

## 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 (House of Commons) Debate

#### Modern-day Slavery

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131205/debtext/131205-0002.htm#13120554000001>

### UK Parliament Questions

#### Immigration

**Baroness Scotland of Asthal:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are providing for local services in areas affected by high immigration; and what provision is made for the immediate needs of migrants in those areas.[HL3494]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach):** The Government shares wider concerns about the need to

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

alleviate pressures on local services arising from migration. That is why we have reformed the immigration system to reduce net migration and are taking steps to reduce pull factors to ensure migrants come to the UK for the right reasons.

The Government considers that migrants should make a positive contribution to the UK, and should not be a burden on local services. That is why we have controls on access to benefits and social housing for temporary non-EEA nationals and EEA nationals not exercising treaty rights. The Government continues to honour its commitment to provide compulsory education for children, whilst it also ensures that immediately necessary and urgent medical treatment is never withheld from any migrant, even if charges apply, and that treatments which protect the wider public's health are free of charge to all.

With regards to education, we are spending £5 billion by 2015 on creating new school places—this includes almost £1 billion put aside to create new school places in the areas under the most pressure. While we cannot predict levels of migration, we are working with local authorities to ensure funding is targeted exactly where it is needed so every child is able to attend a good or outstanding local school. Schools are funded according to the number of pupils on roll regardless of a pupil's background or status.

Other Local Government funding is based on measures of local need, incentives for growth, house building and service transformation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131202w0001.htm#1312027000401>

### Immigration

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Government's policy is on discussing individual immigration cases with Ministers from the (a) Scottish Government, (b) Welsh Government and (c) Northern Ireland Executive. [179552]

**Reply from Mark Harper:** Ministers of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive will receive substantive replies to immigration inquiries on individual immigration cases they are raising in their ministerial capacity.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131205/text/131205w0001.htm#13120589000021>

### Access to Benefits

**Andrew Turner:** What steps [the Secretary of State for the Home Department] has taken to restrict access to benefits for immigrants. [901341]

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Mr Mark Harper):** My hon. Friend will have noted the steps set out last week by the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary to tighten up the benefits system and ensure that those coming to Britain do so to work and contribute, rather than to take out of the country.

**Andrew Turner:** A thought-provoking article on migration published last week by Civitas shows that the British sense of fairness dictates that there should be some link between what people put into the welfare state and what they get out of it. Does my hon. Friend agree that in the case of new immigrants there is very little link at all, and does that not need to be looked at?

**Reply from Mark Harper:** My hon. Friend is spot on. A number of the changes we set out last week do exactly that. For example, we are limiting the period over which a jobseeker can keep claiming benefits to six months. Colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions have strengthened the habitual residence test to ensure that it is tougher. We have also made sure that if people who come

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

here are not exercising treaty rights and we remove them from the United Kingdom, we can stop them returning unless they demonstrate that they are going to do so.

**Gisela Stuart:** Much of the detail on access to benefits is determined locally, and it is quite difficult, even after checking with the House of Commons Library or the website, to understand what some of the precise definitions mean. What steps has the Minister taken to ensure that local authorities and the various agencies interpret what he thinks is a toughening consistently across the country?

**Reply from Mark Harper:** On the hon. Lady's point about benefits, those are not decisions for local authorities but for the Department for Work and Pensions, which trains its staff very carefully and gives them clear guidance. They are rolling out the new habitual residence test, which is robust and has a clear script with questions that people are asked. There will be further changes on access to housing benefit. We will make sure that where these decisions are for local authorities they are provided with clear guidance so that they can make the right decisions in the tougher regime.

**Philip Hollobone:** On 1 January, when the transitional controls on Romania and Bulgaria are lifted, will entry also be permitted to non-EU citizens who have Bulgarian or Romanian passports? If so, will the very large number of Moldovans who have Romanian passports be entitled to benefits, like Romanians and Bulgarians?

**Reply from Mark Harper:** I may be missing something, but if people have Romanian or Bulgarian passports and are citizens of Romania or Bulgaria, they are entitled to come to Britain because those countries are members of the European Union. Indeed, they could come to Britain today; the transitional restrictions are only about whether they can come here to work. People with a Romanian or Bulgarian passports—citizens of those countries—are of course able to come to Britain today.

**Barry Sheerman:** My constituents are pretty accepting of migration and have been for very many years, and I have always been liberal about migration to our country, but what does worry them is not just the benefit position but whether we have enough school places and social housing. Do we have enough public services to meet the challenge of a fresh wave of immigration?

**Reply from Mark Harper:** It is very good, of course, that the hon. Gentleman takes a very liberal approach; he will have been delighted, then, when his party was in power and had net migration of 2.1 million over its period in office, but I do not think that was the general view. On the availability of public services, it is exactly because of the pressures on school places and on access to GPs that the Government have reduced net migration by nearly a third since the election. We want to make sure that people who are coming here are doing so to contribute and to pay their way, and that that immigration is properly controlled.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131202/debtext/131202-0001.htm#13120212000019>

### Immigration Status Inquiries

**Jeremy Corbyn:** How many random inquiries on immigration status have been made in public places in each of the last six months. [901344]

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Mr Mark Harper):** None.

**Jeremy Corbyn:** That is a surprising answer, because a number of us have witnessed immigration officers at Metropolitan line and other tube stations around London stopping people and asking them for their immigration status. Will the Minister assure me that no immigration officer would ever stop anyone randomly in a public place, ask them for identity documents and then call in the police to assist them with their inquiries, when

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

there is no requirement to carry identity cards at any time in this country? Indeed, such identity cards do not even exist.

**Reply from Mark Harper:** I can assure the hon. Gentleman that we do not conduct random operations; we conduct intelligence-led operations, as did the previous Government, and they are very successful. The street operations we have conducted this year have led to the arrest of almost a third of those encountered. They are very successful in enforcing our immigration laws. We do not stop people at random; we are not empowered to do so by law and even if we were, we would not do so as a matter of policy. We stop people when we think there is intelligence to indicate that they are breaking our immigration laws, and I make no apology for that.

**Russell Brown:** ... The number of illegals being identified by the police at the ferry terminals in my area—which is part of the common travel area—has fallen only slightly. Is the Minister able to tell the House the number of people in that category who are stopped but who are not properly processed and who simply disappear?

**Reply from Mark Harper:** ... I do not have the figures to hand, because I was not aware that he intended to ask that question. I will look at the issue in detail and write to him, but on the common travel area in general, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims signed an agreement with the Irish Justice Minister in, I think, December 2011. We are taking steps with the Irish Republic to strengthen the common travel area to make sure that our borders continue to get more secure.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131202/debtext/131202-0001.htm#13120212000022>

### Entry Clearances

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many family visit visa applications to the UK there were in the years ending 8 July (a) 2011, (b) 2012 and (c) 2013, by (i) overall number of decisions made, (ii) number of family visit visa grants, (iii) number of family visit visa refusals, (iv) number of family visit visa applications withdrawn and (v) number of family visit visa applications which lapsed. [179632]

**Reply from Mark Harper:** The following table shows the statistics for Family Visit visa applications from 2010 to 2013. The numbers relate to main applicants and dependants. The figures for July 2012 to June 2013 are not directly comparable to the figures for July 2010 to June 2011 and July 2011 to June 2012. This is because the definition of a family visitor was changed on 9 July 2012—from that date, a family visitor did not include those visiting aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces or cousins.

Applicants that are visiting these more distant family members are included in general visitor statistics.

	<i>July 2010 to June 2011</i>	<i>July 2011 to June 2012</i>	<i>July 2012 to June 2013</i>
Decisions made	442,473	443,013	276,550
Applications issued	369,269	363,928	222,076
Applications refused	73,204	79,085	54,474
Applications withdrawn	1,029	1,221	840
Applications lapsed	449	254	372

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131205/text/131205w0001.htm#13120589000019>



## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Immigration: Detention

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno:** To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the case of Mr Isa Muazu, they will clarify their policy in relation to the detention of immigration detainees who are seriously ill and refuse food and fluids.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach):** My Lords, a refusal to eat or drink will not automatically mean that a person should be released from immigration detention. This position has been upheld by the courts. On 19 November, Mr Justice Ouseley said that he did not accept the suggestion that the Secretary of State had adopted a hardline policy of saying that there would be no release for this claimant who was refusing food and fluid. He went on to say that the decision to start, maintain and continue the refusal of food and fluids to the end was for the claimant to make, adding that, "his detention does not become unlawful simply because he is determined on that outcome".

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno:** My Lords, the Minister may be aware that last week I received an assurance from the Home Secretary that landing arrangements had been made in Nigeria. Something went seriously wrong. Why did the Government attempt to remove a dying man at such human and financial cost, and will the Minister give us an assurance today that Mr Muazu will not be deported in his present condition? Will he also instigate an immediate review into immigration detention and end such routine and inhumane treatment, always remembering that asylum seekers—even failed asylum seekers—are human beings just like us and deserve deep respect?

**Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach:** My Lords, it may help the House if I update noble Lords on the current situation concerning Mr Muazu. The welfare of detainees is our highest priority. While refusing food and fluids, Mr Muazu was continually offered medical treatment, including patient care at hospital, which, until recently, he continually refused. Mr Muazu is regularly monitored. The latest assessment—I had a report this morning—shows that he is eating and drinking well and is mobile, and that he continues to be fit to fly.

**Lord Dubs:** My Lords, given that Mr Muazu was sent back on a plane and that the Government had failed to alert the Nigerian authorities about the arrival of that plane, what did the Government think was going to happen to Mr Muazu if he landed there? Were any arrangements made to look after him, given that at that point his health was very precarious?

**Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach:** My Lords, Mr Muazu's flight to Nigeria on Friday returned to the UK for operational reasons which were not connected to his health or conduct. I assure noble Lords that a member of the Nigerian high commission was on that flight.

**Lord Pannick:** My Lords, does the Minister believe that it was a sensible use of resources to charter an aircraft to remove a single individual from this country, as in the case of Mr Muazu?

**Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach:** The operational practices are not a matter that I want to discuss particularly but this case has great public interest. It is not the first time that an aircraft has been chartered for this purpose. It might help noble Lords to know that the number of enforced removals in 2008 was 17,200-odd and last year it was 14,600-odd. However, voluntary removals went up from 18,000 to 29,663 last year.

**Lord Tebbit:** My Lords, are not all so-called detainees free to leave the so-called detention centre at any time, but only through the door marked "home" and not through the door marked "United Kingdom"? Should our noble friend Lord Roberts not make his complaint to the Nigerian authorities, which refused to accept one of their own citizens back home?

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

**Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach:** I will not comment on the latter point but, obviously, the Government's policy is that when people are here and they have no permission to remain they should depart voluntarily.

**Baroness Williams of Crosby:** Does my noble friend agree that someone being deported should at least be physically able to sustain their health during the flight? Does he further agree that there should be some contact with the Government of the country to which a person is returning to ensure that a man who is seriously ill will be met at the airport and taken to suitable accommodation to enable him to survive?

**Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach:** I think that my noble friend's allegations about the condition of Mr Muazu at the time he was flying back to Nigeria are inaccurate. As I have said, he is currently fit to fly. He is eating and drinking, and is mobile.

**Lord Tomlinson:** Does the Minister accept that the Government's policy of trying to reduce the net immigration figure from hundreds of thousands to tens of thousands is in tatters? Does he not share my regret that Mr Cameron had to go to China to slip it out in an answer there?

**Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach:** I am sorry that the noble Lord takes that view. I am normally a consensual politician but I have to say that the record of the current Opposition when they were in Government was that net immigration rose by more than 2 million. That was out of control. The current situation is that this Government are taking steps to ensure that there are proper controls on immigration to this country, which I hope are supported by this House and, indeed, by noble Lords opposite. They can be difficult. The responsibility in a case such as this is not easy. Many noble Lords on both sides of this House have been faced with that responsibility. We should not shirk from that situation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131204-0001.htm#13120452000408>

### Deportation Appeals System

**Christopher Pincher:** What changes she plans to make to the deportation appeals system. [901342]

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Mr Mark Harper):** We are making changes in the Immigration Bill to reduce the number of appeal rights and to ensure that those convicted of criminal offences will, in most cases, be able to be deported first and their appeal to take place from overseas.

**Christopher Pincher:** I am grateful to the Minister for tightening up the previous Government's deportation regulations so that the scandalous waste of time it took to deport Hamza and Qatada can never happen again. Can he confirm that the proposals he has tabled are unlikely to be struck down by the European Court of Human Rights? If they might be, is he prepared to take action against the European convention on human rights first?

**Reply from Mark Harper:** We have looked very carefully at this, and we are confident that the measures in the Immigration Bill, including the changes that clause 14 makes to article 8 to put it on a proper statutory basis, are robust. The Home Secretary has made it clear that at the election we will have to deal with the impact of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the convention. Indeed, that has been reinforced by comments from Lord Sumption, who pointed out that the Court is now engaged in judicial law-making, which is in constitutional terms remarkable, taking many contentious issues that should be questions for political debate and turning them into questions of law to be resolved by a tribunal. I could not agree with him more.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131202/debtext/131202-0001.htm#13120212000020>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Human Trafficking

**The Lord Bishop of Derby:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial support they have provided in each year since 2009 to support programmes overseas to tackle human trafficking.[HL3441]

**Reply from Baroness Northover (LD):** DFID works to tackle the underlying factors which put people at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking, such as poverty, lack of education, lack of economic opportunities, vulnerability to economic shocks and social exclusion. An example of a DFID supported programme to combat trafficking is a programme launched with the International Labour Organisation in July to help prevent trafficking of girls and women from South Asia to the Middle East to work in the domestic work and garment-manufacturing sectors. DFID's Civil Society Challenge Fund has also supported anti-trafficking projects. An example of support in the recent past was a project to combat child trafficking in Malawi run by the Salvation Army.

Information about the value of financial support provided each year since 2009 to support programmes overseas to tackle human trafficking is not currently centrally available.

**The Lord Bishop of Derby:** To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to withhold overseas development aid to countries that do not comply with minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking or whose governments are not making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with such standards.[HL3442]

**Reply from Baroness Northover:** There are no plans to do so.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131202w0001.htm#1312027000399>

### Human Trafficking

**Stephen Phillips:** What steps she is taking to ensure that all appropriate powers are available to seize the UK and overseas assets of people engaged in human trafficking. [901346]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire):** The Government are committed to tackling human trafficking and are determined to build on the UK's strong record in supporting victims. The proposed modern slavery Bill, the first of its kind in Europe, will strengthen our response by increasing the number of successful prosecutions and convictions. The new serious and organised crime strategy makes it clear that attacking criminal finances is at the heart of our efforts to pursue all organised criminals. We are committed to strengthening legislation and ensuring that existing powers are effectively deployed both here and overseas.

**Stephen Phillips:** ... Given the challenges of seizing traffickers' assets, will he ensure that greater urgency is given to getting hold of them and making sure they go to compensate the victims of these horrendous crimes?

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** I think that it is important to underline to my hon. and learned Friend the steps that are being taken. Last year, about £1 million was taken off human trafficking offenders by way of enforcement of confiscation orders. Equally, I am absolutely clear on the need for more action. That is why the new National Crime Agency has been tasked with making the tackling of modern slavery one of its priorities, and why we are introducing the modern slavery Bill to up prosecutions and up such enforcement action. Indeed, the Bill will include provision for a new commissioner to get a stronger operational response on the recovery of assets and on other prosecutions.

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** One of the poisonous sidelines in the deplorable trade of human

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

trafficking is of course the existence of rogue and criminal gangmasters. Are the Government minded to support Labour's call to extend the gangmasters licensing regime to cover sectors to which this devastating trade has now spread, because it has gone beyond its traditional areas into construction, social care and other sectors where these rogues and criminals reside?

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** I can say to the hon. Gentleman that the National Crime Agency is working closely with the Gangmasters Licensing Authority and, indeed, has been involved in an important operation in Cambridgeshire in the past few weeks. Evidence is being taken by the Centre for Social Justice as part of our preparations for the modern slavery Bill. We are focusing on provisions that relate to enforcement by policing and law enforcement agencies, but we will clearly keep operational matters under review.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131202/debtext/131202-0001.htm#13120212000024>

### Human Trafficking: Children

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice of the 40 suspected victims of trafficking who were over 18 years of age referred to the National Referral Mechanism by the Salvation Army between April to June 2013, how many were under 18 years of age at the time they were first trafficked and exploited in the UK. [177626]

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Home Department.

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) records referral data for adults and minors who are victims of trafficking separately and records the age at the time of referral.

Adults referred to the NRM following trafficking that occurred when they were a minor are recorded in the published statistics for minors but as over 18 at the point of referral. In the period April to June 2013 the Salvation Army made six such referrals.

The 40 cases identified in the question are of adults referred to the NRM as adult potential victims of trafficking and hence are listed in the statistics for adult referrals.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131202/text/131202w0003.htm#13120239000099>

## Press Release

**Director of Public Prosecutions to examine criminal justice approach to human trafficking**

[http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest\\_news/human\\_trafficking/](http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest_news/human_trafficking/)

## News

**Scotland's immigrant numbers double in a decade**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/scotland-s-immigrant-numbers-double-in-a-decade-1-3218022>

**Number of immigrants living in Scotland doubles in a decade**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/number-of-immigrants-living-in-scotland-doubles-in-a-decade.22850239>



## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

#### Cap numbers of immigrants from European Union, says Theresa May

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/10495965/Cap-numbers-of-immigrants-from-European-Union-says-Theresa-May.html>

#### London Met: How many non-EU students had to leave?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-25152582>

#### Britain urges EU to change free migration rules

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-25226760>

#### Theresa May pressed for explanation of hunger striker's 'botched' deportation

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/dec/02/theresa-may-hunger-striker-deportation-ifa-muaza-asylum>

#### Isa Muazu granted more time in UK

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/dec/05/asylum-seeker-isa-muaza-granted-more-time-uk>

#### Isa Muazu's botched deportation is an inhumane show of power

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/dec/03/isa-muaza-deportation-immigration-inhumane-power-theresa-may>

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## Community Relations

### UK Parliament Question

#### Schools: Religious Tolerance

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to promote religious tolerance in schools.[HL3713]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Nash):** This country has a long and noble tradition of religious tolerance and promotes this important value in schools. Every maintained school and academy must teach Religious Education (RE), which helps to develop young people's beliefs and values, and promotes respect and empathy. RE fosters civilised debate and reasoned argument, and helps pupils to understand the place of religion and belief in the modern world. All publicly funded schools, including academies and free schools, also have a duty to promote community cohesion.

Academies, free schools and independent schools are all required to meet the Independent School Standard on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. The standard requires schools to promote principles which assist pupils to acquire "appreciation and respect for their own and other cultures in a way that promotes tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions". They should also encourage pupils to respect specified British values, which include 'tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs'. Ofsted's inspection frameworks for maintained schools, academies, free schools and independent schools include a focus on pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. This enables inspectors to identify any inappropriate practice which might undermine religious tolerance.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131205w0001.htm#13120558000112>

## Community Relations

### News (continued)

**Challenging stereotypes: Teesside's new Roma**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-25101956>

**Faith schools are creating more and more boundaries between pupils**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/dec/03/faith-schools-religious-discrimination-boundaries>

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## Equality

### UK Parliament Debate

**Deaths in Custody (Black People)**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131202/debtext/131202-0004.htm#1312033000005>

### Press Release

**High court rules local authority must consider funding for a Traveller child when travelling**

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2013/december/high-court-rules-local-authority-must-consider-funding-for-a-traveller-child-when-travelling/>

### News

**Christian Celestina Mba loses Sunday shifts appeal**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-25229807>

**Christian care worker who did not want to work on Sundays loses legal fight**

<http://www.theguardian.com/law/2013/dec/05/christian-care-worker-sundays-legal-fight>

**Christian woman Celestina Mba loses legal challenge over right not to work on Sundays**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/christian-woman-celestina-mba-loses-legal-challenge-over-right-not-to-work-on-sundays-8985681.html>

**Christian fails in fight against Sunday working**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article3941217.ece>

**'Oxbridge doesn't have enough black students,' says American civil rights legend Jesse Jackson**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/news/oxbridge-doesnt-have-enough-black-students-says-american-civil-rights-legend-jesse-jackson-8982311.html?origin=internalSearch>

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# Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

## UK Parliament Questions

### Crime: Hate Crime

**Lord Hylton:** To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord McNally on 19 November (WA 185–6), what were the figures respectively for attacks on and damage to religious premises and other hate crimes.[HL3541]

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally) (LD):** The Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. This database holds information on offences provided by the statutes under which proceedings are brought, but not all the specific circumstances of each case. Whilst there are a number of 'hate crime' offences defined by statute, for example racially or religiously aggravated offences and offences intended or likely to stir up racial or religious hatred, none of these offences specifically refer to attacks on, or damage to, religious premises.

Other than where specified in a statute, centrally held information does not identify the location at which an alleged offence occurred. This detailed information may be held by the courts on individual case files which could only be compiled at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131203w0001.htm#13120366000165>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

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

### Discrimination

**Sharon Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints of racial discrimination or harassment have been lodged against employees of his Department or its executive agencies by (a) employees and (b) other individuals in each of the last five years; and how many such complaints resulted in disciplinary action. [176617]

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** There have been no complaints of racial discrimination or harassment lodged against employees of this Department or its Executive agencies by (a) employees and (b) other individuals in each of the last five years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131202/text/131202w0003.htm#13120239000054>

### Discrimination

**Sharon Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints of racial discrimination or harassment have been lodged against employees of his Department or its executive agencies by (a) employees and (b) other individuals in each of the last five years; and how many such complaints resulted in disciplinary action. [176622]

**Dan Rogerson:** There have been no formal complaints of racial discrimination or harassment lodged against employees of DEFRA and its Executive Agencies by current employees or other individuals in the last five years.

The Rural Payments Agency have had no complaints formally lodged since October 2012 but to answer for the period prior to this date would-be of disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131203/text/131203w0001.htm#13120378000013>

## **Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination** (continued) **Press Releases**

**Commission publishes Experimental Analysis of Examinations and Detentions under Schedule 7**

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2013/december/commission-publishes-experimental-analysis-of-examinations-and-detentions-under-schedule-7-of-the-te/>

**Council conclusions on combating hate crime in the European Union**

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/139949.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/139949.pdf)

**Two Aberdeen men sentenced for religiously offensive singing**

<http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/media-site/media-releases/581-two-aberdeen-men-sentenced-for-religiously-offensive-singing>

## **New Publication**

**An Experimental Analysis of Examinations and Detentions under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000**

[http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded\\_files/research/Briefing\\_papers/research\\_briefing\\_8\\_final.pdf](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/Briefing_papers/research_briefing_8_final.pdf)

## **News**

**Drawing Inspiration: Holocaust Memorial Day art competition** (closing date 12 January 2014)

<http://drawinginspiration.hmd.org.uk/>

**Nearly half of ethnic minority teachers feel 'racial discrimination has stopped them progressing'**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/nearly-half-of-ethnic-minority-teachers-feel-racial-discrimination-has-stopped-them-progressing-8990727.html>

**Asian people 11 times more likely to be stopped at UK borders, analysis finds**

<http://www.theguardian.com/law/2013/dec/05/asian-people-stopped-uk-borders-analysis>

**Senior BP executive told her braided hair and African dress made other staff feel 'uncomfortable' and to 'save it for Black History Month'**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2519858/Senior-BP-executive-told-braided-hair-African-dress-staff-feel-uncomfortable-save-Black-History-Month.html>

**Ukip boss heaps praise on Islam-baiter**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/referendum-news/ukip-boss-heaps-praise-on-islam-baiter.22898570>

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## **Scottish Independence Referendum**

### **Scottish Government Publication**

**Scotland's Future: A Business Plan for Scotland**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0043/00439425.pdf>

## Scottish Independence Referendum (continued) Scottish Government Press Releases

### Welcoming refugees

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Welcoming-refugees-709.aspx>

### More people for more jobs

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/More-people-for-more-jobs-712.aspx>

## UK Parliament (House of Lords) Debate

### Scotland: Independence

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131205-0002.htm#13120564000840>

## News

### Impartial teaching material produced for schools

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/impartial-teaching-material-produced-for-schools.22886076>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Parliamentary Questions

#### Forced Marriage (Consultation on Criminalisation)

**Claudia Beamish:** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason it has not undertaken a public consultation on, or discussed with relevant organisations, the criminalisation of forced marriage. (S4O-02669)

**Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Kenny MacAskill):** The United Kingdom Government's timescale for a potential legislative consent motion on the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill did not allow for a public consultation. We are in regular discussion with key stakeholders on the issue and we were aware that there would be an opportunity to feed in views to the Justice Committee for its consideration of the LCM.

**Claudia Beamish:** I thank the cabinet secretary for explaining the situation in relation to the LCM. However, he will know that Scottish Women's Aid, Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid and Shakti Women's Aid have concerns about proceeding to criminalise forced marriage. Scottish Women's Aid speaks of evidence from Europe and says that it is difficult for people at risk of forced marriage to report their parents and families to the police or even to pursue civil protection. The people at risk often need to be reassured that the protection that they seek can be obtained in the family courts, and thus that their families will not be prosecuted, before they agree to make a formal statement.

Is the cabinet secretary in a position to reconsider the present process? If not, I encourage him to take careful account of those highlighted concerns about criminalisation.

**Reply from Kenny MacAskill:** I take clearly into account and understand the concerns of those organisations, which the member correctly mentioned. It is certainly the position of this Government and indeed of the UK Government that we require to legislate. It is necessary to deal with forced marriage in that way,



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

given our agreement to the Istanbul convention. Some of the organisations that the member refers to disagree with that requirement, but that is certainly the legal advice here and south of the border, and indeed the position of the police and the Crown.

We understand the concerns about driving the practice underground. However, it appears to us that the practice is already, by its very nature, one that tends to be kept under wraps and dealt with secretly. That is why we are happy to work with members of particular organisations, and with the communities in which the practice tends to be more prevalent, to make it quite clear that forced marriage is unacceptable. We are also happy to work with the UK Government on the issue because we believe that there is benefit in having some cross-border parity. We must ensure that we always remember that the victims of forced marriage are to be treated as victims, with dignity and respect. The legislation is not meant to compound the issue; it is meant to ensure that we comply with our international obligations and that those who participate in the practice are dealt with firmly and appropriately.

**Margaret Mitchell:** In order to strengthen the deterrent and tackle the culture surrounding forced marriage, has the cabinet secretary considered making the breach of a forced marriage protection order an aggravated offence? The Scottish Parliament took the deliberate decision back in 2011 not to criminalise forced marriage because the evidence that was received then—and again recently—suggested that that would deter individuals from coming forward rather than encourage them to do so.

**Reply from Kenny MacAskill:** A breach of the civil order is in fact a criminal offence. I am open to considering whether there would be merit or benefit in making that an aggravated offence, but breaching such an order would instigate criminal proceedings, as can be seen in relation to domestic violence, for example. I am happy to consider the issue and reflect on Margaret Mitchell's point.

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8678&mode=html#iob\\_78528](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8678&mode=html#iob_78528)

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## Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions

### Face Coverings

**Lord Stoddart of Swindon:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy on face coverings in public places.[HL3678]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach):** Face coverings can be worn in public places for a variety of legitimate reasons.

In the context of crime, particularly public order situations, the police have the power to remove face coverings under section 60AA of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. This provision allows a police officer, following an authorisation relating to a specified area for a specified time (up to 24 hours initially), to remove anything that he or she considers is being worn wholly or mainly for the purposes of concealing identity. This would include all types of face coverings.

In the context of counter-terrorism, section 43 of the Terrorism Act 2000 provides

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

for a police officer to stop and search a person where there is reasonable suspicion that the person is a terrorist and in order to discover whether he or she is in possession of anything which may be evidence that he or she is a terrorist. The searching police officer would be able to remove face coverings when using this power.

In the context of port and border enforcement, schedule seven of the Terrorism Act 2000 would also allow a police officer to remove face coverings.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131204w0001.htm#13120458000244>

### Islam

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch:** To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Baroness Warsi on 19 November (HL Deb, GC 400), what steps they are taking to encourage British Muslim leaders and clerics to clarify and confirm the peaceful nature of the Koran, the Hadith and the Sunnah.[HL3579]

**Reply from the Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi):** As I said on 19 November this Government supports the role that faith plays in British society, particularly when different faiths come together. Our Integration policy includes programmes that strengthen mutual understanding and, as part of this, Muslims have participated in an outstanding 95% of Near Neighbours projects, drawing on their religious requirement to work for the common good. Additionally, through The Big Iftar this year British Imams and Muslims across the country opened their doors to non-Muslims to share evening meals together. The Big Iftar culminated with the Prime Minister's visit to Manchester's Jamia Mosque in August and the Government will continue to support initiatives that show there is no contradiction between being British and Muslim.

This Government also recognises the importance of involving a wide range of people and organisations from the public and private sector in its work to tackle extremism and terrorism. Prevent continues to work with and through the faith sector, which we recognise has a unique role to play in reaching out to young people at risk of radicalisation and addressing claims made in the name of religion by apologists for violence. The Home Office funds a number of community resilience projects across Prevent priority areas which aim to amplify the positive community response to extremism and a positive, peaceful view of Islam. These projects include establishing networks through engaging with mosques and community leaders, and providing training as well as funding for products like leaflets and websites.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131202w0001.htm#1312027000403>

*The reply referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131119-gc0001.htm#13111956000156>

## Press Release

**Autumn Statement 2013: Scottish perspective**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/autumn-statement-2013-scottish-perspective>

## Other UK Parliament and Government (continued) News

### Government crackdown on radicals 'will lead to attacks on Muslims'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/government-crackdown-on-radicals-will-lead-to-attacks-on-muslims-8981288.html>

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## Other News

### Britain – the most charitable developed nation in the world

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/britain--the-most-charitable-developed-nation-in-the-world-8978545.html>

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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>

Proposed amendments

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_Bills/Children%20and%20Young%20People%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/websiteamendments6.12.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Children%20and%20Young%20People%20(Scotland)%20Bill/websiteamendments6.12.pdf)

#### \*\* Criminal Justice Bill

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

Justice Committee: Stage 1 consideration of evidence

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8684&mode=pdf>

#### Marriage and Civil Partnership Bill

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

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

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

Revised Explanatory Notes

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_Bills/Victims%20and%20Witnesses%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b23as4-stage2-en-rev.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Victims%20and%20Witnesses%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b23as4-stage2-en-rev.pdf)

Notice of amendments

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_Bills/Victims%20and%20Witnesses%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/websiteamendments6.12.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Victims%20and%20Witnesses%20(Scotland)%20Bill/websiteamendments6.12.pdf)

Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing: Stage 3- National Confidential Forum

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB\\_13-79.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_13-79.pdf)

## **Bills in Progress** (continued) **UK Parliament**

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

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

### **Asylum (Time Limit) Bill**

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

### **Foreign Nationals (Access to Public Services) Bill**

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

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

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

### **Immigration Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/immigration.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!**

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

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

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

**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>

## Consultations (continued)

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

**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>

**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>

**\*\* Inquiry into the procedures for considering legislation** (closing date 21 March 2014)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/gettinginvolved/70605.aspx>

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

### **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)

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

### **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)

### **\*\* Discrimination Law in 2014**

20 January 2014 in Edinburgh (9.55 – 4.15)

Equality and Human rights Commission conference to summarise the practical implications of new legislation and key judgments over the past year. For information see [http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded\\_files/Scotland/Legal/discrimination\\_law\\_2014\\_edinburgh\\_publicity.doc](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/Scotland/Legal/discrimination_law_2014_edinburgh_publicity.doc) or contact Angela Barclay 0141 228 5951 / [equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com](mailto:equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com)

### **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/>

**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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