed marriage and civil partnership (Scotland) bill. (S4T-00369)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing (Alex Neil): As the First Minister set out in the programme for government on 4 September 2012, we will introduce the marriage and civil partnership (Scotland) bill within the 2012-13 parliamentary year, so the bill will be introduced before the forthcoming summer recess.

Marco Biagi: I thank the cabinet secretary for that answer, because the proposed bill offers equality not just for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, but for those diverse faiths that sincerely believe in same-sex marriage and which are currently prevented from holding such ceremonies. However, I recognise that, just as those faiths wish to perform same-sex marriage, many others do not or are divided on the issue.

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

What progress has been made on ensuring that the necessary changes are made to the United Kingdom Equality Act 2010 to safeguard the right of each religion to govern its own internal affairs on this matter?

Reply from Alex Neil: We have made substantial progress in co-operation with Maria Miller, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, who is responsible for such matters in the UK Government. When the marriage and civil partnership (Scotland) bill is published, I hope to be in a position to confirm the details of the amendments that will be made to the UK Equality Act 2010 in respect of the Scottish bill.

Marco Biagi: The cabinet secretary will be aware of the claims that Maria Miller has made about the cost and timescales for equalising civil partnership. A key aim of the equal marriage campaign in Scotland has been to secure mixed-sex civil partnerships, and I would be deeply uncomfortable about LGBT people continuing to be singled out by legislation that emphasises our difference. What consideration has the cabinet secretary given to that issue? Will he order a review or other work to be done to assess the potential impact, should the Parliament express that its wish is to open up civil partnerships to mixed-sex couples?

Reply from Alex Neil: As the member will be aware, Maria Miller has ordered a review—indeed, she has built it into the legislation on same-sex marriage down south. As well as covering devolved matters in respect of England, that review will cover reserved matters such as pensions. I am giving consideration to how we should address the issue, and I hope to make an announcement to Parliament fairly soon.

Drew Smith: Following last week's vote in the House of Commons, Stonewall Scotland called on us members of the Scottish Parliament to "get on with it" in relation to equal marriage in Scotland, so I very much welcome the cabinet secretary's confirmation that a bill will be introduced before the summer recess. While the progress of that bill will be a matter for the Parliament and the Presiding Officers, could the cabinet secretary indicate whether, under the timetable that he has in mind, he envisages that the first marriages that take place under the bill's provisions will do so before or after the September 2014 referendum?

Reply from Alex Neil: I am thinking about the principles of the bill rather than the referendum. After our extensive consultation, we have given a commitment to introduce the bill as quickly as possible, which is what we are doing. It will be up to the relevant committee and the Parliamentary Bureau to timetable the bill, but I hope that the timetabling will be such that we see the bill become law sooner rather than later.

Dave Thompson: Marriage is different from civil partnership. I do not believe that this is an equality issue, as civil partnerships provide nearly all the legal rights and obligations of marriage and can easily be adjusted to make the two the same. In the light of the concerns about religious freedom, will the cabinet secretary confirm that the civil liberty and religious freedom of people of faith will be safeguarded not in regulation but on the face of the bill?

Reply from Alex Neil: The main protections with regard to what the member refers to will be in amendments to the Equality Act 2010, because much of that relates to reserved matters rather than devolved matters, and reserved matters cannot be dealt with in a bill on devolved matters. However, I think that the key point on which the member will want reassurance is that the civil rights of those who do not wish to carry out a same-sex marriage will be fully protected.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8173&mode=html#job_74153

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New Publication

Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Human_rights_indicators_en.pdf

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Other News

South Asian girls 'silent over sex abuse'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-22731537>

Two-thirds of people 'say they would make sacrifices to maintain their giving'

http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/bulletin/third_sector_daily_bulletin/article/1184407/two-thirds-people-say-sacrifices-maintain-giving/?DCMP=EMC-CONThirdSectorDaily

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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>

Education and Culture Committee consideration of Stage 2 amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8174&mode=pdf>
and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8161&mode=pdf>

Bill as amended at Stage 2

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Post-16%20Education%20Bill/b18as4-amend.pdf

Children and Young People Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/62233.aspx>

**** Scottish Independence Referendum Bill**

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

Referendum Bill Committee: Stage 1 evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8186&mode=pdf>
and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8171&mode=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>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

The Implications of Scottish Independence for business; higher education and research; and postal services (closing date 7 June 2013)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/business-innovation-and-skills/inquiries/implications-of-scottish-independence/>

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/DSLIS-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>

Interests of the Members of the Scottish Parliament Bill (closing date 22 July 2013)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_StandardsProceduresandPublicAppointmentsCommittee/Inquiries/FINAL_consultation_document.pdf

Children and Young People Bill (closing date 26 July 2013)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_EducationandCultureCommittee/General%20Documents/Call_for_written_evidence.pdf

Review of the Balance of Competences: Asylum and Immigration (closing date 5 August 2013)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/199891/asylum-immigration-call-for-evidence.pdf

Our Communities, Your Duties (no closing date given)

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

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Responding to Forced Marriage

6 June 2013 (10.00 – 4.00 in Edinburgh)

Scottish Women's Aid training explore what is meant by a forced marriage and explain the provisions of the new The Forced Marriage etc. (Protection and Jurisdiction) (Scotland) Act. For information contact Nadine Jassat 0131 226 6606 / nadine.jassat@scottishwomensaid.org.uk

Refugee Week

17-23 June 2013

Festival with over 100 arts and cultural events, including music, comedy, theatre, literature, community celebrations, events in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Perth and as far afield as Mull and New Galloway, to celebrate the contributions refugees have made to Scotland and the communities that have welcomed them. For information see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0000/5877/RefugeeWeek2013_Programme.pdf

Putting U Back into Community

20 June 2013 in Glasgow (6.00 – 8.00)

Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights event to explain local Community Planning and Community Councils, and find out how Glasgow's minority ethnic communities can influence what happens in their local areas. For information see <http://www.crer.org.uk/81-front-page-articles/385-putting-u-back-into-community>

Mental Health and Ethnicity

30 October 2013 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

West of Scotland Health and Ethnicity Conference to present an evidence based approach to influence the development of a healthier minority ethnic community in Scotland. Deadline for submissions: 31 July 2013. For information contact Sidra Shirjeel sidra.shirjeel@cc3.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/bmvj354>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

Useful Links (continued)

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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