

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Human Trafficking

Jenny Marra: To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to implement the European directive on human trafficking and what information it has regarding the activities of the anti-trafficking progress group that was established at its human trafficking summit on 18 October 2012. (S4W-15246)

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: I consider that Scotland is already broadly compliant with the requirements of the directive. The Anti-Trafficking Progress Group is taking forward the 11 priority action points identified and agreed at the summit in October 2012. These actions include training and awareness raising; improving victim support and care, and considering whether there are any gaps in legislation. The group will meet again shortly to review progress so far and is scheduled to report back to a re-convened summit in 2014. We have also given a commitment to bring forward a human trafficking statutory aggravation and will do so shortly.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-15246&ResultsPerPage=10>

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S4M-06960 Aileen Campbell: The Scottish Guardianship Service, a Celebration of Success—That the Parliament recognises that 17 to 23 June is Refugee Week 2013; welcomes the success of the Scottish Guardianship Service in supporting more than 100 unaccompanied young people going through the asylum system; further welcomes the positive evaluation of this unique Scottish service and the help that it has delivered to vulnerable young people, and commends the Aberlour Childcare Trust and Scottish Refugee Council for operating the service.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-06960&ResultsPerPage=10>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Benefit Tourism

Glyn Davies: What steps she is taking to reduce benefit tourism. [158492]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May):

The Home Office will tighten regulations to time-limit the right of unemployed European economic area nationals to reside and claim benefits to six months, unless they can prove they are looking for a job and have a genuine chance of getting one. The Department for Work and Pensions is also taking steps to tighten further its rules on access to benefits.

Glyn Davies: ... Will the Secretary of State use the forthcoming Immigration Bill to tackle illegal immigrants who are accessing services to which they are not entitled?

Reply from Theresa May: I am grateful to my hon. Friend for his question. My hon. Friend the Minister for Immigration was pleased to be able to visit Wales to see this at first hand. We will indeed use the Immigration Bill better to regulate migrant access to benefits and public services. We will: get tougher on employers of illegal workers; prevent illegal migrants from obtaining driving licences; and require private landlords to make checks on prospective tenants. We will also further restrict access to social housing and restrict migrant access to benefits by tightening the habitual residence test and closing the loophole that currently allows migrants without a right to work here to access contributory benefits. With our European partners, we will also tackle free movement abuse and its impact on social welfare and public services, and we welcome the commitment by EU Ministers at last Friday's meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council to finding EU-wide solutions to this problem.

David Wright: The Home Secretary mentioned access to housing, which is clearly an important point in relation to people coming into this country. What work has she done with the Department for Communities and Local Government on this issue, particularly in relation to private landlords? How can we do this if we do not have a statutory register?

Reply from Theresa May: Nice try, but the answers on the statutory register are the same as the Government have been giving the Opposition for some months now. I have had a number of discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, as has my hon. Friend the Immigration Minister. I am pleased to say that we have proposals that will ensure that we can indeed tighten access to housing for illegal migrants.

23. [158511] **Phillip Lee:** ... Does the Secretary of State agree that migrant access to the NHS needs to be better regulated?

Reply from Theresa May: ... We have a national health service, not an international health service. The rules governing migrant access to the NHS are too generous and ineffectively applied, meaning that they are open to abuse. That is why the Government propose reforming the residence test that governs free NHS access, and are proposing options under which temporary migrants would

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

make a contribution before they used our health service— either through an up-front NHS access fee, or through comprehensive health insurance. We also intend to end free unrestricted access to general practitioners by visitors and illegal migrants, and to introduce measures better to identify patients who must be charged.

Kate Green: The impact of the migration rules on the benefits bill can cut two ways. This afternoon, the all-party group on migration, of which I am a member, published a report showing that some British families have been forced to claim benefits because a spouse who could support them cannot be admitted to this country. Will the Home Secretary consider the report of the all-party group carefully, especially the impact of the family migration rules on benefits claims?

Reply from Theresa May: I can assure the hon. Lady that the Government look carefully at all-party group reports on areas that relate to, or affect, the Home Office. On the changes that we propose to access to public services, and on the whole issue of people coming to join families, there is a principle, which is about being able to ensure that where people are accessing public services, they are services that they have contributed to. This is a great concern for many members of the public, and it is right for the Government to tighten it up. ...

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130610/debtext/130610-0001.htm#13061011000014>

Topical Questions to the Home Secretary

Andrew Bridgen: What steps is my right hon. Friend taking to prevent the abuse of free movement rights within the EU?

Reply from Theresa May: I have consistently raised the problem of the abuse of free movement at meetings of the Justice and Home Affairs Council, and we are working with other EU member states to curb that abuse. Free movement of persons is a long-standing principle of the EU, but those rights are not unlimited, and the Government take a robust approach against those who come to the UK not intending to work, but simply to rely on benefits. Abuse of free movement is not just a UK problem; it will take the joint efforts of all our EU partners to tackle it. We have been raising concerns for the past three years at meetings of EU Ministers, and I am pleased to say that last Friday it was decided that the European Commission and Ministers would take the issue forward. ...

T4. [158517] **James Gray:** Despite the 30% reduction in net migration since this Government came to power, people across North Wiltshire are extremely concerned about the whole issue of immigration, particularly with regard to Bulgaria and Romania later this year. What steps will the Minister take to ensure that people from Bulgaria and Romania in particular are not tempted here by the ability to avoid our tax system or, even worse, the ability to benefit from our benefits system?

Reply from Mark Harper: On Bulgaria and Romania, my hon. Friend will know that in the immigration Bill and elsewhere we have set out a number of changes that we are making to ensure that only people who are here exercising treaty rights—who are here working—can access the benefits system. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary set out some of those earlier. I hope my hon. Friend will see that tough and firm action continue. ...

T6. [158519] **Sarah Teather:** Have Ministers checked whether the family migration rules are compliant with our obligations under the United Nations convention on the rights of the child?

Reply from Mark Harper: Yes, we are confident that they are. Last week I met the chair of the all-party group on migration, the noble Baroness Hamwee, to discuss the report. The Government will consider the recommendations in that

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

report, but my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has set out clearly the objective of the family migration rules: to ensure that those who want to make their family life in the United Kingdom are able to support their families, rather than expecting the taxpayer to do so. ...

Dominic Raab: Will my right hon. Friend confirm that, while net immigration quadrupled during the first 11 years of the previous Government, it has been brought down by 72,000 in just two years under this Government, despite the fact that the Opposition have fought us every step of the way?

Reply from Theresa May: I can absolutely confirm that. I am pleased to say that net migration has gone down by more than a third since this Government came into power. That is a result of our relentless work to deal with the lack of control in the immigration system under Labour, and it is a great pity that Labour Members have not been willing to support any of the measures that we have taken to ensure that immigration can come down. ...

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130610/debtext/130610-0001.htm#13061011000026>

Immigration

Baroness Hamwee: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 16 May (WA 26), what are the "sources of information available", in addition to published immigration statistics, in the light of which they will keep the impact of the family immigration rules under review. [HL551]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The other sources of information available to the Government in reviewing the impact of the family Immigration Rules will include the information and representations provided by those affected by the rules. Such information and representations will include those contained in correspondence with the department from parliamentarians, the public and external stakeholders about the operation of the rules and in the work of groups such as the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration, whose report on the impact of some aspects of the rules was published on 10 June 2013.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/130610w0001.htm#1306105000274>

Immigrants: English Language

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to ensure that immigrants are proficient in spoken and written English. [158952]

Reply from Mark Harper: The ability to speak and understand English is key to integrating successfully into British society. Migrants applying to come to the UK to work or study under the Points Based System are required to demonstrate English language skills. The requirements were raised in April 2011. The minimum required varies according to route of entry but generally is at least equivalent to B1 (intermediate level) on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. At B1 level, users will be able to express opinions, understand factual reports in a newspaper and write accurate notes of a meeting. Since November 2010, those seeking to come to the UK as partners of a British citizen or person settled here must demonstrate, as a minimum, basic speaking and listening skills at A1 of the Common European Framework. At A1 level, speakers are expected to be able to answer simple factual questions and understand basic instructions.

Migrants applying for indefinite leave to remain or for naturalisation as British citizens must demonstrate knowledge of language and life in the UK. From

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

October 2013, this requirement will be strengthened to require applicants both to pass the Life in the UK test and to have speaking and listening skills at a minimum of B1 (intermediate level on the Common European Framework of Reference). Further details were published on 8 April 2013 in a Statement of Intent, which 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>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130612/text/130612w0001.htm#13061286000024>

Immigration

Philip Hollobone: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many immigrants entered the UK from (a) outside and (b) inside the EU in each of the last three years. [158585]

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:

... 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.

Latest available data show that in the year to September 2012, 148,000 EU citizens and 273,000 non-EU citizens arrived in the UK. These estimates do not include British citizens. 79,000 British citizens arrived as long-term international migrants in the same year.

Table 1 shows these figures for each of the last three years of available data.

<i>Year ending September</i>	<i>EU citizens</i>	<i>Non-EU citizens</i>	<i>British citizens</i>
2010	182,000	326,000	92,000
2011	166,000	334,000	81,000
2012	148,000	273,000	79,000

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130610/text/130610w0002.htm#1306112000052>

Asylum

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have been granted permission to remain in the UK in each of the last three years. [158478]

Reply from Mark Harper: There were 5,195 grants to main applicants at initial decision in 2010; 5,649 in 2011 and 6,065 in 2012. Grants consist of asylum, humanitarian protection, discretionary leave and indefinite leave to remain under private and family life rules. The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on asylum decisions within the Immigration Statistics release. A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics January-March 2013 is available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release> and will be placed in the Library of the House.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130610/text/130610w0003.htm#1306116000012>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum

Henry Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the current backlog is of (a) asylum cases and (b) general immigration cases. [157125]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Home Office publishes data on asylum work in progress. This can be found here:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/further-key-data/>

Caseloads in the general immigration system were published by The Home Affairs Select Committee, in its fourteenth report (The work of the UK Border Agency (July-September 2012)). The report can be found here:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmhaff/792/79206.htm>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130612/text/130612w0001.htm#13061286000016>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers were (1) granted, and (2) refused, permission to work in each of the last ten years. [HL665]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The data requested on the number of asylum seekers that were granted and refused permission to work is only held at the level of coordinated paper case files or within the notes sections of the Home Office's databases. Such data is not aggregated in national reporting systems, which would mean these questions could only be answered through a disproportionately expensive manual case search to collate the data.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's To ask Her further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 3 June (WA 101–2), (1) what the "normal merits test" consists of, (2) whether they have plans to allow asylum seekers to seek permission to find employment outside the roles listed on the shortage occupation list, and (3) what evidence they have that enhancing the rights of all asylum seekers (a) acts as a pull factor for fraudulent claimants, (b) erodes public support for the asylum system, and (c) encourages individuals to undertake dangerous journeys to the European Union.[HL666]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: (1) The "normal merits test" referred to in the response to the noble Lord's previous question (HL317) is the merits test applied by legal representatives in order to determine whether a potential client may qualify for legal aid. It is also known as the "Interests of Justice Test". Further information about this test can be found on the Ministry of Justice's website at: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/legal-aid/assess-your-clients-eligibility/interests-of-justice-test>

(2) There are no plans to expand access to work for asylum seekers beyond jobs on the Shortage Occupation List.

(3) The Government believes that it is important to strike the right balance between securing the rights of asylum seekers, who may or may not have a genuine need of protection, and the operation of a fair and effective immigration system that protects the rights of citizens. The factors driving the behaviour of asylum seekers, including their choice of destination, are complex but the UK's own experience and our observations of the experience of EU partners is that where the balance is wrong the number of unfounded claims goes up. We did not think that the recast European Directive on Reception Conditions achieved a balance that was in the best interest of the UK so have not opted in to it.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/130613w0001.htm#13061349000180>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Detention

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Matrix Evidence Economic analysis of alternatives to long term detention, specifically (1) of the potential savings that improved risk assessment procedures could provide, (2) of the comparative costs of (a) detaining, and (b) providing section 4 support to migrants, and (3) of the proposal that reinvestment in intensive community-based support could generate increased rates of (a) case resolution and (b) voluntary return. [HL661]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Where an individual is detained under immigration powers pending removal, the Home Office aims to ensure that detention is kept to the minimum and that removal takes place promptly. The Home Office is aware of the costs of detention but these are balanced in individual cases against the risks of absconding, re-offending and subsequent harm to the public. Where a detainee refuses to cooperate with the removal process, detention may also be prolonged. Those who are detained are able to apply to an independent immigration judge for bail.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will review the Detained Fast Track programme in the light of Guideline IV of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' Guidelines on the Applicable Criteria and Standards relating to the Detention of Asylum-Seekers and Alternatives to Detention 2012 that detention "must be an exceptional measure".[HL662]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: A specific review of the Detained Fast Track (DFT) processes in light of Guideline IV is not planned.

The Home Office works closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and has consulted with its representatives on a number of occasions regarding DFT policy. The 2012 guidelines were brought to the attention of policy officials following publication, at which time they were carefully examined.

Guideline IV of the UNHCR document lays out a number of limited bases in which it considers asylum applicants may be detained. The Guideline does not admit the basis under which DFT has consistently operated.

The Home Office has considered the Guidelines and we continue to believe that where applied carefully, on a case by case basis and in circumstances limited by law and our published policy, the detention of asylum applicants for a short period while their need for protection is assessed is fair, lawful and appropriate.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to introduce (1) a time limit on the separation of families within immigration detention, and (2) procedures for carrying out best interests assessments on children as recommended by the Bail for Immigrant Detainees' Fractured Childhoods report.[HL663]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: Where a parent is detained under immigration powers pending removal and thereby separated from their family, the Home Office aims to ensure that detention is kept to a minimum and that removal takes place promptly. There are no plans to introduce a time limit on such separations.

Neither are there any plans to introduce best interest assessments as recommended in the Bail for Immigration Detainees' report. However, the Home Office already considers children's best interests at relevant stages whenever immigration functions are carried out.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/130613w0001.htm#13061349000189>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigrants: Detainees

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for immigration bail were heard by an immigration judge in each of the last five years; and in how many such cases applicants received legal aid. [156775]

Reply from Jeremy Wright: In each of the last five years judges of the First-tier and Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) have heard the following number of bail applications:

<i>Bail application hearings</i>	
<i>Calendar year</i>	<i>Number</i>
2008	9,294
2009	10,077
2010	9,873
2011	10,228
2012	10,650

These figures do not represent the number of appellants applying for bail, as the same appellant may apply for bail on multiple occasions. These figures also exclude bail renewals, variations and forfeitures.

The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) does not hold information on which of the applications set out in the table received legal aid. In such cases providers assist clients directly, and the LAA does not hold records of applications.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130613/text/130613w0001.htm#13061354000016>

Asylum Seekers: Deportation

Stephen Phillips: What plans she has to speed up the deportation of those refused asylum in the UK. [158504]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Mr Mark Harper): We want to continue to deport those who have no right to be in the United Kingdom, whether they are failed asylum seekers or foreign national offenders. Increased use of detained fast track and our national removals centre will reduce the risk of absconding, as well as being more successful in deporting people.

Stephen Phillips: One of the frustrations felt by all our constituents about the asylum and wider immigration system is the seemingly endless ways in which failed asylum seekers and immigrants are able to keep on appealing. I hope that the Minister and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will use the forthcoming immigration Bill to clamp down on the many rights of appeal.

Reply from Mark Harper: I am pleased to be able to tell my hon. and learned Friend that that is exactly what we are going to do. The immigration Bill plans to reduce the number of decisions it takes to remove someone who has no right to be in the country. Reducing the number of appeals will make the process easier and swifter.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130610/debtext/130610-0001.htm#13061011000024>

Human Trafficking

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Attorney-General what his policy is on prosecuting people for crimes committed while being controlled by traffickers. [158728]

Reply from the Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has issued comprehensive legal guidance to advise prosecutors of the steps they should take in cases where the police have arrested potential victims of trafficking who have committed criminal offences and referred them for charge. If information suggests that they have been trafficked, prosecutors are advised to make full

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

enquiries and consider whether the case against them should be discontinued. However, a prosecutor can only take these steps if they have information from the police or other sources that a suspect might be a victim of trafficking. The CPS is considering issuing new guidelines to prosecutors following recent cases in the Court of Appeal in which victims of trafficking were prosecuted and convicted, having been advised to plead guilty by their legal representative. The new guidelines will be shared in due course with law enforcement and the Law Society to ensure a joined-up approach in these cases.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130611/text/130611w0001.htm#130611102000027>

Press Releases

Parliament gives green light to the new European asylum system

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20130607IPR11389/html/Parliament-gives-green-light-to-the-new-European-asylum-system>

European Parliament backs Schengen reform deal

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20130607IPR11390/html/European-Parliament-backs-Schengen-reform-deal>

New Publications

Human Rights of unaccompanied migrant children and young people in the UK

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201314/jtselect/jtrights/9/9.pdf>

Expecting Change: The case for ending the detention of pregnant women

<http://www.medicaljustice.org.uk/images/stories/reports/expectingchange.pdf>

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration Report of the Inquiry into New Family Migration Rules

http://www.appgmigration.org.uk/sites/default/files/APPG_family_migration_inquiry_report-Jun-2013.pdf

Handbook on European law relating to asylum, borders and immigration

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/handbook-law-asylum-migration-borders_en.pdf

News

UK's new visa rules 'causing anguish' for families

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-22833136>

Migrant children 'being failed by Britain'

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/migrant-children-being-failed-by-britain-1-2962534>

Britain accused of failing migrant children

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/britain-accused-of-failing-migrant-children.21317362>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

British mother had abortion 'because of visa rules'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-22868332>

Family immigration rules that put a £18,600-a-year price tag on love are 'heartbreaking'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/family-immigration-rules-that-put-a-18600ayear-price-tag-on-love-are-heartbreaking-8651456.html>

Immigration policy tearing families apart, report shows

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/jun/10/immigration-rules-separating-thousands-families>

Children seeking asylum should 'be better cared for' by the state

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/jun/12/children-seeking-asylum-better-care>

UK citizenship test just 'a bad pub quiz'

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk/uk-citizenship-test-just-a-bad-pub-quiz-1.102382>

Citizenship test is little more than 'bad pub quiz'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/this-britain/citizenship-test-is-little-more-than-bad-pub-quiz-8658104.html>

Citizenship test has become a bad pub quiz, says academic

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/jun/14/citizenship-test-pub-quiz>

Migrant passport test is just a 'bad pub quiz': Test attacked for containing practical information such as how to report a crime

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2341354/Migrant-passport-test-just-bad-pub-quiz-Test-attacked-containing-practical-information-report-crime.html>

Asylum claims that cost us £538m: Home Office's huge annual bill to tackle 37,000 applications

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2342101/Asylum-claims-cost-538m-Home-Offices-huge-annual-tackle-37-000-applications.html>

Foreign-born men more likely to be in work than British counterparts - and migrant workers earn UK £7bn annual boost

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/foreignborn-men-more-likely-to-be-in-work-than-british-counterparts--and-migrant-workers-earn-uk-7bn-annual-boost-8657156.html>

UK male employment rate higher for immigrants, says OECD

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/jun/13/male-employment-rate-immigrants-oecd>

Romanian officials voice concerns over anti-immigrant feeling to Nick Clegg

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/jun/13/romanian-official-concerns-nick-clegg>

100 Images of Migration: journeys of the century

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/jun/11/100-images-of-migration>

100 Images of Migration - in pictures

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/gallery/2013/jun/11/photography-immigration>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Ground-breaking Guardianship Service commended by the Scottish Parliament

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/2108_ground-breaking_guardianship_service_commmended_by_the_scottish_parliament

Scottish Refugee Council: We won!

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/2109_we_won

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Race Relations

News

Dalry Primary publish book on school's diversity

<http://www.scotsman.com/edinburgh-evening-news/education/dalry-primary-publish-book-on-school-s-diversity-1-2966600>

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Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Race Equality

Mary Fee: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4O-01708 by Alex Neil on 17 January 2013, what progress there has been on its approach to race equality; when its approach will be published; what consultation is planned, and whether this approach is informing work on its (a) autumn budget considerations and (b) white paper on proposals for independence. (S4W-15294)

Reply from Shona Robison: We recently published our current thinking on how race equality should develop over the next three years. During the summer we will work with stakeholders to develop the approach to be taken and we will publish the refreshed statement in the autumn. This will provide more detail on how we intend to take forward our plans in practice.

We will initially focus on working with key strategic partners to collate the research work already carried out in Scotland, followed by wider collaborative working with stakeholders to plan and shape a draft outline of our approach. The draft statement will then issue for consultation.

a) The publication of the draft statement for consultation will coincide with the autumn budget considerations. The above process will help to inform those considerations and will be relevant in the context of spending proposals

b) This work will help inform the work around constitutional reform.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-15294&ResultsPerPage=10>

Mary Fee: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4O-01708 by Alex Neil on 17 January 2013, whether its approach to race equality will include visible and invisible minorities in Scotland; what communities it regards as visible and invisible minorities, and whether and how issues of multiple or intersectional identity are being considered in its approach. (S4W-15295)

Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Shona Robison: Our work on race equality and tackling racism acknowledges that minority ethnic communities include those who might be described as both visible and invisible minorities as ethnicity is not always identifiable by physical characteristics.

We recognise that there are many different groups living in Scotland with different heritage and some coming from different parts of the world, each has a right to be treated with respect and to live free from discrimination and prejudice. We recognise that people from minority ethnic communities may also experience issues as a result of their gender, age, faith, sexual orientation or disability, compounding the disadvantage or discrimination.

Our work will continue to explore the complexities of people's multiple identities and the links between the other equality strands. This has long been an issue of concern and we acknowledge that there is still much to be done. It is a very complex area and needs to be addressed as part of the dialogue with stakeholders to explore how we can work towards a solution.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-15295&ResultsPerPage=10>

Mary Fee: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4O-01708 by Alex Neil on 17 January 2013, what criteria it (a) applies and (b) will apply in its approach to race equality on (i) prioritising issues, (ii) deciding on funding and resourcing; whether and how visible or invisible minority status is part of this criteria, and whether funded organisations are monitored on their adherence to non-discrimination practice, including in relation to visible and invisible minorities. (S4W-15296)

Reply from Shona Robison: Funding is provided to organisations to fulfil projects or programmes of work and on the basis of outcomes outlined in either business plans or funding applications. Grant levels and conditions are determined accordingly. The general approach to funding and to the criteria which is applied for example in the Equality Fund is based on Scottish Government strategic priorities, identified needs in communities and on the experience and views of stakeholders.

The approach we adopt and the priorities we identify in future will be based on dialogue with stakeholders, consideration of the need and evidence, the strategic priorities of the Scottish Government and with reference to legislation and the work around the public sector equality duty. We will determine our approach in partnership and collaboration with interests and stakeholders over the next few months.

Our work on race equality acknowledges that ethnicity is not always identifiable by physical characteristics and as such encompasses those who might be described as visible and invisible minorities. Our funding is directed as outlined above. Whilst projects designed to assist both visible and invisible minorities are supported, funding is not directed and determined on that basis.

Organisations that receive grant funding from the Scottish Government are required to agree by the conditions of the grant which include adherence to equality legislation. Organisations provide reports on their progress regarding the project or programme of work.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-15296&ResultsPerPage=10>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Debate

Challenging Stereotypes

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8213&mode=html#iob_74525

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S4M-06985 John Wilson: Conforti Institute Secures Anti-sectarian Funding—That the Parliament congratulates the Conforti Institute on securing Scottish Government funding to assist with its anti-sectarian project; recognises that the Scottish Government recently awarded £3 million funding to 18 anti-sectarian projects throughout Scotland, including Sense Over Sectarianism, Place for Hope and the Scottish Book Trust; notes that a further £350,000 Small Grants Fund has also been established for the next two years to assist small scale projects; acknowledges what it considers is the importance of these community-based projects in tackling the ongoing problem of sectarianism in Scotland, and praises what it sees as the efforts of those involved in the Conforti Institute's anti-sectarian project in eradicating archaic prejudices in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-06985&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Releases

No tolerance of hate crimes: statistics show fall in offences

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/06/hatecrime14062013>

Hate Crime in Scotland 2012-13

<http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/media-site/latest-news-from-copfs/327-hate-crime-in-scotland-2012-13>

Funding for projects to tackle sectarianism

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/06/sectarianfund100613>

New Publications

Hate Crime in Scotland 2012-13

http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/images/Documents/Equality_Diversity/Hate%20Crime%20in%20Scotland%202012-13.pdf

Charges reported under the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act (2012) in 2012-13

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00424898.pdf>

Religiously Aggravated Offending in Scotland 2012-13

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00424865.pdf>

An Examination of the Evidence on Sectarianism in Scotland

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00424891.pdf>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) **News**

Race crime in Scotland falls to lowest level in 10 years

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-22904552>

Scotland sees rise in number of race hate cases

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/politics/scotland-sees-rise-in-number-of-race-hate-cases-1-2967298>

Hate crime in Scotland: rise in anti-Islam, disabled, gender offences

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/hate-crime-in-scotland-rise-in-anti-islam-disabled-gender-offences.1371208850>

City leaders in pledge to battle 'hate crimes'

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/city-leaders-in-pledge-to-battle-hate-crimes-127480n.21348287>

Scots 'not immune' to anti-Islamic tensions

<http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/politics/scots-not-immune-to-anti-islamic-tensions-1-2968675>

'Change hearts and minds, not statutes'

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/analysis-change-hearts-and-minds-not-statutes-1-2968724>

Woolwich attack: racist Facebook posts lead to suspended jail term

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/jun/14/woolwich-attack-racist-facebook-posts>

How can British Muslim communities better protect themselves?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jun/11/british-muslim-communities-better-protect-themselves>

£3million awarded to eighteen projects to tackle sectarianism across Scotland

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/3million-awarded-eighteen-projects-tackle-1943224>

Do Not Downplay Anti-Muslim Hatred Whether Online or Offline

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/fiyaz-mughal/islamophobia-anti-muslim-hatred_b_3423125.html?utm_hp_ref=uk-politics

Police patrols at Islamic sites after school blaze

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/police-patrols-at-islamic-sites-after-school-blaze-1-2960812>

Rise in number of attacks on Muslims says officer

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/rise-in-number-of-attacks-on-muslims-says-officer-1-2961832>

Scottish FA clubs vote against new discrimination rules

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/football/22853305>

EDL admits to 'questionable tactics'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/edl-admits-to-questionable-tactics.21317267>

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Other Westminster

Ministerial Speech

Discussion on Scotland's Constitutional Future

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/discussion-on-scotlands-constitutional-future>

Devolution and the implications of independence

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/devolution-and-the-implications-of-independence>

News

MPs urge more action on female genital mutilation

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-22880152>

UK 'too politically correct on genital mutilation'

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/uk-too-politically-correct-on-genital-mutilation-1-2964157>

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Other News

Breast cancer risk has risen for South Asian women

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-22891645>

Political correctness resulting in female circumcision being ignored in UK, say MPs

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/political-correctness-resulting-in-female-circumcision-being-ignored-in-uk-say-mps-8656224.html>

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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>

Proposed amendments

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Post-16%20Education%20Bill/websiteamendments13june.pdf

Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing on the Bill at Stage 3

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_13-33.pdf

Children and Young People Bill

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

Bills in Progress

Holyrood (continued)

**** 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=8215&mode=pdf>

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

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

Proposed amendments

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Scottish%20Independence%20Referendum%20Franchise%20Bill/websiteamendmentss13june.pdf

Victims and Witnesses Bill

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

Bills in Progress

Westminster

**** Immigration Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/immigrationact1971amendment.html>

Bill as introduced

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2013-2014/0031/14031.pdf>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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!*

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

** *this week!*

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>

Womens Interfaith Dialogue

24 June 2013 in Inverness (2.00 – 4.00)

Interfaith Scotland event to discuss "Values and Visions for the future of Scotland". For information contact Frances Hume frances@interfaithscotland.org

** **The Public Sector Equality Duty**

26 June 2013 in Glasgow (5.30 to 7.00)

Murray Stable and Westwater Advocates in association with the Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland seminar to examine how the Public Sector Equality Duty has worked during the last two years. For information contact EqualityTalk@Advocates.org.uk.

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>

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

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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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