

## 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 returns from recess on 17 February 2014.  
The UK Parliament is in recess until 24 February 2014.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament Debate

#### UK Citizenship

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140211/halltext/140211h0002.htm#14021182000003>

### UK Parliament Questions

#### Immigration Bill

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what the consequences would be for a British citizen deprived of their citizenship under the amendment to section 40(4) of the British Nationality Act 1981 currently being considered as part of the Immigration Bill were that deprivation to take place while the individual citizen was in the United Kingdom.[HL5155]

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach)** Where an individual is in the UK, and is deprived of their citizenship, we would seek to deport them to their country of origin/birth.

If there are statelessness issues, for example, because they have renounced their prior nationality, we would expect the individual to seek to resolve these issues and do not consider that they would be a bar to deprivation. In some circumstances, where a person is genuinely unable to return to their country of birth or get another nationality, it may be necessary to grant limited leave to remain in the UK however the rights and privileges of British citizenship would still be removed.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno:** To ask Her Majesty's Government when considering whether to revoke someone's citizenship under the proposed amendment to section 40(4) of the British Nationality Act 1981 currently being considered as part of the Immigration Bill whether any limit will be placed on how many years ago the activity considered to have been seriously prejudicial to the United Kingdom's vital interests need have taken place.[HL5156]

**Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach:** The proposed amendment to section 40 (4) of the British Nationality Act 1981 is clear that the Secretary of State should be "satisfied that the deprivation is conducive to the public good because the person, while having that citizenship status, has conducted himself in a manner which is seriously prejudicial to the vital interests of the United Kingdom".

Each deprivation decision will be subject to detailed consideration and be the personal decision of the Secretary of State. There will be no time limit, but the conduct being considered must have taken place after the individual became a British citizen.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140210w0001.htm#1402108000269>

### Entry Clearances

**Matthew Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of the introduction of online visa applications and booking systems. [186294]

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Online visa applications have been introduced for all international visa applications and are being developed and implemented for in country application routes. This is in line with the Government's digital by default agenda and streamlines the customer journey during the application process. As part of the delivery of this current programme of work a range of research and testing has been carried out with customers to ensure the system delivers and continuously improves. It is too early in the delivery of the current programme to have carried out a more detailed review of the impact of these changes, however user testing and efficiency is central to the whole approach.

**Henry Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications were refused due to applicant error in the last 12 months; and how many such decisions were subsequently overturned at appeal. [186360]

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Home Office does not collate statistics on this and therefore does not hold this information centrally. Moreover, there is no clear definition of 'applicant error' which could be used to do so.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140211/text/140211w0002.htm#140211101000078>

### Employment: Migrants

**Lord Taylor of Warwick:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

increase employment opportunities for migrants who cannot speak English.[HL5124]

**Reply from The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud):** We expect all new job seeker's allowance and UC claimants to have a level of English which enables them to compete and be successful in the UK labour market.

To enable new claimants to fulfil their obligations under the Claimant Commitment and the requirement to be available for and actively seeking work, this means being able to speak some English.

From April 2014 JSA and UC (full conditionality) claimants will have their English language skills tested. Where ability falls below Entry Level 2, they will be required to attend training.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140211w0001.htm#14021181000707>

### Immigration

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno:** To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have paused decision-making on immigration cases relating to spouses or partners where applications would be refused solely because the rules relating to the minimum income threshold are not met; what action they are taking to avoid a backlog of such cases; when decision-making on such cases is likely to resume; and how many cases have been on hold since July 2012.[HL5264]

**Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach:** Since 5 July 2013 High Court judgment in MM and Others, against which the Home Office is appealing, applications have been put on hold where grounds relating to the income threshold would be the sole basis for refusal. They will remain on hold until the case has been finally determined by the courts. The Home Office intends to publish information on the number of applications put on hold on the Home Office immigration website.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140211w0001.htm#14021181000722>

### Asylum Seekers

**Lord Hylton:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to clear the backlog of asylum applications; and what progress has been made. [HL5234]

**Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach:** Progress is underway to clear the backlog of asylum claims. In 2012/13, 54 per cent of initial decisions were taken within 30 days of claiming and 78 per cent within six months.

Sometimes cases will take longer than six months for an initial decision for reasons beyond our control, e.g. when we await expert medical reports or where there are issues relating to national security. But we do accept that we should be taking well over 90 per cent of initial decisions within six months in straightforward cases.

We are currently reviewing our caseworker productivity targets and the customer service standards that apply in asylum cases—as part of UK Visas and Immigration's (UKVI) more general review of its customer service standards. We have also completed a recruitment campaign for both asylum caseworkers and administrative staff.

For context, it should also be noted that asylum intake is rising, and this is bound to put pressure on the system. Intake in the year to June 2013 was 18 per cent higher than year to June 2012 and in the year to September 2013 it was 14 per cent higher. It is likely that by April 2014 intake will be around 30 per cent higher than it was in 2010.

A further obstacle lies in the fact that many claims are unfounded. While some

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

claimants will have a genuine fear of persecution, others are simply seeking to use the system to stay in the UK. This is an issue not just at the decision stage but also after refusal and appeal. Much casework effort goes into dealing with further submissions, after appeal rights are exhausted, and in removing barriers to removal in the case of failed asylum seekers. This can impact on the time we take on initial decisions, to the detriment, potentially, of genuine asylum claimants.

**Lord Naseby:** To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Sri Lankan Tamils were granted asylum in the United Kingdom in each of the years 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013. [HL5245]

**Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach:** Unfortunately we are unable to provide information detailing how many Sri Lankan Tamils were granted asylum in each year between 2006 and 2013. This is because the Home Office's Central Information Database (CID) does not distinguish by ethnic group—only nationality. This information is only held within paper case files, which would mean this question could only be answered through a disproportionately expensive manual case search.

Details on the number of Sri Lankan's granted asylum can, however, be found on the UK.Gov site (link below).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-january-to-march-2013/immigration-statistics-january-to-march-2013#asylum-1>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140211w0001.htm#14021181000694>

### Human Trafficking

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many identified victims of human trafficking received funded support in (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012. [185639]

**Reply from Damian Green:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Ministry of Justice.

The Ministry of Justice is able to provide information on the numbers of victims supported with Government funding since the start of the current contract with the Salvation Army on 1 July 2011. Equivalent information before that date and the current integrated support contract, is not available.

Between July 2011 and December 2011, 192 victims received support via the contract. In 2012 it was 452.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140210/text/140210w0001.htm#14021047000011>

## Press Releases

**Asylum: government response to Home Affairs Committee**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/278651/AsylumResponseHomeAffairsCommittee.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/278651/AsylumResponseHomeAffairsCommittee.pdf)

**Roma integration: national representatives discuss progress and pool ideas**

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-14-107\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-107_en.htm)

## Immigration and Asylum (continued)

### New Publications

**Immigration and Independence: Public Opinion on Immigration in Scotland in the Context of the Referendum Debate**

<http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/reports/scottish-public-opinion>

**Human rights of unaccompanied migrant children and young people in the UK**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/279104/UnaccompaniedMigrantMinors.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/279104/UnaccompaniedMigrantMinors.pdf)

**UndocNet films exploring the labour market experiences and aspirations of irregular migrants in London from three countries of origin: Bangladesh, China and Turkey**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47ph6x5yFOU&feature=youtu.be>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSdx3\\_ds59E&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSdx3_ds59E&feature=youtu.be)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdaYTXT7-Yc&feature=youtu.be>

### News

**Study looks at Scottish views on immigration**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-26020982>

**Immigration: Is Scotland really different?**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-25910947>

**Scots more liberal about immigration impact than rest of UK**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/referendum-news/scots-more-liberal-about-immigration-impact-than-rest-of-uk.23383756>

**Scotland needs to stay positive on immigration**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-view/scotland-needs-to-stay-positive-on-immigration.23365743>

**Scots want immigration cut and more control**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/scots-want-immigration-cut-and-more-control-1-3300339>

**Scots 'most tolerant' on immigration, poll shows**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4001178.ece>

**Scots are hardly more enlightened than the English on immigration**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/10629806/Scots-are-hardly-more-enlightened-than-the-English-on-immigration.html>

**New research on attitudes to immigration in Scotland**

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/latest\\_news/2284\\_new\\_research\\_on\\_attitudes\\_to\\_immigration\\_in\\_scotland](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/2284_new_research_on_attitudes_to_immigration_in_scotland)

**Student visa system fraud exposed in BBC investigation**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-26024375>

# Immigration and Asylum

## News (continued)

**Student visas acquired by 'fraud' - as undercover footage shows invigilator reading out the answers**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/student-visas-acquired-by-fraud-undercover-reporters-discover-9117800.html>

**Student visa tests suspended over fraud claims**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/feb/10/student-visa-tests-suspended-fraud>

**English-test answers read out for foreign students in visa scam**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4001211.ece>

**EU official claims UK panders to xenophobia**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/wider-political-news/eu-official-claims-uk-panders-to-xenophobia.23384567>

**Britain pandering to prejudice with curbs on migrants, says EU**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4001203.ece>

**British politicians 'pander to prejudice and xenophobia' over immigration, says EU commissioner**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/10626032/British-politicians-pander-to-prejudice-and-xenophobia-over-immigration-says-EU-commissioner.html>

**Foreign students 'feel unwelcome' in UK**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/foreign-students-feel-unwelcome-in-uk.23388467>

**Lawyers warn of immigration laws human rights risk**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/lawyers-warn-of-immigration-laws-human-rights-risk-1-3302135>

**Six reasons why the UK immigration bill needs to be amended**

<http://www.theguardian.com/housing-network/2014/feb/11/immigration-bill-landlord-checks-mark-harper>

**Immigration: the wrong fight**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/feb/10/immigration-wrong-fight-eu-editorial>

**End the despair of detention for female asylum seekers: 'I saw what my mother went through'**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/feb/10/end-despair-detention-female-asylum-seekers-yarls-wood>

**Immigrants' tales on show**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/immigrants-tales-on-show.23399203>

**Uncontrolled immigration DOES put strains on British public services, admits Brussels boss Barroso**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2559502/Uncontrolled-immigration-DOES-strains-British-public-services-admits-Brussels-boss-Barroso.html>

**A Roma reality check**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/feb/12/roma-reality-check>

## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

**Mark Harper's cleaner is the latest victim in this immigration obsession**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/feb/10/mark-harper-cleaner-immigration-bill>

**The truth about Romanian birth rates in Britain**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/feb/10/truth-romanian-birth-rates-britain>

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## Community Relations

### News

**Could London be a peace zone for rival religions?**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4005956.ece>

**'Godfather of multiculturalism' Stuart Hall dies aged 82**

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/feb/10/godfather-multiculturalism-stuart-hall-dies>

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## Equality

### UK Parliament Questions

#### Equality

**Lord Ouseley:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of current levels of discriminatory treatment of people on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and sexuality in the United Kingdom; and what action they are taking in response.[HL4756]

**Reply from Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is Great Britain's National Equality Body with a statutory remit to promote and monitor human rights, and to protect, enforce and promote equality. The EHRC has a duty to monitor progress in society at least every 5 years against the aims of the equalities and human rights duties set out in the Equality Act 2006, and in doing so, to consult with relevant persons. The Commission's first report—"How Fair Is Britain?" was published in 2010 and is available through the following link— <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/key-projects/how-fair-is-britain/full-report-and-evidence-downloads/> or in the Libraries of both Houses. The next review is due in 2015.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140211w0001.htm#14021181000709>

#### NHS: Black and Minority Ethnic Nursing Directors

**Lord Crisp:** To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Executive Directors of Nursing in the National Health Service are of black or minority ethnic background.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe):** Data from September 2012 estimate that there are 195 nursing directors. Of these, five, representing 3%, identified themselves as being from a black or minority ethnic background. The Government recognise that there

## Equality

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

needs to be better progress in promoting talented BME nurses to senior and influential positions. Last month, NHS England launched a coaching and mentoring scheme, and it is currently working on a strategy alongside the Chief Nursing Officer's Black and Minority Ethnic Advisory Group.

**Lord Crisp:** My Lords, I thank the noble Earl for that detailed response, and I am pleased to know that NHS England is taking some steps on this. This is a hidden problem, with fewer than 3% of nursing directors coming from black and minority ethnic backgrounds. This underrepresentation, which is mirrored elsewhere in the NHS, is particularly important because it affects morale, and staff morale in turn, as noble Lords will know, inevitably affects patient care and outcomes. In other words, this is a health issue and not just an equal opportunities one. Will the Minister say a bit more about his plans to deal with this problem and, crucially, whether he will arrange for progress to be monitored and reported on publicly by the Care Quality Commission, the Equality and Human Rights Commission or some other independent body?

**Reply from Earl Howe:** My Lords, I fully agree with the noble Lord about the importance of this issue. A strong focus on equality and diversity is essential to create services and workplaces that are equitable and where everyone feels that they count. The position at present is highly unsatisfactory. The Chief Nursing Officer has personally assured me that this is a priority for her, and she is working closely with BME nurse leaders to address how to support BME nurses to prepare themselves for promotion. Forty-six million pounds has been invested at the NHS Leadership Academy in schemes on leadership development being led by the Chief Nursing Officer. At last year's BME nursing conference, she made a public commitment to renew efforts to develop BME nurses more effectively, and that will include monitoring.

**To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see**  
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140210-0001.htm#1402104000311>

## News

**Black and Asian Britons more likely to be homeless or live in overcrowded homes**

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/558/272/Black-and-Asian-Britons-more-likely-to-be-homeless-or-live-in-overcrowded-homes.html>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament Question

#### **Bullying: Racist Bullying**

**Baroness Whitaker:** To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 28 January (WA 206–7), how the £45 million they provide to Beatbullying, The Diana Award, Kidscape and the National Children's Bureau to develop initiatives to tackle bullying will be deployed specifically to reduce racist bullying of Gypsy, Traveller and Roma children.[HL5110]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Nash):** The Government is providing £4 million, not £45 million as stated in the question, of funding over two years from spring 2013 to four anti-bullying



## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

organisations. They are: Beatbullying, The Diana Award, Kidscape and the National Children's Bureau. The funding is provided for the organisations to develop effective initiatives to prevent and tackle all forms of bullying, including racist bullying. Each of these organisations provides anti-bullying training to pupils and/or teachers in schools; and schools have the freedom to decide how best to use this training relative to their particular context. Schools where Gypsy, Traveller or Roma pupils have experienced bullying can use the training they receive alongside other anti-bullying initiatives that focus on, for instance, community cohesion and relationships across the school.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140210w0001.htm#1402108000255>

## News

### **SNP MSP racially abused while selling Big Issue**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/snp-msp-racially-abused-while-selling-big-issue-1-3307089>

### **Four teenagers arrested over racist attack in Edinburgh**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-26151615>

### **Four teens arrested over Edinburgh 'racist attack'**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/four-teens-arrested-over-edinburgh-racist-attack-1-3303197>

### **Four charged after Pilton racist attack**

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/crime/four-charged-after-pilton-racist-attack-1-3301785>

### **Police hunt after two men hit in racist gang attack**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/police-hunt-after-two-men-hit-in-racist-gang-attack.23405091>

### **Rocks thrown at teens in Edinburgh racial attack**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/rocks-thrown-at-teens-in-edinburgh-racial-attack-1-3301884>

### **Men hit with rocks in racist attack**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/men-hit-with-rocks-in-racist-attack-1.215617>

### **Rocks thrown at teenagers in Pilton racist attack**

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/crime/rocks-thrown-at-teenagers-in-pilton-racist-attack-1-3301785>

### **Charity bids to beat the bigots**

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/charity-bids-to-beat-the-bigots-151827n.23323345>

### **Anti-sectarian youth project does not mince its words**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/anti-sectarian-youth-project-does-not-mince-its-words.23430307>

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### News (continued)

#### **Bid to halt discrimination against Travellers in Perth and Kinross**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/local/perth-kinross/bid-to-halt-discrimination-against-travellers-in-perth-and-kinross-1.221237>

#### **Just how racist is Twitter? Study finds 10,000 slurs a day posted on social network**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2558890/Just-racist-Twitter-Study-finds-10-000-slurs-DAY-posted-social-network.html>

#### **Google forced to remove vile racist search suggestions from its site for a number of British cities including Bradford, Leicester and Birmingham**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2556566/Google-forced-remove-vile-racist-search-suggestions-site-number-British-cities-including-Bradford-Leicester-Birmingham.html>

#### **Could you name a British black intellectual, now Stuart Hall has gone?**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/feb/15/british-black-intellectual-stuart-hall>

#### **It's not just Samuel L Jackson – we've all had those 'we all look alike' moments**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/feb/12/samuel-l-jackson-laurence-fishburne-black-outsider>

#### **Black models shunned by London shows**

[http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk\\_news/National/article1376554.ece](http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/National/article1376554.ece)

#### **Leading Tory tells PM to curb stop and search**

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/Politics/article1376141.ece>

#### **Are You An Aspiring film-maker? Can You Help?**

<http://tellmamauk.org/are-you-an-aspiring-film-maker-can-you-help/>

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## Scottish Independence Referendum

### UK Parliament Debate

#### **Currency in Scotland after 2014**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140212/halltext/140212h0001.htm#140212165000001>

### Scottish Government Press Releases

#### **Independence will strengthen business ties**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Independence-will-strengthen-business-ties-939.aspx>

#### **Independence would benefit farmers**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Independence-would-benefit-farmers-922.aspx>

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

A currency union with an independent Scotland is 'not going to happen' says Chancellor  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/a-currency-union-with-an-independent-scotland-is-not-going-to-happen-says-chancellor>

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### Other UK Parliament and Government

#### Parliamentary Questions

##### Female Genital Mutilation

**Baroness Tonge:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in eliminating female genital mutilation in the United Kingdom and abroad.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon (Con):** My Lords, last week, to mark the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation, Ministers met with charities and stakeholders and announced a range of measures to combat this harmful practice both in the UK and internationally. These measures include the appointment of a consortium of leading anti-FGM campaigners to deliver a global campaign to end FGM. Ministers from across government have also signed a declaration to demonstrate the Government's commitment to tackle this practice both in the UK and abroad.

**Baroness Tonge:** My Lords, I thank the Minister for that reply and I commend the Government on their efforts over the past year. I also particularly commend the work of Keir Starmer, the previous Director of Public Prosecutions. Does the Minister realise that it is now more than 10 years since the all-party parliamentary group that I chair produced a report on female genital mutilation, but that during that time, despite many Members of this House and the other place raising the issue, very little progress has been made? Can he explain why over those years there have been many prosecutions in France and other European countries for this horrible, painful and quite disgraceful practice, which is an abuse of young girls, while in this country we have had no prosecutions at all?

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** I pay tribute to the noble Baroness for her work in this respect, and indeed to many noble Lords across the Chamber. Taking her last question first, I am sure that she and many noble Lords will be aware that in France there is a prescriptive nature to the examination of young girls across the board. At the moment that is not something which the Government are considering initiating here. That said, as the noble Baroness herself has acknowledged, since 2011 there has been a range of initiatives and positive steps. Perhaps I may mention a few. In November 2012, the document *A Statement Opposing Female Genital Mutilation* was launched, which sets out the potential criminal penalties that can be used against those who allow FGM to take place. In the same month the Crown Prosecution Service launched an action plan for prosecuting cases of FGM. From the international perspective, in March 2013 DfID announced a £35 million programme on FGM, and in June last year the NSPCC, in partnership with the Home Office, launched a dedicated FGM helpline. The Government believe, as do all noble Lords, that this is a heinous practice; it is a crime which has to be tackled both outside and within the community, and they are working with partners to ensure that that happens.

**Baroness Rendell of Babergh:** My Lords, far from being almost eliminated, the practice of FGM continues and, indeed, is on the increase. The cause is largely because more communities are coming into the country and bringing this culture with them. Enormous publicity has been given to FGM lately, which one is glad to see, but that does not deal

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

with the basic problem. Does the Minister agree that the best thing would be a successful prosecution, which might have a deterrent effect? We understand that many of the people who perpetrate FGM do not know what the law is, cannot read about it, and believe that what they are doing is good.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Again, I pay tribute to the work that the noble Baroness does in this field. I agree with her: prosecutions have not taken place. This law was on the statute book in its original form almost 30 years ago and nothing has happened. The CPS is currently reviewing four existing cases plus six new cases to see whether an evidence base is there to ensure that prosecutions take place. Coupled with that, it is important that we raise awareness of this offence out there within communities. There is a 14-year sentence for anyone convicted of this offence, and we are working with communities to ensure that that message gets out very clearly.

**Lord Elystan-Morgan:** While I appreciate that a whole range of initiatives is relevant in this matter, is there any reason why in relation to medical personnel and teachers there should not be the same absolute requirement and obligation to detect and report, as there is in the case of abuse of children?

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Again, I agree with the noble Lord. As he may be aware, on 6 February my honourable friend Jane Ellison announced that it is now incumbent on every NHS trust to report and share evidence of such practice. I also know that my right honourable friend Michael Gove, the Education Secretary, is meeting campaigners in this regard to discuss whether communications across schools should perhaps be looked at and revised, but that will be subject to the outcome of that meeting.

**Baroness Walmsley:** Is my noble friend aware of reports that people are bringing their daughters to this country from other European countries where the measures to prevent this practice are more effective than they are here? Are the Government monitoring this situation? Is there any real evidence that that is happening?

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** I am not aware of the specific reports that my noble friend points to, but, of course, if she would share them with me, I will bring them to the attention of the appropriate department.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140212-0001.htm#140212154000564>

### Forced Marriage

**David Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many forced marriages have been recorded in the UK in the last five years for which figures are available. [186217]

**Reply from Norman Baker:** The Government's Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) captures the number of reports they receive relating to possible forced marriage cases.

The following is a breakdown of reported cases relating to a possible forced marriage received by the FMU from 2008-12:

In 2008, a total of 1618 reports were received;

In 2009, a total of 1682 reports were received;

In 2010, a total of 1735 reports were received;

In 2011, a total of 1468 reports were received;

In 2012, a total of 1485 reports were received.

2013 figures are currently being compiled and will be published shortly.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140210/text/140210w0001.htm#14021047000010>

## Other UK Parliament and Government (continued) Press Release

**Help to Buy extended to include 'Islamic Mortgages'**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/help-to-buy-extended-to-include-islamic-mortgages>

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

#### Scottish Parliament

##### **Assisted Suicide Bill**

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

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

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

Proposed amendments

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_Bills/Children%20and%20Young%20People%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b27as4-stage3-ml.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Children%20and%20Young%20People%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b27as4-stage3-ml.pdf)

##### **Criminal Justice Bill**

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

#### 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>

## Bills in Progress

### UK Parliament (continued)

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

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

Second Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140210-0001.htm#1402104000322>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140210-0002.htm#14021021000199>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2013-2014/0084/amend/am084-a.htm>

#### **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/romanianandbulgarianaccessionlabourestriiction.html>

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

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

**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>

## Consultations (continued)

**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>

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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!**

### **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)

**\*\* this week!**

### **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)

### **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>

**\*\* Introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees**

6 March 2014 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course covering the factors that cause people to leave their own countries and end up in Scotland. It illustrates the differences between refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, examines the historical, legal and political context of the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees, and gives an overview of the current UK asylum

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

process. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Martha Harding [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://tinyurl.com/lqfeavn>

### **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](mailto:sbingham@wsrec.co.uk)

### **\*\* Employment, Race Equality and the Referendum**

10 March 2014 in Glasgow (12.15 – 3.30)

BEMIS, Scottish Refugee Council, and STUC conference to stimulate informed debate about employment and race equality in relation to the Scottish Government White Paper on independence. For information contact [events@bemis.org.uk](mailto:events@bemis.org.uk) or see <http://us4.campaign-archive1.com/?u=527dd1ec975830240434f8004&id=0866e60528&e=3820462985>

### **GRAMNet Film Series**

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)

### **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)

### **\*\* Working with interpreters**

20 March 2014 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course that examines the legislative background to interpreting, allows participants to explore and potential scenarios in their own work, and gives participants the opportunity to troubleshoot any issues that may have come up in the course of their work. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Martha Harding [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://tinyurl.com/q7bk67v>

### **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](mailto:nadia@crer.org.uk) or see <http://www.crer.org.uk/81-front-page-articles/427-positive-action-in-scotland>



## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **\*\* Working with refugee and asylum seeking women**

3 April 2014 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore the differences between a migrant, a refugee and an asylum seeker, illustrate the differences between sex and gender, and examine the factors that might cause women to flee from their own countries and challenges they face when claiming asylum. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Martha Harding [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://tinyurl.com/pk4etc4>

### **\*\* Reporting asylum in the media: What you need to know**

15 April 2014 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course to find out how to find the facts you need, understand how the asylum system works and explore how to sensitively achieve the best outcome when interviewing asylum seekers and refugees. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Martha Harding 0141 223 7951 / [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see <http://tinyurl.com/nzcptyx>

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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/>

**Scotland's Referendum: Qs&As** <http://www.scotreferendum.com/questions-and-answers/>

**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/>

## Useful Links (continued)

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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