

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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The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 17 February 2014.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

Visa Regulations

The Minister for Immigration (Mark Harper): I am today announcing proposals to change the fees for immigration and nationality applications made to the Home Office and for services provided by the Department. The Government review these fees on a regular basis and make appropriate changes as necessary.

In developing these proposals, the Home Office has sought to limit most increases to 4%. There are further targeted increases to bring dependant fees in line with main application fees, to register as a British citizen and some premium services. A staggered rise has been applied to the long-term visit visa (greater than six months) with a higher rise to the two and five-year visas to ensure the 10-year visa stays at its current level. We are also introducing a reduced fee for those applying to work within areas regarded as shortage occupations and to the direct airside transit visa.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Ministerial Statement (continued)

The Home Office has given careful consideration to its fee levels, to ensure they provide the funding necessary to operate effective immigration controls and invest in improving service levels to customers. This is balanced against the need to ensure that the UK continues to attract and welcome the “brightest and best” migrants from around the world and those that make a valued contribution to British society. Given the ongoing need to reduce public spending, we believe it is right that we continue to reduce the contribution made by UK taxpayers towards delivering the immigration system by asking those who use and benefit directly from the system to make a greater contribution.

For certain application categories, we will continue to set fees higher than the administrative cost to reflect their value to successful applicants. This helps to provide resources to run the UK immigration system and enables the Home Office to set lower fees elsewhere in support of wider Government objectives to attract those businesses, workers, students and visitors who most benefit the UK. This includes the short-term visit visa which remains significantly below cost.

I have laid regulations for fees set higher than cost. In addition, I will shortly lay another set of regulations in Parliament for fees set at or below cost. Further details explaining all fees changes are provided in the explanatory memoranda for both sets of regulations. Subject to parliamentary approval the Government intend to bring new fees into force from 6 April 2014 with some fees for premium services overseas coming into effect on 31 March 2014.

The attached table, setting out all the proposed fees, includes indicative unit costs for financial year 2014-15. The unit cost is the estimated average cost to the Home Office of processing each application. Unit costs are published so it is clear which fees we set over cost and by how much.

Full details on how to apply for all of the Home Office's products and services will be provided on the Home Office website: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

To read the extremely long table of fees see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140203/wmstext/140203m0001.htm#14020322000005>

UK Parliament Questions

Immigration

Lord Bradshaw: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have considered changes to the charges imposed on appellants during the immigration appeal process and allowing the losing party to bear the costs. [HL4723]

Reply from the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord Faulks): The Government keeps the fees charged for bringing proceedings in the Immigration and Asylum chamber under review.

The First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber), the “FtTIAC”, rules of procedure do not provide for the tribunal to award costs (‘expenses’ in Scotland). The tribunal does, however, have the power to award a successful appellant an amount up to the value of any fee they have paid.

The Tribunal Procedure Committee, the independent body responsible for the rules governing the FtTIAC, recently consulted on proposals to amend the current costs regime. The proposed rule changes would provide the tribunal with the power to make wasted costs orders against legal representatives where it is appropriate to do so, and also to make an order for costs where a party to litigation has behaved unreasonably.

The response to that consultation will be published in due course and any rule amendments will follow thereafter. There is currently no consideration being given

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

to moving to a position where the losing party would normally pay their opponent's costs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140206w0001.htm#14020660000191>

Asylum: Children

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who were in the UK under discretionary leave had (i) applications heard, (ii) applications accepted and (iii) applications refused to extend their leave in each of the last five years for which records are available. [185486]

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

<i>Decision year</i>	<i>Decision made</i>	<i>Granted Further Leave</i>	<i>Refused</i>
2009	63	0	61
2010	535	39	433
2011	757	148	551
2012	353	79	245
2013	222	20	169

¹ 2013 data up to 30 September 2013.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140206/text/140206w0002.htm#14020676000092>

Illegal Immigrants

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many residential raids for immigration purposes were carried out between midnight and 8 am in the last 12 months; in how many of those cases children were expected to be present; and in how many of those cases one or more parent or guardian was removed. [183730]

Reply from Mark Harper: The number of residential visits for the period 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013 was 4,958. The number of children expected at these visits was 166.

Residential visits data relates to the number of addresses targeted not the number of individuals expected at these visits. Number of residential visits is where the time of the visit is recorded as being between 0.00 and 08.00. A child is defined as anyone under 18 at the time of the visit. Data on the number of parent or guardian of the children expected to be present that were subsequently removed cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140206/text/140206w0002.htm#14020676000104>

Immigrants: Detainees

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to ensure that detainees at immigration removal centres are treated well and are not subject to abuse. [185613]

Reply from Mark Harper: All immigration removal centres are subject to the Detention Centre Rules 2001, which came into force on 2 April 2001 and these make provision for the regulation and management of removal centres. The rules are supported by operating standards and detention services orders.

Each centre has a Home Office immigration enforcement manager and team to monitor ongoing service provision and to maintain effective and meaningful contact with detainees.

Independent assessment of centres is provided in the inspection reports of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons and the annual reports of the Independent

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Ministerial Statement (continued)

Monitoring Boards. Recommendations resulting from these reports are translated into service improvement plans which are monitored by a compliance and monitoring team within Detention Operations. We are committed to using these plans to make improvements across our estate for all detainees in our care.

A comprehensive complaints system is in place at all centres and detainees have the ability to raise complaints both anonymously or in person and in confidence to the Independent Monitoring Boards who in turn can escalate complaints on behalf of detainees. Detainees who are not satisfied with the way in which their complaint has been handled may ask for it to be independently reviewed by the prisons and probation ombudsman.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140205/text/140205w0001.htm#14020589000035>

Immigration Removal Centres: Restraint

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the suggestion by the Chief Inspector of Prisons that staff of the Geo group, which operates the Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre, ignored the advice of a doctor that a Canadian citizen who subsequently died handcuffed in detention should have not been detained or deported.[HL4745]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Detention is a vital tool that helps us remove those with no right to be in the country. In 2012 more than 44,000 people were removed or voluntarily departed from the UK. But it must be used appropriately, and the unnecessary use of restraints is unacceptable. Following this incident an investigation was carried out and a number of changes have been made to ensure proper risk assessments are carried out (by contractors) in a timely way, and that restraint should only happen where absolutely necessary.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140203w0001.htm#1402036000363>

Human Trafficking

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many victims of trafficking for purposes of (a) labour exploitation and (b) domestic servitude received compensation through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority in each year since 2010. [185637]

Reply from Damian Green: The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) does not hold this information. There are several reasons for this. Before 2012 CICA did not record the specific crime of which their applicants had been a victim. This was because payments are based primarily on the injuries someone sustains rather than the crime of which they were a victim. While an applicant had to be the victim of a crime of violence, the specific crime generally had no bearing on the compensation claim. Since November 2012 CICA has recorded broad categories of crime but human trafficking is only currently recorded where it is for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140206/text/140206w0002.htm#14020676000103>

European Parliament Text Adopted

Undocumented women migrants in the European Union

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2014-0068+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **Press Releases**

Resignation of Mark Harper MP

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/resignation-of-mark-harper-mp>

Commissioner Malmström welcomes European Parliament vote on migrant seasonal workers

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-14-82_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-82_en.htm?locale=en)

News

Immigration minister Mark Harper quits over cleaner's visa

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-26101442>

'Go Home' Immigration Minister resigns for employing illegal immigrant as cleaner

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/immigration-minister-resigns-for-employing-a-cleaner-illegally.1391874170>

Immigration Minister quits after employing illegal migrant

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4000082.ece>

Immigration Minister Mark Harper resigns after employing a cleaner working in the UK illegally

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/immigration-minister-mark-harper-resigns-after-employing-a-cleaner-working-in-the-uk-illegally-9116797.html>

Mark Harper resigns after hiring illegal immigrant

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/conservative/10626150/Mark-Harper-resigns-after-hiring-illegal-immigrant.html>

Immigration minister Mark Harper resigns over illegal immigrant cleaner

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/feb/09/mark-harper-immigration-minister-resigns>

'Go home' minister quits over his illegal immigrant cleaner

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/go-home-minister-quits-over-his-illegal-immigrant-cleaner.23387943>

Immigration minister quits over illegal cleaner

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/immigration-minister-quits-over-illegal-cleaner-1-3299609>

UK Immigration Minister Mark Harper quits after his cleaner was revealed to be in the country illegally

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/uk-immigration-minister-mark-harper-3127347>

Immigration Minister Mark Harper forced to resign after illegally employing a foreign cleaner

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2554701/Immigration-Minister-Mark-Harper-forced-resign-illegally-employing-foreign-cleaner.html>

Romanian migrants have most babies of any group in Britain

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article3995315.ece>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Polish mothers have more children once they come to Britain: Birth rate among migrants is two third higher here than in their homeland

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2551531/Romanian-women-highest-fertility-rate-EU-experts-say-Britains-support-children-acts-draw.html>

The British War Against Immigrants Is Anti-European, Unjustified and Wrong

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/corina-cretu/romania-immigration_b_4735791.html?utm_hp_ref=uk-politics

Gay asylum seekers face 'humiliation'

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/feb/08/gay-asylum-seekers-humiliation-home-office>

Bard can help make migrant children British

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/National/article1373565.ece

Get involved in Refugee Week Scotland 2014

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/refugee_week_scotland/get_involved_in_refugee_week_scotland_2014

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Community Relations

New Publication

New website: Racecard

<http://www.racecard.org.uk/>

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Equality

UK Parliament Question

Travellers: Equality

Philip Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make an assessment of the potential effect on the Government's equality policies of information from the 2011 census relating to the employment, education and health prospects of Gypsies and Travellers. [185206]

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The analysis by the Office for National Statistics 'What Does the 2011 Census tell us about the characteristics of Gypsy or Irish Travellers in England and Wales?', which was published on 21 January 2014, provides further evidence of inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers. In 2010 the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), established a Ministerial Working Group to look at ways to reduce these inequalities. The Working Group published a progress report in April 2012 which includes 28 commitments from across Government, including commitments relating to employment, education and health. The report also said that the Government intends to produce another report once we have had the opportunity to assess

Equality

UK Parliament Question (continued)

progress in delivering against those commitments.

The census report also noted that 61% of this section of the population live in a whole house or bungalow, while 24% live in caravans or other mobile or temporary structures. As I indicated in my written statement of 17 January 2014, *Official Report*, columns 34-5WS, we are currently considering whether the planning definition of “travellers” should more specifically refer to those who actually travel and have a mobile or transitory lifestyle.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140204/text/140204w0002.htm#140204101000113>

News

Universities can segregate men and women for debates by radical speakers

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/universityeducation/10625879/Islamic-preachers-the-pied-pipers-of-sexual-apartheid.html>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions

Pupils: Bullying

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make an assessment of the effect of recent public debate on immigration on the incidence of racist bullying of schoolchildren. [185886]

Reply from Elizabeth Truss: The Department for Education does not routinely collect information about the prevalence of racist bullying so it is not possible to make a direct causal link between the recent public debate on immigration and the incidence of racist bullying of school children. UK and international research studies show wide variation in the likely prevalence of all types of bullying, ranging from 69% to a more moderate 21%. While this variation can in part be attributed to different survey methodologies and research questions, it is more likely to reflect variation in individual perceptions of what constitutes bullying.

The Government has made clear to schools that all forms of bullying, for whatever reason, should never be tolerated in schools. All schools must have a behaviour policy with measures to prevent and tackle all forms of bullying, including racist bullying. Schools are held to account by Ofsted for the behaviour and safety of their pupils and Ofsted inspectors consider pupils behaviour towards, and respect for, other young people and adults.

The new programmes of study, which will come into force in schools from September 2014 for citizenship, history and geography, provide varied opportunities for pupils to learn about different cultures and religions which will help foster tolerance and harmony among young people.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140204/text/140204w0003.htm#140204101000128>

Ethnic Minorities: Ministers' Statements

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they issue to Ministers about making public statements on allegations about the general behaviour of ethnic minorities.

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Wallace of Saltaire: My Lords, Ministers are expected to behave in a way which is consistent with the *Ministerial Code*.

Lord Avebury: My Lords, when Ministers, or officials on their behalf, refer to homeless Travellers as a blight on the community, or as having a negative impact on business, does this not reinforce local authorities' failure to produce a five-year rolling programme, as required by the Government's planning policy for Traveller sites? Will they desist from using pejorative language about Travellers and instead embody the PPTS in statute law, with a power for the Secretary of State to direct local authorities to grant permission for such a number of sites and caravans as he may specify, as already happens in Wales?

Reply from Lord Wallace of Saltaire: My Lords, I think the noble Lord is referring to a DCLG press release of last summer, which used the unfortunate term "blight"; the word was shortly afterwards removed and replaced by "problem". In the previous survey of Travellers' caravans, there were estimated to be 20,000, of which 15,000 were on authorised sites of one sort or another and another 5,000 were on non-authorised sites.

Baroness Whitaker: My Lords, last week we commemorated the Holocaust, which encompassed the genocide of about one-quarter of the Roma people of Europe, whose violent persecution still continues. Should not our political leadership be more mindful of where prejudice and bigotry lead?

Reply from Lord Wallace of Saltaire: My Lords, we remember the Holocaust and that, I hope, although the Jews were the primary target of the Holocaust a great many others also died: nearly 2 million Poles, perhaps 200,000 Sinti Roma, gays, people with Asiatic features and others. The West German Government recognised the Roma dimension of the genocide in 1982; I understand that in 2012 a memorial to the Roma and Sinti who died in the genocide was unveiled in Berlin.

Lord Taverne: My Lords, what is the advice given about migrants? Can the Government publish the apparently mysterious reasons why the report commissioned on migrants by the Home Secretary has been shelved?

Reply from Lord Wallace of Saltaire: My Lords, I think the noble Lord is referring to the EU balance of competences review, particularly the free movement of persons report. In view of the considerable uncertainty about the impact of the free movement of persons this January, it was felt that we should postpone that paper until the third semester, this coming summer, to make sure that we had accurate figures.

Baroness Thornton: My Lords, the Question of the noble Lord, Lord Avebury, concerns all democratic parties, and how we ensure that racists and extremists are pushed back into the political margins where they belong. Are HMG committed to ensuring that all their Ministers have a self-denying ordinance not to pander to the racists by echoing their messages for short-term gain? Secondly, how will HMG ensure that our laws to combat racism and xenophobia are reflected in the language that their Ministers and MPs use?

Reply from Lord Wallace of Saltaire: My Lords, the *Ministerial Code* is entirely clear on the way in which Ministers should behave. I am not aware of many other occasions on which such language has been used. Ministers are extremely careful about references to particular communities, migrants or others. We all understand how very delicate this area is.

Baroness Hussein-Ece: My Lords, does my noble friend agree that the sort of language we saw in the run-up to 1 January in reference to the latest wave of migrants—Bulgarians and Romanians—was wholly unnecessary and negative, and had an impact on the ground on the perception of people from other countries coming here to work? I mean words like "scroungers". Does he agree that this sort of language has no place in our society? After all, are we not all part of the big society?

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Wallace of Saltaire: My Lords, I entirely agree but I think it is a question for the editor of the *Daily Mail* more than for any Minister in the current Government. There was quite absurd language and, indeed, some entirely untrue stories about extra planes, packed buses and so on that appeared in December, and which have not been denied since by the newspapers that published them. That is very unfortunate in an open, free and democratic society.

Lord Foulkes of Cumnock: Could the Minister remind the House how complaints against the *Ministerial Code* are made and to whom, and how they are dealt with?

Reply from Lord Wallace of Saltaire: My Lords, they are dealt with by the Cabinet Secretary. The only other case I am aware of during the last year was where a Minister was thought to have referred to electoral fraud within the south Asian community in an unfortunate fashion. The Minister responsible apologised immediately.

Lord Hannay of Chiswick: My Lords, would the Minister not agree that his very welcome words about Ministers being careful about using any words that might encourage racism or xenophobia would be rather more believable if the Government were not opting out of the European Union's decision on racism and xenophobia?

Reply from Lord Wallace of Saltaire: My Lords, the noble Lord makes an extremely strong point. I offer no further comment than that.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140203-0001.htm#1402031000268>

New Publication

Antisemitic Incidents Report 2013

<http://www.thecst.org.uk/docs/Incidents%20Report%202013.pdf>

News

407 racist or hate cases a year in schools

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/education/407-racist-or-hate-cases-a-year-in-schools-1-3294761>

CPS is ignoring racist motivation in murder and manslaughter cases, says damning report

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/cps-is-ignoring-racist-motivation-in-murder-and-manslaughter-cases-says-damning-report-9102651.html?origin=internalSearch>

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Scottish Independence Referendum

UK Parliament Debate

Scotland's Place in the UK

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140206/debtext/140206-0002.htm#14020652000003>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Debate

Female Genital Mutilation

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8924&mode=html#iob_80496

Press Releases

Same sex marriage

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Same-sex-marriage-8f8.aspx>

Scotland's first Rural Parliament

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Scotland-s-first-Rural-Parliament-90f.aspx>

News

Scotland's same-sex marriage bill is passed

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-25960225>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Early Day Motion

Tim Farron (1059) Guardian campaign to end female genital mutilation – That this House notes that an estimated 660,000 women in the UK have suffered from female genital mutilation (FGM); further notes that an additional 20,000 British girls are thought to be at risk of being cut every year despite previous Government promises to stop FGM; commends the work of 17 year old student Fahma Mohamed, alongside The Guardian newspaper, to put a stop to this inhumane and unnecessary practice; further notes that Fahma's change.org petition calling on the Department for Education (DfE) to teach about FGM in schools has already collected over 22,310 signatories; welcomes the announcement on 6 February 2014 by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development and the Minister of State for the Home Office of a package of measures designed to combat this harmful practice nationally and internationally; calls on the Government, and in particular the DfE to do everything in its power to support the work of Fahma and countless others who are fighting to end the culture of secrecy and fear around the practice; and further calls for swift action on the issue before the 'cutting season' begins once more during the 2014 school summer holidays.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/1059>

Press Releases

Breaking the cycle of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/breaking-the-cycle-of-female-genital-mutilationcutting-fgmc>

Other UK Parliament and Government Press Releases (continues)

Female genital mutilation declaration

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/277909/140205_HMG_FGM_declaration - FINAL.PDF](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/277909/140205_HMG_FGM_declaration_-_FINAL.PDF)

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New Publications

Making a complaint

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/making-a-complaint/>

The European Court of Human Rights in Facts and figures: 2013

http://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Facts_Figures_2013_ENG.pdf

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Other News

Equality Internship Programme

SCVO is working in partnership with BEMIS, CEMVO, Inclusion Scotland and Scottish Disability Equality Forum to create up to 150 paid Internships within third sector organisations for unemployed graduates. This Scottish Government funded programme will pay for internships at 35 hours a week and £6.31/hour, lasting for 13 weeks. For information see <http://bemis.org.uk/internships.html> or email interns@bemis.org.uk

First female genital mutilation prosecution after 28 years

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article3997029.ece>

Britain's first female genital mutilation trial expected to come to court within weeks

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2552749/Britains-female-genital-mutilation-trial-expected-come-court-weeks.html>

Female genital mutilation: Scotland's government to ask all schools to act

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/feb/07/female-genital-mutilation-scotland-schools-headteacher-fgm>

Michael Gove is urged to take action over petition on female genital mutilation

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/feb/09/michael-gove-urged-to-respond-to-fgm-petition>

International Day of Zero Tolerance against Female Genital Mutilation: Just one victim is too many

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-14-85_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-85_en.htm?locale=en)

On International Day, UN officials urge zero tolerance for female genital mutilation

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47092&Cr=genital&Cr1=#.UvPKFEKSwbcb>

Female genital mutilation: Hospitals to log victims

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-26049733>

Other News (continued)

Female genital mutilation: A family speaks out against the abuse

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-26049727>

Female genital mutilation – abuse in any language

<http://caledonianmercury.com/2014/02/03/female-genital-mutilation-abuse-in-any-language/0044694>

Just three calls made to illegal mutilation helpline

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/just-three-calls-made-to-illegal-mutilation-helpline.23355186>

Schools enlisted to combat female genital mutilation

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-26097986>

How the UK Is Leading the Global Fight Against FGM

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/justine-greening/fgm-uk-leading-the-fight_b_4714328.html?utm_hp_ref=uk-politics

FGM is banned but very much alive in the UK

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/feb/06/female-genital-mutilation-foreign-crime-common-uk>

Female Genital Mutilation: Crime Not Culture

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/carina-kolodny/female-genital-mutilation_4_b_4734728.html

Doctors accused of failing to report suspected cases of female genital mutilation

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/doctors-accused-of-failing-to-report-suspected-cases-of-female-genital-mutilation-9110911.html>

Debate helps to raise awareness of FGM

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/2276_debate_helps_to_raise_awareness_of_fgm

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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>

Scottish Parliament Information Centre Briefing: Bill as amended at Stage 2

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_14-13.pdf

Proposed Stage 3 amendments

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Children%20and%20Young%20People%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/website_amendments7.02.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Children%20and%20Young%20People%20(Scotland)%20Bill/website_amendments7.02.pdf)

Bills in Progress

Scottish Parliament (continued)

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>

Proposed 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)

Stage 3 consideration of amendments

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8922&mode=html#iob_80455

Stage 3 debate

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8922&mode=html#iob_80456

Bill as Passed

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Marriage%20and%20Civil%20Partnership%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b36bs4-aspassed.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Marriage%20and%20Civil%20Partnership%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b36bs4-aspassed.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>

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>

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament (continued)

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

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!**

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/>

**** closes this week!**

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

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>

Consultations (continued)

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/faithandbeliefscotland>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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

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

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

**** Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children, and Young People**

27 (9.30 – 4.30) and 28 (9.30 – 12.30) February 2014 in Edinburgh

17 (9.30 – 4.30) and 18 (9.30 – 12.30) March) 2014 in Edinburgh

Shakti Women's Aid course aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of issues facing Minority Ethnic women, children & young people affected by domestic abuse. For information see <http://www.shaktiedinburgh.co.uk/training&events.html>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Roots Scotland

9 March 2014 in Glasgow (12.30 – 4.30)

Event for minority ethnic community organisations and individuals to provide a historic taster workshop and a highlight tour of Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum to encourage more people from diverse communities to access the museum services. For information contact Suzanne Bingham 0141 337 6626 / sbingham@wsrec.co.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

** Positive Action in Scotland: Fair Employment for A;;

21 March 2014 in Glasgow (9.30)

CRER symposium to explore a range of perspectives on how positive action can be used to ensure fairer representation for minority ethnic communities in Scotland. For information contact Nadia Rafiq 0141 418 6530 / nadia@crer.org.uk or see <http://www.crer.org.uk/81-front-page-articles/427-positive-action-in-scotland>

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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

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

Useful Links (continued)

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

BBC Democracy Live 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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