

## 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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## Contents

Immigration and Asylum	New Publications
Community Relations	Other News
Equality	Bills in Progress
Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination	Consultations
Scottish Independence Referendum	Job Opportunities
Other Scottish Parliament and Government	Events/Conferences/Training
Other UK Parliament and Government	Useful Links

**Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month, and that the Scottish 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 Questions

#### Immigration

**Lord Turnberg:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of immigrants on the United Kingdom economy.[HL4902]

**Reply from the Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Deighton):** In order to inform policy making, the government reviews and notes the wider evidence on the economic and fiscal impacts of immigration on an ongoing basis. This evidence base includes the wider academic literature, and a range of reports commissioned or produced by the government looking at specific impacts, for example those produced by the independent Migration Advisory Committee. In addition, policies that influence migration are assessed using the government's impact assessment process which models the economic impact of the policy change using assumptions based on a range of evidence and the academic literature. Home Office Impact Assessments are published on gov.uk.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140130w0001.htm#14013067000392>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Migrants: Benefits

**Lord Myners:** To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are considering preventing European Union migrants from claiming welfare payments for up to two years after arriving in Britain; and whether they have any plans to exempt such migrants from United Kingdom tax obligations in respect of the same period.[HL4537]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud):** The Jobseeker's Allowance (Habitual Residence) Amendment Regulations 2013 has been laid with a 3 months residence requirement to apply to an EU migrant claiming income-based JSA. It is legitimate for the UK to pay income-based JSA only if there is a genuine link between the jobseeker and the labour market, and that the person has, for a reasonable period, genuinely sought work. A three month period is an appropriate and proportionate period of time to establish that link.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140127w0001.htm#14012716000280>

### Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

**Dame Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many EEA migrants in the UK were claiming (a) jobseeker's allowance, (b) housing benefit and (c) both between December 2012 and December 2013; [184252]

(2) how many EEA migrants in the UK will become ineligible to claim housing benefit if restrictions were applied to the eligibility of unemployed migrants for such a benefit. [184302]

**Reply from Esther McVey:** The information requested is not available in the form requested however the Department does publish some statistics on working age benefit recipients, which includes those receiving jobseeker's allowance, but not housing benefit. This information is known as "Nationality at point of National Insurance number registration of DWP benefit claimants" and is included in the Statistical Bulletin on National Insurance Number Allocations to Adult Overseas Nationals Entering the UK—registrations to March 2013, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nino-allocations-to-adult-overseas-nationals-entering-the-uk-registrations-to-march-2013>

We will be changing the law so that new EEA jobseekers, who have not recently worked in the UK, will no longer have access to housing benefit when they get income-based jobseeker's allowance (JSA). This will apply from the beginning of April.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140127/text/140127w0002.htm#14012736000101>

### Immigration

**Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the level of net immigration into the UK was in each year since 1990. [184519]

**Reply from Nick Hurd:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Cabinet Office. The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Glen Watson, dated January 2014:* ... ONS produces estimates of Long-Term International Migration (LTIM), primarily based on data from the International Passenger Survey (IPS), with adjustments made for asylum seekers, people whose intentions change with regard to their length of stay, and migration to and from Northern Ireland. LTIM estimates are based on the United Nations definition of a long-term international migrant, that is, someone who changes their country of usual residence for a period of at least one year.

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

ONS has published estimates of LTIM since 1991; the latest available calendar year estimates of LTIM are for 2012. Table 1 shows LTIM estimates of net migration to the UK from 1991 to 2012.

<i>Table 1: Net migration to the UK, 1991 to 2012</i>	
	<i>Net migration (thousand)</i>
1991	+ 44
1992	- 13
1993	- 1
1994	+ 77
1995	+ 76
1996	+ 55
1997	+ 48
1998	+ 140
1999	+ 163
2000	+ 158
2001	+ 171
2002	+ 153
2003	+ 148
2004	+ 245
2005	+ 206
2006	+ 198
2007	+ 233
2008	+ 163
2009	+ 198
2010	+ 252
2011	+ 215
2012	+ 177

*Note:* Net migration is calculated as immigration minus emigration.  
*Source:* <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/long-term-international-migration/2012/table-2-01a.xls>

Provisional LTIM estimates for calendar year 2013 will become available on 22 May 2014.

It should be noted that in light of the results of the 2011 Census revised net migration figures have been published as components of change in revised mid-year population estimates from the year to mid-2002 to the year to mid-2012 for the United Kingdom. These include a revision to the net migration component, focussed primarily on the middle part of the decade before improvements were made to the International Passenger Survey in 2009. This revised series of net migration is shown in Table 2:

<i>Table 2: Population Estimates for United Kingdom: Components of Change for Net International Migration for the year to mid-2002 to the year to mid-2012</i>	
	<i>Net migration (thousand)</i>
2001-02	+ 174
2002-03	+ 172
2003-04	+ 194
2004-05	+ 320
2005-06	+ 234
2006-07	+ 287
2007-08	+ 267
2008-09	+ 205

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

2009-10	+ 244
2010-11	+ 263
2011-12	+ 164

*Note:* Net migration is calculated as immigration minus emigration, Estimates are for net international migration to the UK for the year ending 30 June e.g. estimates for 2001-02 are for the year ending 30 June 2002. *Source:* <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/pop-estimate/population-estimates-for-uk--england-and-wales--scotland-and-northern-ireland/mid-2001-to-mid-2010-revised/chd---chart-3.xls>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140129/text/140129w0001.htm#14012977000035>

### Immigration

**Lord Kilclooney:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of illegal immigrants in the United Kingdom.[HL4548]

**reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach):** It is not possible accurately to quantify the number of immigration offenders in the UK as, by their very nature, those that deliberately evade immigration control to enter and stay in the country illegally are not officially recorded until they come to light and are arrested.

Rather than attempt to do so, the Government is taking action to crack down on illegal immigration. 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, reformed family visas and are introducing further reforms in the Immigration Bill to prevent abuse and the flouting of the law by people who should not be here.

**Lord Tebbit:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the methodology by which they calculate the economic effect of immigration in the United Kingdom. [HL4637]

**Reply from the Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Deighton) (Con):** In order to inform policy making, the Government reviews and notes the wider evidence on the economic and fiscal impacts of immigration on an ongoing basis. This evidence base includes the wider academic literature, and a range of reports commissioned or produced by the Government looking at specific impacts, for example those produced by the independent Migration Advisory Committee. In addition, each individual policy that influences migration is assessed using the Government's impact assessment process which models the impact of the policy change using assumptions based on a range of evidence and the academic literature. Home Office Impact Assessments are published on the gov.uk website.

**Lord Hylton:** To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 21 January (WA 114), what plans they have to ensure that British embassies in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, together with the relevant offices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Works and Relief Agency and the International Organisation for Migration are cognisant of the provisions in the Immigration Rules for family reunion in Britain. [HL4868]

**Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach:** The Immigration Rules, including those relating to family reunion, are operated routinely by British embassy staff in considering applications from foreign nationals to enter the UK. Staff are therefore already required to know and apply correctly the provisions on family reunion. The Government is not aware of any evidence to suggest that further steps are needed to communicate the existing rules specifically to embassy staff in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq in relation to Syrian nationals.

Our policy and Immigration Rules on refugee family reunion are derived from the

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

principle of family unity as agreed at the Conference which adopted the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. The Government therefore believes that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Works and Relief Agency and the International Organisation for Migration will be aware of the relevant provisions on family reunion, without further communication being required

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what powers they have to prevent non-United Kingdom nationals who are suspected of being likely to cause a breach of the peace in the United Kingdom from entering the country.[HL4882]

**Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach:** The Home Secretary is able to exclude non-EEA foreign nationals from entering the UK if their presence in the UK is deemed to be non-conducive to the public good. This exclusion power extends to those for whom there is evidence that their presence in the UK may create public order issues.

My Rt. Hon. Friend is also able to exclude EEA nationals from the UK using powers in the EEA Regulations. An exclusion order can be made against an EEA national on the grounds of public policy, public security or public health. The decision to exclude must be proportionate and based exclusively on the personal conduct of the individual. That personal conduct must represent a "genuine, present and sufficiently serious threat affecting one of the fundamental interests of society."

There is also a discretionary power within the Immigration Rules (at paragraph 320(19)) which permits the Border Force or Entry Clearance Office to refuse where they "... deem the exclusion of the person from the United Kingdom to be conducive to the public good. For example, because the person's conduct (including convictions which do not fall within paragraph 320(2)), character, associations, or other reasons, make it undesirable to grant them leave to enter.". This would include where there was evidence that the person posed a risk to public order.

**Lord Turnberg:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recent Ipsos MORI poll "Perceptions and Reality", regarding public estimates of the number of immigrants to the United Kingdom.[HL4901]

**Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach:** The Home Office is aware of the Ipsos MORI report "Perceptions and Reality: Public Attitudes to Immigration" which was published on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2014. The Home Office has not made an official assessment of this report.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140128w0001.htm#14012875000331>

### Immigration: EU Nationals

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of citizens of other EU member states who entered the UK in 2013. [184511]

**Reply from Nick Hurd:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Cabinet Office.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Glen Watson, dated January 2014: ...*

ONS produces estimates of Long-Term International Migration (LTIM), primarily based on the International Passenger Survey (IPS). The IPS is a continuous voluntary sample survey conducted by ONS. These estimates are based on the United Nations definition of a long-term international migrant, that is, someone

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

who changes their country of usual residence for a period of at least one year.

LTIM estimates are published on a rolling quarterly basis and the latest available figures are for the year ending June 2013. The estimate of the number of EU citizens who entered the UK during this period was 183,000, with a corresponding margin of error of +/-21,000.

The margin of error refers to the 95 per cent confidence interval and is a measure of the uncertainty associated with making inferences from a sample.

LTIM estimates for calendar year 2013 will become available on 22 May 2014.

ONS also produces estimates of Travel and Tourism, based on the IPS, which include estimates of the number of EU citizens entering the UK for periods of less than one year. The latest available estimates are for November 2013 and can be found on the ONS website:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/ott/overseas-travel-and-tourism---monthly-release/november-2013/rft--november-2013.xls>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140127/text/140127w0001.htm#14012734000023>

### Immigrants: Detainees

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the (a) average and (b) maximum length of time is that an individual who has been defined as an age dispute case has been held in an immigration removal centre pending release to local authority care in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [183008]

(2) what the (a) average and (b) maximum length of time is that an individual who has been held in an immigration removal centre pending an age assessment in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [183009]

(3) how many individuals have been detained in immigration removal centres for the purpose of age assessment in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how many of those individuals were found to be (a) adults and (b) children. [183010]

**Reply from Mark Harper:** The specific data requested in the hon. Member's first two questions is not routinely recorded.

Home Office policy requires that individuals will be treated as adults, and detained, only in the following circumstances:

if there is credible and clear documentary evidence that they are 18 years of age or over; or

if a full "Merton-compliant" age assessment by a local authority is available stating that they are 18 years of age or over; or

if their physical appearance / demeanour very strongly suggests that they are significantly over 18 years of age and no other credible evidence exists to the contrary; or

if the individual:

prior to detention, gave a date of birth that would make them an adult and/or stated they were an adult; and

only claimed to be a child after a decision had been taken on their asylum claim; and

only claimed to be a child after they had been detained; and

has not provided credible and clear documentary evidence proving their claimed age; and

does not have a Merton-compliant age assessment stating they are a child; and

does not have an unchallenged court finding indicating that they are a child; and

physical appearance / demeanour very strongly suggests that they are 18 years of age or over.

All seven of these latter criteria must apply.

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

In some circumstances one or more of these criteria will be met and the individual correctly detained as an adult only for, subsequently, new information to come to light which casts doubt on the original assessment of whether the individual is a child or an adult. In these circumstances, the individual will be released into the care of social services for a formal assessment of their age (this may be a reassessment if they were detained on the basis of a previous assessment) at the earliest opportunity and the individual will be treated as a child pending the outcome of this assessment. Delays can occur if the relevant local authority is unable to attend immediately to take custody of the individual and if the decision is taken that it is in the best interests of the individual, from a safeguarding perspective, for them to stay in the immigration removal centre until social services are able to attend.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140127/text/140127w0001.htm#14012734000020>

### Asylum

**David Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what additional costs her Department incurred in 2013 in the development of the COMPASS programme above those initially planned for; and what the estimated cost of the programme is over the next seven years. [182740]

**Reply from Mark Harper:** In 2013, the Home Department incurred an additional cost of £170,000 in the development of the COMPASS programme. This represents 0.025 % of the estimated cost of COMPASS over the seven-year contract term based on current volumes.

**David Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on (a) support and (b) administration for asylum seekers in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12 and (iii) 2012-13. [184341]

**Reply from Mark Harper:** Expenditure on asylum support for the years specified is disclosed by way of a note to the annual Resource Accounts of the UK Border Agency:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/annual-reports-accounts/annual-report-10-11.pdf?view=Binary>

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/annual-reports-accounts/annual-report-11-12.pdf?view=Binary>

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/annual-reports-accounts/annual-report-12-13.pdf?view=Binary>

... Information on administration costs relating to asylum support is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**David Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on Section 95 support for asylum seekers in (a) 2010-11, (b) 2011-12 and (c) 2012-13. [184342]

**Reply from Mark Harper:** Expenditure on support under section 95 of the Immigration and Nationality Act 1999 was as follows:

	<i>£ million</i>
2010-11	155.3
2011-12	130.5
2012-13	128.3

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140127/text/140127w0001.htm#14012734000013>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Asylum

**David Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum cases were withdrawn by her Department's presenting officers and sent back to her Department's case owners in the years (a) 2009-10, (b) 2010-11, (c) 2011-12, (d) 2012-13 and (e) 2013-14 to date. [183469]

**Reply from Mark Harper:** The following table provides a breakdown of asylum decisions withdrawn by the Home Office at the appeal stage in the requested time periods:

	<i>Volume of asylum decisions withdrawn by the Home Office at the appeal stage</i>
2009-10	206
2010-11	267
2012-13	445
2013-14 (to December 2014)	254

The data on which our response is based is management information which has been subject to internal quality checks. The information has been provided by and assured by the Home Office Performance Unit but has not been quality assured under national statistics protocols.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140128/text/140128w0001.htm#140128107000036>

### Asylum Seekers

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno:** To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 18 November 2013 (WA 129), and in the light of the Guardian article on 14 January which reported that "immigration staff have been set a target of winning 70 per cent of tribunal cases in which asylum seekers are appealing against government decisions that they should leave the United Kingdom", what procedures are in place to ensure that the Home Office decision-making on asylum cases does not prioritise the target rejection rate over the viability of any given case. [HL4838]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach):** The UK has a proud history of granting asylum to those who need it. Every asylum application is considered on its individual merits against up-to-date country information, relevant case law and any policy guidance specific to the type of claim. Country information itself is based on reliable sources, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and other governmental sources, the UNHCR, international and national human rights organisations, and news media.

Caseworkers do not aim to reject claims and there are no targets setting ideal refusal or grant rates. On average we are granting asylum in 30 per cent of initial decisions. We strive to ensure that caseworkers always maintain an open mind, by reinforcing this culture through messages from senior management, our training and our quality assurance procedures.

We make every effort to ensure that only appropriate cases go before the courts. Any decision to reject an asylum claim that has been appealed, and which is not considered by the Presenting Officer to be defensible at an appeal hearing, may, in consultation with a senior officer, be withdrawn so that the claim can be reconsidered or status granted. Where we are confident that our decision to reject a claim for asylum is correct, we will defend that decision at an appeal hearing. It is right to have a target in place for Presenting Officers — currently 70 per cent — to succeed in upholding such decisions at appeal.

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno:** To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 9 January (WA 317), what assessment they have made of the reasons why the number of successful applications for citizenship from former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children has dropped to zero since 2012 from an average of 34 per year in 2010 and 2011; and whether this sudden change is under investigation by the Home Office.[HL4839]

**Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach:** No assessment has been made and no investigation is underway by the Home Office as regards grants of citizenship to former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).

Migration trends vary and this could have impacted the number of UASCs applying for citizenship. However, there have been no recent changes to the citizenship requirements that would have impacted applications received since 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140128w0001.htm#14012875000316>

### Deportation

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been subject to removal directions in each of the last three years. [180786]

**Reply from Mark Harper:** The following table provides information on the number of enforced removal directions set within the last three years (2011-13).

<i>Enforced removal directions set within the last three years</i>	
	<i>Number of people with enforced RDs</i>
2011	19,194
2012	20,417
2013	18,229
Total	57,840

*Notes:* 1. Data includes people with enforced removal directions set in period. 2. People with enforced RDs set that have not been removed have been counted once. 3. People who have had more than one enforced removal have been counted once per each enforced removal.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140127/text/140127w0001.htm#14012734000015>

## Press Release

**Pair sentenced for human trafficking offences**

[http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest\\_news/pair\\_sentenced\\_for\\_human\\_trafficking\\_offences/](http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest_news/pair_sentenced_for_human_trafficking_offences/)

## New Publications

**Asylum Policy Instruction Medico-Legal Reports from the Helen Bamber Foundation and Medical Foundation Medico-Legal Report Service**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/275522/medico-legal.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/275522/medico-legal.pdf)

**Monthly asylum application tables**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/275253/asylum-nov2013.ods](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/275253/asylum-nov2013.ods)

## Immigration and Asylum New Publications (continued)

### **Children entering detention under Immigration Act powers**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/275248/children-detention-dec2013\\_ods](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/275248/children-detention-dec2013_ods)

### **Immigration fees and charging Consultation 2013 - response**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/276026/ImmigrationFeesChargingResponse.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/276026/ImmigrationFeesChargingResponse.pdf)

## News

### **David Cameron says EU immigration at 'reasonable level'**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-25909991>

### **David Cameron: Romania and Bulgaria immigration levels 'reasonable'**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/jan/27/cameron-romania-bulgaria-immigration-reasonable>

### **Latest immigration is reasonable, says PM**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article3987187.ece>

### **Cameron urges calm over migrants**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/wider-political-news/cameron-urges-calm-over-migrants.23273525>

### **Immigration Bill won't do the job, says Tory MP Dominic Raab**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-25925724>

### **'Xenophobia' drives immigration policy, Russell says**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-25933781>

### **'UK immigration policy revolts me' - Mike Russell**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/education/uk-immigration-policy-revolts-me-mike-russell-1-3284918>

### **Russell in attack over 'nasty' UK policies on immigrants**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/russell-in-attack-over-nasty-uk-policies-on-immigrants.23296572>

### **Education Secretary Mike Russell claims Con-Dem's immigration policy is damaging reputation of Scots universities**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/education-secretary-mike-russell-claims-3087821>

### **UK xenophobic on immigration, says SNP minister**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article3989009.ece>

### **Learning hard lesson of Tory immigration stance**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-view/learning-hard-lesson-of-tory-immigration-stance.23273593>

### **UK to resettle some Syria refugees, Nick Clegg confirms**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-25934659>

## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

#### **'Hundreds' of most vulnerable Syrian refugees to head to UK**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/wider-political-news/hundreds-of-most-vulnerable-syrian-refugees-to-head-to-uk.23289587>

#### **Plea to free female detainees**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/plea-to-free-female-detainees.23293546>

#### **Handling of female asylum seekers 'puts UK to shame'**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/handling-of-female-asylum-seekers-puts-uk-to-shame-9091856.html>

#### **Call to support female refugees**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk/call-to-support-female-refugees-1.192649>

#### **Home Office hid dossier on EU migrants**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/conservative/10597409/Home-Office-hid-dossier-on-EU-migrants.html>

#### **Immigration Bill: Terror suspects may lose citizenship**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-25953053>

#### **May plans Immigration Bill change**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/wider-political-news/may-plans-immigration-bill-change.23298130>

#### **Immigration bill: UK terror suspects could be stripped of their citizenship**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/immigration-bill-uk-terror-suspects-could-be-stripped-of-their-citizenship-9095303.html>

#### **Theresa May 'exaggerated risks of deporting foreign criminals'**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article3989259.ece>

#### **Cameron gives in to Tory rebels over vote on immigration**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/wider-political-news/cameron-gives-in-to-tory-rebels-over-vote-on-immigration.23316421>

#### **The one in nine schools where English is not first language**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/10611050/Revealed-The-one-in-nine-schools-where-English-is-not-first-language.html>

#### **A foreign criminal applies for asylum in Britain EVERY DAY: More than 800 convicts applied for residency in the past two years despite having offences to their name**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2525015/Two-foreign-criminals-apply-asylum-Britain-EVERY-DAY-More-800-convicts-applied-residency-past-year-despite-having-offences-name.html>

#### **Stop rich overseas investors from buying up UK homes, report urges**

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/feb/01/rich-overseas-investors-uk-eu-housing-market>

[TOP](#)

## Community Relations

### UK Parliament Question

#### Islam

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch:** To ask Her Majesty's Government which programmes and organisations they sponsor to foster understanding between the Muslim and other faith communities in the United Kingdom; and whether any of those organisations have invited Dr Ekmeleddin İhsanoglu and Dr Tayyar Altikulaç to discuss their theories about the origins of the Qur'an.[HL4866]

**Reply from the Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi):**

My Department funds three programmes designed to encourage people of different faiths to come together at the local and national level in dialogue and shared endeavour. These are Near Neighbours (operated by the Church Urban Fund), Together in Service (operated by FaithAction) and support for the work of the Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom. Muslims are among the faith groups that benefit from these programmes.

None of these organisations has at any time invited Dr Ekmeleddin İhsanoglu and Dr Tayyar Altikulac to discuss the origins of the Quran.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140130w0001.htm#14013067000394>

### News

**Living in mixed communities 'makes people feel British'**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/living-in-mixed-communities-makes-people-feel-british-9100347.html>

**People from ethnic minorities 'feel more British' if they integrate rather than living in areas surrounded by neighbours from their homeland**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2550008/People-ethnic-minorities-feel-British-integrate-living-areas-surrounded-neighbours-homeland.html>

[TOP](#)

## Equality

### UK Parliament Questions

#### BAME Groups (Labour Market)

**Nia Griffith:** What recent discussions [the Minister for Women and Equalities] has had on the position of black, Asian and minority ethnic groups in the labour market. [902275]

**Reply from the Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Mike Penning):** The ethnic minority employment stakeholder group supports the Government's ethnic minority employment strategy. The group meets regularly and reports progress to the Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions, my hon. Friend the Member for Wirral West (Esther McVey), who has responsibility for employment.

**Nia Griffith:** Back in November, an inquiry report published by the all-party parliamentary group on race and community and the Runnymede Trust found that discrimination was present at every stage of the recruitment process. What plans does the Minister have to tackle illegal discrimination, and what new approaches is he developing to tackle BAME unemployment through the Work programme?

## Equality

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

**Reply from Mike Penning:** To answer the second part of the question first, we look at each individual case. Evidence has shown that that approach has been much more successful in getting people, particularly those from the black community, into work. If there is discrimination, there is legislation on the statute book to deal with it. It should be reported to us and we will take action.

**Keith Vaz:** Half of all young black men between the ages of 16 and 24 are unemployed. What specific schemes will the Government introduce to deal with that serious problem?

**Reply from Mike Penning:** I have great respect for the right hon. Gentleman, but his figure is not quite correct, because 80% of that 51% of young black men are in full-time education. That is what is actually going on. We need to work hard on individuals and ensure that the discrimination that the hon. Member for Llanelli (Nia Griffith) referred to does not take place. We must work together to do that and that is what we intend to do.

**Gloria De Piero:** The latest annual figures show that the rate of non-white unemployment has risen by 9.2%. Why is that happening?

**Reply from Mike Penning:** In some areas of the country, we have work to do in respect of unemployment. We are working very hard on that. We need to work together. One area that is of particular concern to me is the high unemployment rate in the Bangladeshi and Pakistani communities, particularly among women. One reason for that, although not the only reason, is that there are language issues. We need to work on that closely in our constituencies, which is something that I am doing in my constituency, because English is not usually spoken fully by ladies in those two communities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140130/debtext/140130-0001.htm#14013058000030>

[TOP](#)

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Debate

#### Holocaust Memorial Day 2014

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8901&mode=html#job\\_80312](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8901&mode=html#job_80312)

### UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

#### Holocaust Commission

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140127/wmstext/140127m0001.htm#1401271000005>

### UK Parliament Questions

#### Bullying: Racist Bullying

**Lord Ouseley:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the causes of the reported increase in racist bullying; and what plans they have to maintain and improve community cohesion as a result.[HL4422]

**Reply from Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government is committed to tackling

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

hate crime and we have a number of laws in place to protect people from hatred and violence.

In schools, the Government has made tackling all forms of bullying, including racist bullying, a top priority. All schools must have a behaviour policy with measures to prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils. They are also required to comply with the Equality Act 2010, which requires all public bodies to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation. Under the current Ofsted framework school inspectors consider how well schools prevent bullying and tackle harassment and discrimination as outlined in the Act. We have also strengthened teachers' powers to discipline pupils for poor behaviour, including bullying.

We are also providing £4 million of funding over 2 years from spring 2013 to four organisations: Beatbullying, The Diana Award, Kidscape and the National Children's Bureau, to develop effective initiatives to prevent and tackle bullying. While these initiatives are not specifically targeted at racism, they can and do address racist bullying.

The new curriculum which comes into force in September 2014 offers opportunities to address some of the underlying causes of bullying including racist bullying; for example the new citizenship programme of study sets out a requirement for pupils to be taught about the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding.

In local communities, our integration policy breaks down barriers: emphasising local action and bringing people together; celebrating what we have in common rather than what divides us.

The Department for Communities and Local Government funds over 30 exemplar projects, working with charities, businesses and faith groups, to demonstrate what can be done with Government support to kick start activity.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140128w0001.htm#14012875000317>

#### **Children: Racist and Islamophobic Bullying**

**Baroness Hussein-Ece:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps are being taken to address the reported increase in the number of children who contacted Childline in the last year complaining of racist and Islamophobic bullying.

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Nash):** My Lords, all schools must have a behaviour policy with measures to prevent all forms of bullying. Ofsted specifically considers how well schools tackle bullying and discrimination and we have strengthened teachers' powers to discipline pupils for poor behaviour including bullying. We are also providing £4 million to four anti-bullying organisations to tackle bullying in schools. The new curriculum also offers opportunities to address some of the underlying causes of bullying, including racist bullying, through developing greater understanding and tolerance.

**Baroness Hussein-Ece:** I thank my noble friend for that reply. Is he aware that ChildLine reported a 69% increase in this form of bullying in the past year alone, where students were forced to go to ChildLine rather than go to their school to have this matter addressed? Is he aware that ChildLine further said that it links this specifically to the intemperate language being used around immigration and with Muslim children being called "bombers" and "terrorists"? Will this be specifically taken up and systems put in place so that teachers can deal with it at source rather than children having to go to ChildLine?

**Lord Nash:** My Lords, every school must have a policy and systems in place and bullying in school at any time is completely unacceptable. The Government are

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

funding Show Racism the Red Card until the end of March to deliver workshops to 10,000 young people in schools. Of course I entirely agree with my noble friend that all of us in public life have a duty to behave responsibly and set positive examples. ...

**Baroness Afshar:** My Lords, are the Government aware that the everyday otherisation of children in terms of their creed and colour results in their feeling that they do not belong in this society? It is hardly surprising that they grow up radicalised. Surely we have long since passed the time when you were defined by your creed or colour. What are the Government doing to eradicate from common-day parlance—in Parliament, in the papers and elsewhere—the definition of people by their religion?

**Lord Nash:** My Lords, our society is now multiethnic. The only way we will succeed in making it truly civilised is if we eliminate all forms of racism and all celebrate the diversity of our country—I entirely agree with the noble Baroness. We expect all schools to teach tolerance and understanding of others in PSHE. We are heavily focused on this. The new national curriculum, which will come into force in September, will offer varied opportunities for pupils to learn about different cultures and religions. The citizenship programme is heavily focused on this, and the history curriculum should also celebrate the contribution of different races and ethnic groups to the history of our country.

**To read the full lengthy question and answer session**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140129-0001.htm#14012956000428>

### Community Relations: Hinduism

**Bob Blackman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps his Department has taken to consult with a broad spectrum of Hindu community representatives in relation to caste legislation; and if he will make a statement; [184309]

(2) what consultations his Department has carried out to engage with the Hindu community in relation to caste legislation; on what dates such consultations were carried out; and if he will make a statement. [184308]

**reply from Stephen Williams:** The responsibility for consulting Hindu community representatives in relation to caste legislation sits with the Government Equalities Office which falls under the remit of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Full details of the programme and timetable for introducing caste discrimination legislation can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/caste-discrimination-legislation-timetable>

The Government Equalities Office will be issuing a public consultation on the prospective caste legislation in spring 2014 which all Hindu community representatives are encouraged to participate in.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140128/text/140128w0001.htm#140128107000056>

## Press Releases

**David Cameron's Holocaust Commission speech**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/david-camerons-holocaust-commission-speech>

**Prime Minister launches Holocaust Commission**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-launches-holocaust-commission>

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Press Releases (continued)

#### **Nick Clegg attends Holocaust Memorial Day 2014 event**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nick-clegg-attends-holocaust-memorial-day-2014-event>

#### **Holocaust Memorial Day**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/holocaust-memorial-day--2>

#### **Holocaust Memorial Day – a new lesson to learn?**

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/latest\\_blogs/2269\\_holocaust\\_memorial\\_day\\_a\\_new\\_lesson\\_to\\_learn](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_blogs/2269_holocaust_memorial_day_a_new_lesson_to_learn)

#### **On Holocaust Memorial Day, UN calls for unflagging vigilance to prevent new genocide**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47013&Cr=holocaust&Cr1=#.Uuf-53f8K7Q>

#### **International Holocaust Remembrance Day: United front against all forms of racism**

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2014-01-27%20holocaust%20day.pdf>

#### **In memory of the victims of the Holocaust: A star shining in darkness**

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/InMemoryOfVictimsOfTheHolocaust.aspx>

#### **International Holocaust Remembrance Day: Commission calls on Member States to criminalise denial of crimes against humanity**

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-14-75\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-75_en.htm?locale=en)

#### **States must do more to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance, raise awareness, says OSCE Chairperson on Holocaust Remembrance Day**

<http://www.osce.org/cio/110590>

## New Publication

#### **Report on the implementation of Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law**

[http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/com\\_2014\\_27\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/com_2014_27_en.pdf)

## News

#### **Teenager accuses police after investigation into racist attack**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/teenager-accuses-police-after-investigation-into-racist-attack.23306951>

#### **Man's anger over race attack probe**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/man-s-anger-over-race-attack-probe-1.193997>

#### **Glasgow man slams police over race attack response**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/glasgow-man-slams-police-over-race-attack-response-1-3286480>

#### **Black drivers are more likely to be stopped by police**

<http://www.theguardian.com/law/2014/feb/02/black-drivers-stopped-police>

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### News (continued)

**The racial abuse which led to green light for CCTV cameras in taxis**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/revealed-the-racial-abuse-which-led-to-green-light-for-cctv-cameras-in-taxis.23326542>

**Passengers called me a black b\*\*\*\*\* and threatened to kill my wife and children**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/passengers-called-me-a-black-b-and-threatened-to-kill-my-wife-and-children.23324541>

[TOP](#)

## Scottish Independence Referendum

### UK Parliament Debate (House of Lords)

**Scotland: Independence Referendum**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140130-0001.htm#14013072000875>

### Scottish Government Publication

**Scotland's Future – It's in your hands - Factsheet**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0044/00442777.pdf>

### Other Publication

**Ten steps for charities and the independence referendum**

<http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/CMSPages/GetFile.aspx?guid=60d7cdc3-419e-49c4-bb26-744da17231be>

[TOP](#)

## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Release

**Petitions Committee flying high with 1500th petition**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/72350.aspx>

[TOP](#)

## Other UK Parliament and Government

### Parliamentary Questions

#### Female Genital Mutilation

**Emily Thornberry:** To ask the Attorney-General what recent discussions has he had with the (a) Secretary of State for Health and (b) Director of Public Prosecutions about

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

the effect on ease of prosecution of making it mandatory for NHS staff to report to police suspected cases of female genital mutilation. [184068]

**Reply from the Solicitor-General:** Neither the Attorney-General nor I have had discussions with the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), or with the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) about making it mandatory for national health service staff to report suspected cases of female genital mutilation (FGM) to the police.

The DPP's FGM action plan published in October 2013 made recommendations to the Inter Ministerial Group on Violence Against Women and Girls (IMG VAWG) about reviewing guidance to health professionals and others in order to support referrals to the police. I am a member of the IMG VAWG.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140127/text/140127w0003.htm#14012736000173>

### Female Genital Mutilation

**Lord Taylor of Warwick:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to deal with hospitals which are failing to report female genital mutilation.[HL4765]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe):** It is the responsibility of National Health Service trusts to ensure that their staff follow correct safeguarding procedures. NHS staff have a legal obligation to safeguard children, so whenever they identify a child who may be at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) or who has already been subjected to FGM, they must always respond by involving the appropriate authorities as set out in the "Female Genital Mutilation Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines"(2011). ...

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140129w0001.htm#14012962000186>

[TOP](#)

## New Publication

**Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator Guidance: Check before you give**

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/check-before-you-give/>

[TOP](#)

## Other News

**Advisers hired as Treasury issues first sharia-compliant bond**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/industries/banking/article3992212.ece>

**Network to increase number of South Asian organ donors set up**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/network-to-increase-number-of-south-asian-organ-donors-set-up.23293486>

**Girls from ethnic minorities at risk from genital mutilation, MSPs hear**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/girls-from-ethnic-minorities-at-risk-from-genital-mutilation-msps-hear.23315776>

## Other News (continued)

### **A survivor of female genital mutilation speaks out**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/columnists/comment-a-survivor-of-female-genital-mutilation-speaks-out.23307341>

### **Young girls at risk of undergoing abusive practice of female genital mutilation, MSPs hear**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/young-girls-risk-undergoing-abusive-3093853>

### **Imam tells Muslim clerics: 'Don't be slaves, join a union'**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/imam-tells-muslim-clerics-dont-be-slaves-join-a-union.23331860>

[TOP](#)

## **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>

Supplementary Financial Memorandum

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

#### **Criminal Justice Bill**

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

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

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

Revised Explanatory Notes

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_Bills/Marriage%20and%20Civil%20Partnership%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b36as4-stage2-en.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Marriage%20and%20Civil%20Partnership%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b36as4-stage2-en.pdf)

Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing: Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill as amended at Stage 2

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB\\_14-10.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_14-10.pdf)

Proposed Stage 3 amendments

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_Bills/Marriage%20and%20Civil%20Partnership%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b36as4-stage3-ml.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Marriage%20and%20Civil%20Partnership%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b36as4-stage3-ml.pdf)

## **Bills in Progress**

### **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>

## Bills in Progress

### UK Parliament (continued)

#### **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 and Nationality (Fees) (Amendment) Order 2014**

Grand Committee, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140128-gc0001.htm#14012896000229>

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

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

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2013-2014/0128/amend/300114.pdf>

Report Stage, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140130/debtext/140130-0001.htm#14013058000001>

Third Reading, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140130/debtext/140130-0004.htm#14013062003170>

First Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140130-0003.htm#14013072000876>

#### **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>

#### **Modern Slavery Bill (draft)**

Draft Bill as published

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/266165/Draft\\_Modern\\_Slavery\\_Bill.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/266165/Draft_Modern_Slavery_Bill.pdf)

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

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

[TOP](#)

## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

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

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

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

**Female Genital Mutilation** (closing date 12 February 2014)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/female-genital-mutilation/>

**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>

**The Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Bill** (closing date 19 February 2014)

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_FinanceCommittee/Revenue\\_Scotland\\_and\\_Tax\\_Powers\\_Bill\\_call\\_for\\_evidence.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_FinanceCommittee/Revenue_Scotland_and_Tax_Powers_Bill_call_for_evidence.pdf)

**Scottish independence: constitutional implications for the rest of the UK**

(28 February 2014)

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/constitution/Scottish%20independence/Call-for-evidence-Scottish-Independence-inquiry.pdf>

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

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

**\*\* Care for unaccompanied and trafficked children** (closing date 25 March 2014)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/care-for-unaccompanied-and-trafficked-children>

**In our own words: undocumented migrants and their supporters**

(closing date 30 March 2014)

<http://picum.org/en/our-work/undocumented-migrants/terminology/-in-our-own-words-call-for-submissions-from-undocumented-migrants-and-their-supporters>

**\*\* Holocaust Commission call for evidence** (closing date 30 May 2014)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-holocaust-commission-keeping-the-memory-alive>

**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>

**Faith and Belief Scotland** (no closing date given)

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

[TOP](#)

## Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

**\*\* this week!**

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

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)

**\*\* this week!**

### **Migration and the Referendum Debate**

7 February 2014 in Edinburgh (9.00 – 4.00)

Conference to enable politicians from Local, Scottish and UK Government, senior officers from across the public sector, academic experts, representatives from the third sector and the migrant community to engage in dialogue on migration in Scotland. For information contact Kirsty Anderson [kirsty.anderson@cosla.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.anderson@cosla.gov.uk) or see <http://www.migrationscotland.org.uk/news/2013/11/cosla-conference-migration-and-referendum-debate>

### **GRAMNet Film Series**

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)

**\*\* The Gathering**

19-20 February 2014 in Glasgow

SCVO event to provide an opportunity for third sector organisations to network, showcase their work and learn from each other. For information see <http://www.gatherscotland.org.uk/events/> or contact [thegathering@scvo.org.uk](mailto:thegathering@scvo.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)

**\*\* Using the Public Sector Equality Duty – a tool for the third sector**

19 March 2014 in Glasgow

Equality and Human Rights Commission conference to enable voluntary sector organisations to understand the Public Sector Equality duty better and find out how they can use the duty to ensure that public services meet the diverse needs of communities. For information contact Douglas Guest 0141 228 5974 / [scotlandcommunication@equalityhumanrights.com](mailto:scotlandcommunication@equalityhumanrights.com)

## 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)

[TOP](#)



The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>



**BEMIS** is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. <http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

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