

## 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 and UK Parliament and Government websites been redesigned, so that links published in back issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on these websites, copy details from MEMO into the relevant search facility.**

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## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

#### Deportation with Assurances Policy

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May):** Deportation with assurances (DWA) enables us to deport foreign nationals suspected of terrorism in compliance with our obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights, the UN Convention on Torture and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, Mr David Anderson QC, has accepted my invitation to undertake a review of our DWA policy. He will review the framework of the UK's DWA policy and make recommendations on how the policy might be strengthened or improved, with particular emphasis on its legal aspects. The principle of DWA has been upheld by the European Court of Human Rights. To avoid duplicating or prejudicing the work of the courts, the review will not consider the merits of individual cases. Copies of the terms of reference for the review are available in the Vote Office. When completed Mr David Anderson's report will be laid before the House and copies

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Ministerial Statement (continued)

will be available in the Vote Office. Following consultation with other relevant Departments and agencies, I will publish the Government's response as a Command Paper in due course and this will be made available in the Vote Office.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131121/wmstext/131121m0001.htm#13112169000006>

## UK Parliament Questions

### British Nationality

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for citizenship were concluded (a) within six months, (b) between six and nine months, (c) between nine and 12 months and (d) after more than 12 months, in each of the last three years. [175314]

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

	<i>Within six months</i>	<i>Between six and nine months</i>	<i>Between nine and 12 months</i>	<i>Over 12 months</i>
2010-11	203,112	1,694	355	516
2011-12	180,539	2,368	702	537
2012-13	200,973	2,991	860	814

*Notes:* 1. Reflects cases decided in each financial year. 2. These data have not previously been published in this format.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131120/text/131120w0001.htm#131120113000023>

### Immigration: Children

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett:** To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 29 August (WA 367) on the immigration detention, deportation and removal of parents, whether information about children's welfare is routinely obtained from parents before decisions are made to detain them or continue their detention; which "others" information is routinely obtained from, and whether this includes children's services and those caring for the children outside detention; and whether the Home Office seeks information about the child's welfare, wishes and feelings directly from the affected child.[HL2826]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach):** Where parents are being detained, deported or removed from the UK, information about the children's welfare is obtained before decisions are made on the family's case. The Home Office has a national network of Family Engagement Managers who work closely with families throughout the family returns process to ensure the safeguarding of children and help guide families through the process, outlining options for return to their country of origin. This includes talking to the children in an age appropriate way, obtaining their views and tailoring the return plans accordingly. An individual and tailored return plan is put together by a Family Engagement Manager for every family removed through the Family Returns Process, which, before it is implemented, requires consideration and support from the Independent Family Returns Panel. In considering the options for the return plan, information is obtained from children's services, teachers, GP's and other family members along with any other professional body that has had contact with the child and that the parents have given the Home Office permission to contact. The Home Office use pre-departure

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

accommodation, Cedars, to support ensured returns of families from the UK who have refused to co-operate with other return options, or for whom other return options are not suitable. Barnado's provide welfare and social care facilities at Cedars and work with families during their stay to help them prepare for their return to their country of origin.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131118w0001.htm#1311186001684>

### Immigration: Married People

**Stephen Doughty:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications are currently on hold pending the outcome of the High Court judgment regarding the minimum income threshold for sponsoring non-EEA partners and dependent children applying in the family route. [175954]

**Reply from Mark Harper:** The Home Office is collating internal management information on the number of applications put on hold overseas and in country following the 5 July 2013 High Court judgment in MM and Others. This information will be published on the Home Office immigration website as soon as possible and then on a quarterly basis.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131121/text/131121w0001.htm#13112197000014>

### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Roger Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the potential effect of changes to the law relating to international students which are proposed in the Immigration Bill on the attractiveness of the UK as a destination for such students. [176229]

**Reply from Mark Harper:** The Immigration Bill introduces of a health surcharge for non-EEA temporary migrants and a requirement that private landlords check the immigration status of their prospective tenants. The Home Office has published impact assessments that consider the potential effect of these proposals on migrant groups, including students. These can be accessed at:

[www.gov.uk/government/consultations/migrant-access-to-health-services-in-the-uk](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/migrant-access-to-health-services-in-the-uk) (health) and

[www.gov.uk/government/consultations/tackling-illegal-immigration-in-privately-rented-accommodation](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/tackling-illegal-immigration-in-privately-rented-accommodation) (landlords)

The health surcharge will ensure that temporary migrants make a fair contribution to the cost of health services in the UK commensurate with their more limited immigration status. The surcharge will be set at a competitive rate and will be at a substantially lower cost than private medical insurance, which is a common requirement in many of our competitor nations. We remain committed to ensuring that the UK remains competitive as a destination for the brightest and the best and nothing in these proposals will prevent us from achieving that goal.

The landlord proposals will introduce simple and straightforward checks that landlords should undertake when letting private rented accommodation to tenants. These will be very similar to the checks that have been required of employers for many years and which most employers are able to conduct within a matter of minutes. Our engagement with landlords and letting agents shows that many landlords already ask tenants to provide evidence about the identity of the individual. Student halls of residence will be exempt from the checking requirement, as educational institutions are already under a requirement to check the status of overseas students under the sponsorship arrangements.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131121/text/131121w0001.htm#13112197000012>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Immigration

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what provision is made for those released on bail from detention centres; and if none is made, whether they have plans to do so.[HL2916]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach):** Provision for those released on bail from immigration detention depends on individual circumstances. Needs are assessed on a case-by-case basis and those that are eligible may be provided with accommodation or financial support, either from the Home Office or the relevant local authority.

**Lord Taylor of Warwick:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps the Home Office is taking to meet its target of reducing immigration by 60 per cent; and what measures have been put in place to protect asylum seekers.[HL3032]

**Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach:** The most recent statistics show that net migration is down by a third since its peak in 2010. Over the last three years we have reformed all major routes of entry to the UK for non-EEA migrants. We have increased the skill level required to come for work, tackled abuse in the student sector and reformed family visas.

The Government takes its international obligations very seriously and we have a proud history of providing refuge to those in need of protection. Every asylum case is carefully considered on its individual merits and taking into consideration the situation in the country of origin. Where a claim is refused there is a right of appeal to the courts. However, where we and the courts find someone is not in need of protection we expect them to return home voluntarily and if they choose not to leave we will seek to enforce their removal.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the likely consequences of halting immigration to the United Kingdom; and whether they have any plans to do so.[HL3199]

**Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach:** The Government has not made any such assessment and has no plans to do so. Immigration enriches our culture and strengthens our economy. It helps maintain strong international links, boosts inward investment and fills skill gaps in our economy. While the Government has no plans to halt immigration, we intend to protect UK interests by controlling it effectively. We are committed to reducing net migration from the hundreds of thousand to tens of thousands, while continuing to attract the brightest and best and to ensure our more selective immigration system meets our economic needs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131118w0001.htm#1311186001682>

### Immigration: Detention

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what information and statistics they have gathered concerning the primary causes of detention in a detention centre; and what statistics and information exists on the number of people incorrectly detained.[HL3113]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach):** Immigration Act powers of detention are used in the following circumstances: initially, whilst a person's identity and basis of claim is being established; where there are reasonable grounds for believing that a person will not comply with the conditions attached to temporary admission or release; as part of a fast-track asylum process; or to effect removal from the UK.

The Home Office publishes data on the number of people entering immigration detention each year, which can be found at the link below. This data is not, however, broken down by reasons for detention. Although the Home Office holds

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

management information on reasons for detention in individual cases, this data is not held centrally and could be collated only by examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tables-for-immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2013>

Statistics on the number of people whose detention under Immigration Act powers has been found by the Courts to be unlawful are not held centrally.

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether victims of torture, or those whose health may be affected by detention, have recourse to an equivalent mechanism to Rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001 when held in a prison or short-term holding facility. [HL3177]

**Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach:** There are no plans to extend the provisions of the Detention Centre Rules 2001 to cover short-term holding facilities or prisons. Separate rules are under development for short-term holding facilities and consideration will be given to the inclusion in those rules of provisions equivalent or similar to those in the Detention Centre Rules.

Detainees held in short-term holding facilities will be in such facilities only for very short periods of time, often just a matter of hours. In many cases, the persons concerned will be transferred to an immigration removal centre, where they would be covered by the Detention Centre Rules, including Rule 35.

Immigration detainees held in prisons are covered by Rule 21 of the Prison Rules 1999, which requires prison medical officers or practitioners to report on the case of any prisoner whose health is likely to be injuriously affected by continued imprisonment, or the conditions of imprisonment, and to pay special attention to the mental condition of any prisoner whose condition appears to require it. This equates to the requirements of Rules 35(1) and (5) of the Detention Centre Rules.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131118w0001.htm#1311186001685>

### Immigration Removal Centres: Security

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what provisions are in place for regulating and periodically evaluating security arrangements in Immigration Removal Centres; whether there is a complaints procedure to hold those providing security services to account; and, if so, how many formal complaints have been made in respect of the security services at Immigration Removal Centres in each of the last five years. [HL3111]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach):** The regulation of security arrangements in Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs) is through the Detention Centre Rules 2001, the Operating Standards for IRCs, Detention Services Orders relating to security arrangements and the relevant sections of the contracts and service level agreements relating to security.

Each IRC has a Home Office Immigration Enforcement Manager to monitor ongoing service provision.

Evaluation of security arrangements is carried out by Home Office Immigration Enforcement on the basis of risk assessment. Independent assessment of the security arrangements in IRCs is provided in the reports of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons and the annual reports of the Independent Monitoring Boards.

A comprehensive complaints system is in place at all IRCs and detainees also have the provision to raise complaints both anonymously or in person and in confidence to the Independent Monitoring Boards who can raise complaints on

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

behalf of detainees. Detainees who are not satisfied with the way in which their complaint has been handled may ask for it to be reviewed by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman.

It is not possible to provide the number of complaints involving a Detainee Custody Officer or Manager employed in the security department without the examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131118w0001.htm#1311186001683>

## News

### **Scottish independence: Salmond's immigration vow**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/scottish-independence-salmond-s-immigration-vow-1-3198028>

### **Immigrant spot checks to continue, says minister**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-24987927>

### **Immigration campaign impact to be examined**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/immigration-campaign-impact-to-be-examined.22720211>

### **Glasgow Uni to carry out 'Go Home' van research**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/glasgow-uni-to-carry-out-go-home-van-research-1-3192733>

### **New research project to examine impacts of the 'Go Home' Campaign**

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/535/272/New-research-project-to-examine-impacts-of-the-Go-Home-Campaign.html>

### **Minister dismisses fears of new year tide of Romanians and Bulgarians migrants**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/minister-dismisses-fears-of-new-year-tide-of-romanians-and-bulgarians-migrants-8952804.html>

### **UK won't see mass Romanian and Bulgarian immigration, minister says**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/nov/20/uk-immigration-romania-bulgaria-mark-harper>

### **Immigration Minister insists we won't be overrun by Romanian migrants as he rules out extending restrictions**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2510617/Mark-Harper-We-close-borders-Romania-Bulgaria.html>

### **Cabinet split over restricting migrant benefits**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/10470861/Cabinet-split-over-restricting-migrant-benefits.html>

### **'We can't stop Romanian immigrants' says minister**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/10463959/We-cant-stop-Romanian-immigrants-says-minister.html>

### **Eastern Europeans won't flood UK when curbs are lifted, minister says**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article3927012.ece>

## Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

**Dying asylum seeker on hunger strike must stay in custody, says high court**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/nov/19/asylum-seeker-hunger-strike-stay-custody-death-nigeria-muaza>

**When will we acknowledge that asylum seekers are human beings?**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/nov/20/asylum-seeker-human-beings-dying-muazu-hunger-strike>

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## Community Relations

### Press Release

**James Brokenshire reassures faith leaders during Manchester visit**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/james-brokenshire-reassures-faith-leaders-during-manchester-visit>

### News

**What's it like being a Muslim woman in Scotland today?**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/whats-it-like-being-a-muslim-woman-in-scotland-today.22776536>

**Making the Roma at home in our city**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/columnists/making-the-roma-at-home-in-our-city.22761611>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Question

#### Racist Incidents

**John Lamont:** To ask the Scottish Government how many racially motivated crimes and offences were recorded in the Scottish Borders and what the conviction rate was, in each of the last five years. (S4W-18171)

**Reply from Kenny MacAskill:** The following table shows the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police as part of racist incidents in the Scottish Borders, from 2007-08 to 2011-12.

Crimes and Offences Recorded by the Police as Part of Racist Incidents, Scottish Borders, 2007-08 to 2011-12

Year	Number of Crimes/Offences
2007-08	49
2008-09	54
2009-10	44

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Question (continued)

Year	Number of Crimes/Offences
2010-11	44
2011-12	32

Source: Scottish Government Racist Incidents dataset.

The statistical bulletin Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland, 2012-13 is scheduled for publication by the Scottish Government on 10 December 2013.

The following table shows the number of people proceeded against, convicted and the conviction rate in the Scottish Borders for a crime where a racial aggravator was recorded, 2007-08 to 2011-12.

Persons Proceeded Against, Persons Convicted and Conviction Rate for Crimes Where Racial Aggravator was Recorded, Scottish Borders, 2007-08 to 2011-12

Financial Year	Proceedings	Convictions	%
2007-08	17	13	76
2008-09	11	11	100
2009-10	5	5	100
2010-11	10	9	90
2011-12	12	11	92

Source: Scottish Government Court Proceedings Database.

Where a person is proceeded against for more than one crime or offence in a single set of proceedings, analysis of sentencing outcomes are based on the main charge. The main charge is the one receiving the severest penalty if one or more charges are proved. The data referred to above therefore only includes people convicted of an offence where the racial aggravation has been applied to the main charge. This will therefore be an undercount of the true number of charges proved with a racial aggravator recorded.

Data on convictions and crime data are not comparable for a number of reasons. Convictions data is based on numbers of individual people proceeded against in court, while crime data is a count of individual crimes and offences recorded by the police. A single crime or offence recorded by the police may have more than one perpetrator, or alternatively, an individual may be the perpetrator of several cases of the same crime.

Additionally, there is the possibility that the crime or offence recorded by the police may be altered in the course of judicial proceedings, while a crime or offence may be recorded by the police in one year and court proceedings not concluded until a later year. Crimes and offences alleged to have been committed by children under 16 years old are also generally dealt with through the children's hearings system rather than through the courts.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-18171&ResultsPerPage=10>

## UK Parliament Question

### Crime: Hate Crime

**Lord Hylton:** To ask Her Majesty's Government whether convictions have been obtained in the last one-year and two-year periods for hate crimes, including attacks on places of worship and religious premises; and if so, how many and which faiths were involved. [HL2790]

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally) (LD):** We are aware that there have been convictions for attacks on places of worship, including the



## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament Question (continued)

recent conviction relating to the planting of explosive devices near to Mosques in the West Midlands.

The number of offenders found guilty at all courts for Racially and Religiously Aggravated Offences and Stirring-Up of Hatred offences in England and Wales from 2011 to 2012 (latest available) is attached below.

The Court Proceedings Database does not hold information about whether the attack took place on places of worship or religious premises and the faiths.

<b>Offenders found guilty at all courts for hate crime offences(1), England and Wales, 2011-2012(2)(3)</b>		
Outcome	2011	2012
Found guilty	6,755	6,458

(1) Includes racially & religiously aggravated offences and offences intended or likely to stir up racial or religious hatred, under following legislation:

Offences against the Person Act 1861 as amended Crime & Disorder Act 1998, S.20, S.47 (in part)

Crime & Disorder Act 1998, S.29(1)(a) & (2), S.29(1)(b) & (2), S.29(1)(c) & (3), S.32(1)(a) & (4), S.32(1)(b) & (4), S.31(1)(b) & (4), S.31(1)(a) & (4), S.31(1)(c) & (4), S.30(1) & (2)

Protection from Harassment Act 1997, S.4, S.2,

Criminal Damage Act 1971, S.1(1)

Public Order Act 1986 as amended by Crime & Disorder Act 1998, S.4A, S.4, S.5

Public Order Act 1986 added by Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006, S.18, S.19, S.20, S.21, S.22, S.23, S.29B, S.29C & 29L(3), S.29D & 29L(3), S.29E & 29L(3), S.29F(1) & (2)(a) & 29L(3), S.29F(1) & (2)(b) & 29L(3), S.29F(1) & (2)(c) & 29L(3), S.29G & 29L(3)

Football Offences Act 1991, S.3

(2) The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

(3) Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source: Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

Ref: PQ HL 2790

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131119w0001.htm#13111952000410>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**George Galloway (743) Roma Immigrants** – That this House condemns the derogatory comments of the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough about Roma immigrants; agrees that describing their presence in the UK as likely to lead to an explosion is widely inaccurate and could well lead to stigmatisation, prejudice and Romaphobia; understands that these migrants have been driven to the UK through poverty and prejudice; believes that they should be welcomed; and notes that repeated

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament Early Day Motion (continued)

studies have shown that immigrants contribute more to the UK economy than they take out.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/743>

## New Publication

**“Maybe we are hated”: the experience and impact of anti-Muslim hate on British Muslim women**

<http://tellmamauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/maybewearehated.pdf>

## News

**Muslim Women more likely to suffer Islamophobic attacks than men - study**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/20/muslim-women-islamaphonic-attacks>

**'I Don't Think They Understand Just How It All Feels' - Understanding Experiences of Anti-Muslim Hate on British Muslim Women**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/dr-chris-allen/islamophobia-women\\_b\\_4305577.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=uk](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/dr-chris-allen/islamophobia-women_b_4305577.html?utm_hp_ref=uk)

**School golliwog mural: Police drop investigation**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/education/school-golliwog-mural-police-drop-investigation-1-3199454>

**Police probe 'racist' mural at Wardie Primary School in Edinburgh**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-24999917>

**Edinburgh council refuses to cover up golliwog image on school mural**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/nov/17/edinburgh-council-refuses-golliwog-school-racism>

**Mum says school golliwog painting offensive**

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/education/mum-says-school-golliwog-painting-offensive-1-3192105>

**School's painted golliwog is a 'hate crime'**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article3926485.ece>

**The mural lovingly restored for primary children but now at centre of hate complaint**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2509722/The-mural-lovingly-restored-primary-children-centre-hate-complaint.html>

**Son of artist at the centre of row over school mural featuring a golliwog insists his father was 'no racist'**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2510107/Son-golliwog-mural-artist-Henry-Westwater-insists-father-racist.html>

**A brush with racism in doll's house**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/lori-anderson-a-brush-with-racism-in-doll-s-house-1-3199362>

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### News (continued)

**Students accused of racism for blackening their faces**

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2013/nov/20/students-paint-black-racism>

**Head teacher apologises over 'racial discrimination' letter**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-stoke-staffordshire-25066688>

**School children as young as 8 told they would be labelled 'racist' for missing school trip**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/10468353/School-children-as-young-as-8-told-they-would-be-labelled-racist-for-missing-school-trip.html>

**Children of 8 are 'racist' if they miss Islam trip: School's threatening letter to parents is met with outrage**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2511841/Children-8-racist-miss-Islam-trip-Schools-threatening-letter-parents-met-outrage.html>

**Head's apology**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/heads-apology.22777549>

**School Backtracks After Islam Workshop 'Racial Discrimination' Warning**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2013/11/23/littleton-green-community-school\\_n\\_4328256.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=uk](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2013/11/23/littleton-green-community-school_n_4328256.html?utm_hp_ref=uk)

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## Scottish Independence Referendum

### Scottish Government Publication

**Building Security and Creating Opportunity: Economic Policy Choices in an Independent Scotland**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0043/00438277.pdf>

### Scottish Government Press Release

**Most detailed independence blueprint ever**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Most-detailed-independence-blueprint-ever-684.aspx>

### UK Government Press Releases

**The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: A Defence Force for Scotland - A Conspiracy of Optimism?**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmsscota/842/842.pdf>

**White paper must 'own up' to the uncertainties of independence**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/white-paper-must-own-up-to-the-uncertainties-of-independence>

Proposed date for Scottish independence named

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-25070576>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Parliamentary Questions

#### Creationism

**Patrick Harvie:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will introduce measures to prevent the promotion of creationism in schools. (S4O-02599)

**Reply from the Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages (Dr Alasdair Allan):** Throughout religious and moral education, and throughout religious, moral and philosophical studies, the understanding that the world's religions have of creation will be explored, examined and critically reflected upon, not promoted. Similar objectivity is expected of teachers if contentious issues such as creationism are raised. Within the sciences curriculum, the concept of evolution is introduced through the experiences and outcomes at second, third and fourth levels. The concepts of natural selection and evolution are also widely explored from a scientific perspective in the national qualifications in biology. In addition, the big bang theory and the origins and expansion of the universe feature in the new physics higher.

**Patrick Harvie:** I hope that there is no complacency on the issue in the Government. It is clear that whatever measures are in place have been inadequate to prevent some—shall we say—eccentric ideologies from being promoted in schools. We are talking not about creation myths being presented in the context of myth and comparative religious study, but about the promotion of the idea that the earth is 6,000 years old and that human beings have in that time coexisted with dinosaurs or other such patently absurd rubbish. If even Michael Gove can get a grip on that, why cannot the Scottish Government?

**Reply from Alasdair Allan:** I am not sure whether the member listened to what I just said. I indicated strongly that the content of biology and physics courses, for example, promotes none of the ideas that he listed. I therefore have complete confidence in our teachers to deal objectively with contentious issues as they arise. I make it clear that the science curriculum in Scotland is not dictated by any of the agendas that the member suggested influence it.

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8644&mode=html#iob\\_78254](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8644&mode=html#iob_78254)

### Parliamentary Motion

**S4M-08395 Anne McTaggart: Saheliya Awarded RBS Inspiring Enterprise Grant—** That the Parliament congratulates the specialist mental health organisation, Saheliya, on its RBS Inspiring Enterprise Awards grant; understands that the charity provides support to black and ethnic minority women and girls across Scotland who experience for example racism, unemployment, abuse, relationship issues and ill-health; considers that the services that Saheliya provides are instrumental in developing the self-esteem, confidence and wellbeing of many vulnerable women who face social isolation and exclusion from the communities in which they live, and welcomes the decision to award

## Other Scottish Parliament and Government Parliamentary Motion (continued)

the organisation additional funds to continue what it considers this exceptional work and reach a growing number of black and ethnic minority women and girls.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-08395&ResultsPerPage=10>

## Press Releases

### Presiding Officer sets date for Cowdenbeath by-election

The Cowdenbeath by-election will be held on Thursday 23 January 2014 ...

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/70293.aspx>

### Same sex marriage

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Same-sex-marriage-674.aspx>

## News

### Gay marriage in Scotland backed in principle by MSPs

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-25003083>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### Parliamentary Questions

#### Female Genital Mutilation

**Baroness Scotland of Asthal:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report Tackling Female Genital Mutilation in the UK, and in particular its assertion that 66,000 women in England and Wales have undergone Female Genital Mutilation and more than 24,000 girls under 15 are at risk of it. [HL3251]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to implement the recommendations made in the report Tackling Female Genital Mutilation in the UK.[HL3252]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe):** The Government welcomes the inter-collegiate report Tackling FGM in the UK published last week. Female genital mutilation (FGM) is illegal. We are absolutely committed to preventing and tackling female genital mutilation and affirm that safeguarding and prevention are important so that girls and young women are protected from this abhorrent procedure.

It is a priority of the Department to continue working with the medical Royal Colleges and other organisations supporting this report, Government departments and the Director of Public Prosecutions towards eradicating female genital mutilation in England.

Accurate data and information are essential to this and the most recent data available relates to 2007 draws from a respected 2007 study by the charity FORWARD; the inter-collegiate report also draws on this source. The Home Office is contributing to fund Equality Now and the City University to update the 2007 estimated prevalence figures by the end of this financial year. The Department has also commissioned the Health and Social Care Information

## Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Centre to undertake a feasibility study on how to improve National Health Service data collection on incidences of female genital mutilation. This will improve information sharing for better care of those affected by female genital mutilation and support prevention and safeguarding in communities that are at risk.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health (Jane Ellison) is meeting the organisations behind the Tackling FGM in the UK report to discuss how to take it forward.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131120w0001.htm#13112085000316>

## News

**Dominic Grieve criticised for claims corruption endemic in some communities**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-25066709>

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## New Publication

**The Interfaith Industry**

<http://standforpeace.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Interfaith-Industry.pdf>

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## Other News

**Universities advised on managing radical speakers**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-25051838>

**Livingstone Volunteers**

The McConnell International Foundation believes that volunteering in a developing country helps Scottish youngsters widen their horizons, grow in confidence and understand the world a bit better. ... Two hundred years ago David Livingstone dreamt of a world beyond the mills of Blantyre, so we want to support young Scots who want to broaden their personal horizons, while making a contribution to the development of the communities where they volunteer.

Ten Livingstone Volunteers grants will be offered for volunteer placements taking place during the 12 months from 1 April 2014. The eligible countries are: Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania (Zanzibar) and South Africa, which all have links with David Livingstone.

The scheme is open to young people aged 16 to 24 years old (at the time of travel) with priority given to people from low-income households, those who have been in care, or are considered to be vulnerable.

Each grant is £500 and is a contribution to the volunteer's own fundraising efforts.

**For full details see**

<http://mcconnellinternationalfoundation.org/livingstone-volunteers/>

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## **Bills in Progress** \*\* new or updated this week

### **Scottish Parliament**

#### **Assisted Suicide Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/69604.aspx>

#### **\*\* Children and Young People Bill**

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

Stage 1 Debate

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8643&mode=html#iob\\_78227](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8643&mode=html#iob_78227)

#### **Criminal Justice Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/65155.aspx>

Justice Committee Stage 1 evidence session

(from column 3679)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8637&mode=pdf>

#### **\*\* Marriage and Civil Partnership Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/64983.aspx>

Stage 1 Debate

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8640&mode=html#iob\\_78173](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8640&mode=html#iob_78173)

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

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

Stage 2 consideration of amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8637&mode=pdf>

Bill as amended at Stage 2

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_Bills/Victims%20and%20Witnesses%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b23as4-amend.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Victims%20and%20Witnesses%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b23as4-amend.pdf)

### **Bills in Progress**

### **UK Parliament**

#### **Asylum Seekers (Return to Nearest Safe Country) Bill**

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

#### **Charitable Status for Religious Institutions Bill**

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

#### **Collection of Nationality Data Bill**

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

#### **Face Coverings (Prohibition) Bill**

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

#### **Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill**

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

## Bills in Progress

### UK Parliament (continued)

#### **\*\* Immigration Bill**

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

Public Bill Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmpublic/immigration/131119/am/131119s01.htm>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2013-2014/0110/amend/psc1101911a.1289.html>

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

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

#### **Lobbyists (Registration of Code of Conduct) Bill**

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

#### **Romanian and Bulgarian Accession (Labour Restriction) Bill**

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

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

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

**Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill** (includes measures relating to forced marriage) (closing date 29 November 2013)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/69894.aspx>

#### **Language Controls for Doctors - Proposed Changes to the Medical Act 1983**

(closing date 2 December 2013)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/237302/language\\_controls\\_doctors\\_consultation.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/237302/language_controls_doctors_consultation.pdf)

#### **Proposed Human Trafficking Bill** (closing date 6 December 2013)

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_MembersBills/20130909\\_Human\\_Trafficking\\_Consultation\\_final\\_version.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_MembersBills/20130909_Human_Trafficking_Consultation_final_version.pdf)

#### **Commission for Local Democracy** (closing date extended to 10 December 2013)

<http://www.localdemocracy.info/call-for-evidence/>

#### **Review of migrant employment in low-skilled work** (closing date 13 December 2013)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/call-evidence.pdf>

#### **The census and future provision of population statistics in England and Wales**

(closing date 13 December 2013)

<http://ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/get-involved/consultations/consultations/beyond-2011-consultation/index.html>



## Consultations (continued)

**Inquiry on Lobbying** (closing date 10 January 2014)

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_StandardsProceduresandPublicAppointmentsCommittee/Inquiries/CfELobbying.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_StandardsProceduresandPublicAppointmentsCommittee/Inquiries/CfELobbying.pdf)

**Call for evidence on local policing** (closing date extended to 10 January 2014)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/gettinginvolved/69420.aspx>

**Proposed Bill: Promoting greater accountability and transparency in local government** (closing date 20 January 2013)

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_MembersBills/John\\_Finnie\\_final\\_consultation.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_MembersBills/John_Finnie_final_consultation.pdf)

**Draft Welfare Funds (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 7 February 2014)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0043/00438109.pdf>

**\*\* Water and Sewerage Charges – Exemption Scheme for Small Third Sector Organisations** (closing date 14 February 2014)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0043/00437855.pdf>

**Scottish Football Association Equality Survey** (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VKJQQ95>

**Experiences of Race and Religion-Related Hate Speech in the UK** (no closing date given)

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HR7RBZ3>

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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!**

**Come Talk to Kenny MacAskill, Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Justice**

25 November 2013 in Glasgow (1.30 – 2.30)

Amina event for women who can answer “yes” to any of the following questions:

Have you or your family been called “Paki”? Have you been told “Go back from where you’ve come from”? Do you think there is a rise in Islamophobia? For information contact [infor@mwrc.org.uk](mailto:infor@mwrc.org.uk) /0141 585 8026.

**\*\* this week!**

**“Domestic Abuse and Minority Ethnic Women, Children & Young People”**

28 (9.30-4.30pm) & 29 (9.30-12.30pm) November 2013 in Edinburgh

Shakti training to raise awareness and understanding of issues facing Minority Ethnic women, children & young people affected by domestic abuse. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/owhjag2> or contact Ola, Mridu, or Lisa 0131 475 2399 / [info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk](mailto:info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk)

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**\*\* this week!**

### **Stepping into Diversity Heritage Walk: Jewish, Muslim, Christian**

28 November 2013 in Glasgow (10.45 to 1.45)

Guided heritage walk visiting Garnethill Synagogue, Al-Furqan Mosque, and St Mary's Cathedral. Meet at 29 Garnet Street at 10.45. The event is free but booking is essential, contact Ben Williams [bwilliams@wsrec.co.uk](mailto:bwilliams@wsrec.co.uk) / 0141 337 6626.

**\*\* application date closes this week!**

### **Political Shadowing Scheme**

closing date for applications, 29 November 2013

CRER training on media skills, equality and diversity, presentation skills, campaigning and lobbying, and the working of local, Scottish and UK Government, including time shadowing a politician over a set period of time. For information contact Jenn Glinski [ennifer@crer.org.uk](mailto:ennifer@crer.org.uk) / 0141 418 6535 or see <http://www.crer.org.uk/about-crer/shadowing-scheme?highlight=WyJzaGFkb3dpbmciXQ>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Breaking Barriers – Christian / Muslim Youth Conference**

30 November 2013 in Edinburgh (10.00 to 4.00)

Edinburgh Interfaith Association and Alaweed Centre conference to bring together Christians and Muslims between 17 and 30. For information contact Iain Steward [iain@eifa.org.uk](mailto:iain@eifa.org.uk) or see <http://www.eifa.org.uk/breaking-barriers/>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Interfaith Family Fair**

1 December 2013 in Glasgow (2.00 to 4.00)

Fun day for families at St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art, with opportunities to discover nine different faith traditions in Glasgow. For information contact Frances Hume [frances@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:frances@interfaithscotland.org) / 0141 420 6982 or see <http://interfaithglasgow.org/interfaith-week/>

### **Where Do You Really Come From?**

7-8 December 2013 in Glasgow

Ankur Productions Festival for people of mixed race origins who grew up in Scotland. For information contact Nargis Lalee [nargis.lalee@ankurproductions.org.uk](mailto:nargis.lalee@ankurproductions.org.uk) / 0141 559 4935.

### **GRAMNet Film Series**

11 December 2013 in Glasgow (6.00)

15 January 2014 in Glasgow (6.00)

12 February 2014 in Glasgow (6.00)

12 March 2014 in Glasgow (6.00)

14 May 2014 in Glasgow (6.00)

18 June 2014 in Glasgow (6.00)

Film Series is organised in partnership between GRAMNet (Glasgow Refugee and Asylum Network), BEMIS, and The Iona Community, showcasing films and documentaries with a theme of Homecoming and Hospitality. Following each film, invited local organisations and community groups will suggest positive actions that can be undertaken locally to address one or more of the issues raised in each film. For information see [http://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media\\_292556\\_en.pdf](http://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media_292556_en.pdf)

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **Scottish Refugee Council Employment Conference**

14 December 2013 in Glasgow

Conference in association with the Scottish Refugee Policy for asylum seekers and refugees to find out their rights and options, share experiences and raise issues about employment. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/ktevalr> or contact 07734 030760 / [communities@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:communities@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **Ethnic Minority 3rd Sector Network Consultation on Scottish Government White Paper on Independence**

20 January 2014 in Glasgow (12.30 – 4.00)

4 February 2014 in Inverness (12.30 – 4.00)

6 February 2014 in Kirkcaldy (12.30 – 4.00)

BEMIS in partnership with CEMVO events to enable ethnic minority communities to engage with the Scottish Government White Paper on Independence. For information contact Tanveer Parnez [tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk](mailto:tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk) or Fiaz Khan [fiaz.khan@cemvoscotland.org.uk](mailto:fiaz.khan@cemvoscotland.org.uk)

### **Scottish Refugee Council Education Conference**

25 January 2014 in Glasgow

Conference in association with the Scottish Refugee Policy for asylum seekers and refugees to find out their rights and options, share experiences and raise issues about education. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/ktevalr> or contact 07734 030760 / [communities@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:communities@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **Scottish Refugee Council Health Conference**

22 February 2014 in Glasgow

Conference in association with the Scottish Refugee Policy for asylum seekers and refugees to find out their rights and options, share experiences and raise issues about health. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/ktevalr> or contact 07734 030760 / [communities@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:communities@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

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## Useful Links

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

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

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

**GovUK (links to UK Government Departments)** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

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

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

**Scottish Refugee Council** <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

**Interfaith Scotland** <http://www.interfaithscotland.org/>

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

## Useful Links (continued)

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

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

ACAS [www.acas.org.uk](http://www.acas.org.uk)

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

Volunteer Development Scotland [www.vds.org.uk](http://www.vds.org.uk)

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

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

Disclosure Scotland <http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/>

BBC News <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>

BBC Democracy Live [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc\\_parliament/default.stm](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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