

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.*

Supported by



Contents

Immigration and Asylum	Other News
Community Relations	Bills in Progress
Equality	Consultations
Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination	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.

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and requests to be added to circulation to mail@bemis.org.uk

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Questions

British Nationality

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2013, *Official Report*, column 908W, on British nationality, how many of the 814 cases in 2012-13 that were concluded after 12 months were concluded (a) between 12 and 18, (b) between 18 and 24 and (c) after more than 24 months; and of those cases that took longer than 24 months to conclude, how long each such case took. [187921]

Reply from James Brokenshire: The information requested is shown in the following table.

<i>Decided</i>	
	<i>Number</i>
(a) 12-18 months	484
(b) 18-24 months	81
(c) Over 24 months	249

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Our reporting system counts 24 months from the date the report is completed. Other decisions will now come within that reporting period; therefore it is not possible to isolate the original 249 cases reported on. Reflects cases decided in the financial year. This data has not previously been published in this format.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140224/text/140224w0002.htm#1402255000004>

Immigration

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what forms of appeal would be available to someone who has been deprived of their citizenship under the current proposals in the Immigration Bill.[HL5153]

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, under the proposed reforms relating to the residence test applicable to those eligible for legal aid, legal aid would be available to someone who had been 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 was outside the United Kingdom.[HL5154]

Reply from The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Any individual who is deprived of their citizenship including cases where action is taken under the provisions set out in the Bill, has a full right of appeal against the Secretary of State's decision. Where the Secretary of State certifies that her decision to deprive the individual of citizenship has been taken wholly or partly in reliance on information which should not be made public in the interests of national security, or in the interests of the relationship between the UK and another country or because it is otherwise not in the public interest to release the information, any appeal will be to the Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC). If the decision is not so certified, any appeal will be to the Immigration & Asylum Chamber (First Tier).

In both cases there is the opportunity for onward challenge to the Upper Tribunal or the Court of Appeal or other higher courts.

Where an individual is outside the UK when they are served with the deprivation decision, they must bring their appeal from outside the UK.

Legal aid reform will not substantively alter the current position of immigration applicants. Where the appeal against the deprivation of citizenship is to the Immigration and Asylum Chamber, legal aid is not currently available unless the applicant is an asylum claimant. This will be unchanged by the proposed reform.

As set out in Transforming Legal Aid; Next Steps, the proposed residence test would not apply in certain categories of case which broadly relate to an individual's liberty, where the individual is particularly vulnerable or where the case relates to the protection of children. This includes proceedings before the SIAC, which will not be subject to the residence test, even where the appeal is brought from outside the UK.

Baroness Smith of Basildon: To ask Her Majesty's Government on how many occasions United Kingdom immigration officials have stopped and questioned individuals in-country, away from ports and borders, in each of the last five years.[HL5212]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: The following table lists Enforcement visit encounters from January 2009 to September 2013.

Calendar year	No. of Encounters
2009	23,875
2010	27,725

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

2011	28,873
2012	32,216
2013 (Jan-Sep)	32,103
Total	144,792

These figures relate to all individuals encountered on any type of enforcement operation conducted in the United Kingdom, other than those conducted at ports and borders.

Whilst conducting enforcement operations, our officers will invite individuals to answer questions about their immigration status to those where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that they are immigration offenders. In accordance with Home Office guidance, our officers will record all individuals encountered, both offenders and non-offenders.

These figures do not relate to number of unique individuals as a person may have been encountered on one or more occasions.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140224w0002.htm#14022415001232>

Immigration

Baroness Hamwee: To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the statement on the UK Border Agency website regarding the financial requirement applying to a person wishing to come to, or stay in, the United Kingdom as the partner of a British citizen or settled person that "you will be exempt from the new financial requirement if your sponsor receives a specified disability-related benefit or carer's allowance in the United Kingdom. You will need to show that your sponsor can maintain and accommodate you without access to public funds", why Incapacity Benefit or Employment Support Allowance do not qualify for exemption; and what benefits do qualify. [HL5349]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The benefits which exempt an applicant from the new financial requirement for sponsoring a spouse or partner and dependent children of non-European Economic Area nationality to settle in the UK under the family Immigration Rules include: Disability Living Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance, Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, Attendance Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Armed Forces Independence Payment, Guaranteed Income Payment under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, Constant Attendance Allowance, Mobility Supplement and War Disablement Pension under the War Pensions Scheme.

Incapacity Benefit and Employment Support Allowance are not included in the list of specified benefits because they are not paid solely as a result of an individual's disability or responsibility for a person in receipt of a disability-related benefit.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140225w0001.htm#14022579000426>

Immigration Bill

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government why clause 18 of the Immigration Bill would enable the Secretary of State to impose a financial penalty on a landlord, without recourse to a court, and give that Minister discretion as to the amount of the penalty; and what precedent, if any, there is for such authority. [HL5434]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The provisions in the Immigration Bill relating to landlords are modelled closely on the existing civil penalty scheme for employers of illegal workers in the Immigration and Asylum Act 2006. Under the proposed scheme, a

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

landlord will face a civil financial penalty for letting property to an illegal migrant if they have failed to comply with specified document checks. This civil scheme is distinct from criminal prosecution involving bringing a case to court, and the Bill does not create a criminal offence for landlords. The scheme incorporates important safeguards to ensure the arrangements are transparent and to protect the rights of landlords. The maximum level of penalty is specified at £3,000 on the face of the Bill (clauses 18 and 33), and may only be adjusted by affirmative resolution order. Penalties will operate in accordance with a scale set out in a statutory code of practice under clause 27, and landlords will have a right to object to the Secretary of State against a penalty (clause 24) and then to appeal to the civil courts (clause 25) on the grounds that they are not liable to the penalty, have established an excuse, or the level of penalty is too high.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140224w0002.htm#14022415001233>

Immigration Bill

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Home Office consulted the Department for Education and the Charity Commission about the impact of the Immigration Bill on charities; and if not, why not.[HL5318]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): During the development of the Immigration Bill there have been and continue to be many discussions across government departments including with Department for Education. Furthermore, several of the key elements in the Bill were subject to public consultation including proposals relating to migrant access to health, private rented accommodation, illegal working and family migration. A significant proportion of respondents were charities. There were also further discussions with individual charities that had an interest in specific parts of the Bill. It has not therefore been necessary to consult directly with the Charity Commission, which was able to participate in the public consultations along with any other organisation which wished to do so.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140225w0001.htm#14022579000427>

Immigration Bill

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the impact of the current Immigration Bill is consistent with their existing policies to prevent the trafficking of persons.[HL5433]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Tackling modern slavery and human trafficking is a priority for this Government. The National Crime Agency leads the fight against organised criminals involved in the trafficking of persons. We are strengthening our response through the Modern Slavery Bill and the publication of an action plan, later this year, which will set out a complementary range of non-legislative activities. The Immigration Bill will ensure that potential victims of trafficking are adequately protected by ensuring that there is no adverse impact on vulnerable groups. There are exemptions from the duty on landlords to check immigration status for hostels and refuges where victims of trafficking are housed. The regulations setting out who will pay the immigration health charge will also contain appropriate exemptions for victims of trafficking.

The Immigration Bill makes it more likely that those who are not here legally, including victims of trafficking, come to the notice of authorities. This policy will

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

work and complement other measures being taken to combat trafficking, facilitation, rogue landlords and gangmasters.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140226w0001.htm#140226106000302>

Visas

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will adjust minimum income requirements for persons settled in the United Kingdom to sponsor family members to enter or remain in the United Kingdom to equate with the Living Wage and regional variations of it.[HL5431]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The Government has no plans to adjust the minimum income threshold for spouse or partner visa applications to equate with the Living Wage or regional variations of it. The level of the income threshold, which was set in the light of advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee, reflects the level of income at which a couple, once settled in the UK, generally cannot access income-related benefits.

The income threshold therefore prevents family migrants becoming a burden on the taxpayer and helps to ensure that they are well enough supported to integrate effectively in British society.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140225w0001.htm#14022579000446>

Entry Clearances

David Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who (a) successfully and (b) unsuccessfully applied for permission to enter the UK were described as self-employed in each year since 2010. [187824]

Reply from James Brokenshire: The available information on grants and refusals of entry clearance visas for the calendar years 2010-12 and for each of the first three quarters of 2013 are published in the Department's quarterly release Immigration Statistics. The latest edition is available from the Library of the House and from gov.uk at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

Data for the fourth quarter of 2013 are planned to be published on 27 February 2014. It is not possible to identify from the available statistics how many of the people granted and refused visas were self-employed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140224/text/140224w0002.htm#1402255000008>

NHS: Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to ease visa or work permit restrictions for doctors and other medical staff from outside the UK wanting to work in UK hospitals. [187821]

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Government recognises the valuable contribution doctors from overseas make to our health service. There are several immigration routes available to doctors and there is no reason why those who are needed to fill gaps and who have a job offer from a UK sponsor cannot come.

Several roles for doctors, including emergency medicine, are on the shortage occupation list, which means they qualify for a visa under the Tier 2 (skilled work) route. For other roles not on the list, overseas doctors can be sponsored to work in the UK if it is not possible to fill the role from the resident labour market.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Doctors who graduate from UK medical schools can undertake foundation training in Tier 4 of the Points-Based System and then progress into Tier 2 with no need for a resident labour market test.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140224/text/140224w0002.htm#1402255000019>

Health Services: Foreign Nationals

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on retaining access to free diagnosis and treatment for every resident in England for all the diseases included in Schedule 1 of the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2011. [187447]

Reply from Jane Ellison: Diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases will remain free for people who are ordinarily resident in England.

Current exemptions that exist with regard to infectious diseases and sexually transmitted infections are integral to protecting the public's health. Therefore there are no planned changes to the exemptions listed in relation to treatment for the diseases stated in Schedule 1 of the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2011.

We are currently working with NHS (England) and Public Health (England) to consider which diagnosis and treatment services (excluding the above) will become chargeable to visitors and migrants, there are no planned changes to individuals who are ordinarily resident in England. The outcome of this work will be published in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140224/text/140224w0006.htm#14022524000052>

Employment: Migrants

Lord Taylor of Warwick: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to help into employment female migrants who may lack the skills required to be economically active.[HL5125]

Reply from The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): Support for the unemployed is a priority for this Government. We provide funding to enable unemployed people to take up education and training which helps them develop the skills they need for employment.

Eligibility criteria for public funding are set out in the Skills Funding Agency's Funding Rules. Details are available at:

<http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/providers/fundingrules/>

Unemployed learners will be eligible for full funded skills training if they are claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance (in the Work Related Activity Group) and those on Universal Credit mandated to training by their Jobcentre adviser. Skills providers may also provide fully funded training to unemployed people on other benefits where this will help the learner gain the skills they need for employment.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140224w0001.htm#14022415001196>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children arrived in the United Kingdom in each of the last three years; and what proportion were subsequently joined by their parents or next of kin.[HL5320]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Taylor of Holbeach): The Home Office publishes statistics on asylum applications from unaccompanied asylum seeking children in tables as_08 and as_08_q (Asylum data tables Volume 2) of Immigration Statistics. A copy of the latest release Immigration Statistics July-September 2013 is available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2013> and the Library of the House. Data for Q4 2013 will be available from 27 February 2014.

As announced in Immigration Statistics January-March 2013, an internal review in 2012 of unaccompanied and asylum seeking children and age dispute data highlighted issues in the consistency of the definitions used to produce the previously published figures. The definitions were subsequently refined and re-produced for 2012 and the following quarters of 2013. While the data published using the previous definition provides the best available guide to historical trends for the years 2006 to 2012, comparison with latest figures based on the revised definition are not recommended. It is planned that future releases of Immigration Statistics will include figures for 2006 to 2011 using the new definition.

Figures for the number of unaccompanied children who are subsequently joined by their parents or next of kin are not routinely collected by the Home Office.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what form their financial support to asylum seekers takes; and whether they have plans to reform it.[HL5401]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what, if any, benefits are available to asylum seekers to enable them to travel on public transport.[HL5402]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: Destitute asylum seekers are provided with a cash allowance which they are free to use as they choose. The Home Office also provides travel tickets for certain appointments, including asylum interviews, appeal hearings and attendance at immigration reporting centres.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140224w0001.htm#14022415001170>

Immigration and Asylum Act 2002

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many appeals against (1) refusal of refugee status, (2) human rights claims, or (3) claims for humanitarian protection, have been made from outside the United Kingdom since the coming into force of the Immigration and Asylum Act 2002; and how many of each were successful.[HL5317]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Since 2007, our records show that 114 appeals have been lodged from outside the United Kingdom against a certified refusal of refugee status and/ or refusals of claims for humanitarian protection. One of these appeals is recorded as being successful.

Notes:

- i. A breakdown for the full period requested is not available due to the way that this information was recorded on our internal database prior to 2007.
- ii. We are unable to break down figures that specifically relate to refusals of refugee status and refusals of humanitarian protection.
- iii. We are unable to provide information on how many appeals against human rights claims have been lodged from outside of the United Kingdom as the information is not recorded centrally in one system in a way that allows us to extract the information requested.
- iv. All figures given are based on internal management information and are subject to change.
- v. Figures provided are up to 30th September 2013.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

<i>HR Applications - Applications that have Appealed after their Removal Date</i>							
Year of Appeal	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Grand Total
Allowed			1	2			3
Dismissed			2	1	2	2	7
Withdrawn	1						1
No Outcome		1	3		1	2	7
Grand Total	1	1	6	3	3	4	18

Caveats

Case Types; - Human Rights - Article 8; - Human Rights - Article three & eight (with or without other articles); Applied between one Oct 2006 and 30 Sep 13
Main applicant; Removed Prior to the Appeal Lodged Date; Appeal data from CID only - this data set does not include CRS data; Appeal outcomes relate to 1st Tier only

<i>Asylum Applications - Applications that have Appealed after their Removal Date</i>								
Year of Appeal	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Grand Total
Abandoned			1		2			3
Allowed			1	1				2
Dismissed	7	8	16	8	13	18	10	80
Struck Out		1		3				4
Withdrawn			1	1			1	3
No Outcome	1		7	2	5	1	6	22
Grand Total	8	9	26	15	20	19	17	114

Caveats

Main 1st Time Asylum Applicant; Applied between one Oct 2006 and 30 Sep 2013
Case certified at first case outcome; Removed prior to Appeal Lodged date;
Appeal data from CID only - this data set does not include CRS data; Appeal outcomes relate to 1st Tier only

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140226w0001.htm#140226106000301>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total number of asylum applications that were undecided after 12 months, on the most recent date for which figures are available.[HL5448]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): At the end of November 2013, 4,886 asylum applications were pending an initial decision after 12 months. Of these, 3,634 were for main applicants. The figures provided are a subset of latest published statistics for applications received for asylum since April 2006 and published by the Home Office on a monthly basis. A copy of the latest release Monthly Asylum Applications November 2013 is available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/monthly-asylum-application-tables>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140225w0001.htm#14022579000413>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Pregnant Women

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made on revising guidance relating to procedures for dispersing and accommodating pregnant women who seek asylum in the UK. [187811]

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office has been consulting with the Refugee Council and Maternity Action with a view to updating the guidance. The Refugee Council and Maternity Action sent a response to the proposed revision of the guidance in January and this is now being considered.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140224/text/140224w0002.htm#1402255000003>

Immigration: Detention

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 7 January (WA 276), why the system of gathering data on the medical welfare of those detained for immigration purposes was changed.[HL4840]

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 7 January (WA 276), what was the system for gathering data on the medical welfare of those detained for immigration purposes before 2012; and what is the system now.[HL4841]

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 7 January (WA 276), how information relating to self harm would be (1) gathered, and (2) made publicly accessible, other than in response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests.[HL4842]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Management information relating to individuals placed on Assessment Care in Detention and Teamwork monitoring, or individuals requiring medical attention as a result of self harm, is part of data collated for internal performance monitoring. The data collation process was changed in 2012 to avoid duplication and to improve and rationalise data quality.

Prior to 2012 data was collated centrally by month. After 2012 changes were made to the reporting frequency, data periods covered, and categories of data collected.

Information on the number of incidents of self harm is management information and does not form part of published statistics. There are no plans to change this.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140224w0002.htm#14022415001234>

Immigration Removal Centres: Restraint

Baroness Stern: To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken about the use of restraints at Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre in the light of the report by the HM Chief Inspector of Prisons that two elderly men were handcuffed in "an excessive and unacceptable manner", one of whom died shortly after the removal of handcuffs and the other, an 84-year-old who had been declared unfit for detention, died whilst still handcuffed. [HL5445]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Unnecessary use of restraints is unacceptable. Following these incidents 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. Firm instructions have been issued making clear that restraint should only happen where absolutely necessary.

In the case of the 84 year old man, the use of restraint was completely unjustified

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

and such action must not be repeated in similar circumstances. The independent Prisons and Probation Ombudsman is investigating the circumstances of the death. The Home Office will carefully consider the findings of the Ombudsman's report.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140226w0001.htm#140226106000303>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

John Leech (1124) Migration Advisory Committee and tier-one visas – That this House notes with concern the recommendation of the Migration Advisory Committee that would allow foreign millionaires to bid for fast-track tier-one UK visas; rejects the principle that the right to stay in the UK could be sold off to affluent people, even if they would donate money to the UK; recognises that this policy would widen the gap in opportunity between the rich and poor applying for a tier-one visa; and recognises the benefit of allowing talented, motivated and hard-working people to apply for the right to settle in the UK, regardless of their financial background.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/1124>

Press Release

Court of Justice of the European Union: The financial allowances granted to asylum seekers must enable them to find, if necessary, accommodation on the private rental market

<http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2014-02/cp140024en.pdf>

New Publications

Non EU migration continues to fall

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/non-eu-migration-continues-to-fall>

Visa Regulations – revised table

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/284333/WMSvisaRegs.pdf

Policy and legislative changes affecting migration to the UK: timeline

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/283991/user-guide-policy-changes.xls

Immigration statistics, October to December 2013

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2013/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2013>

Monthly asylum application tables

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/285176/asylum-dec2013.ods

Children entering detention under Immigration Act powers

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/285178/children-detention-jan2014.ods

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **News**

Big increase in net migration to UK

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-26367391>

Immigration flow surges to 212,000

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/wider-political-news/immigration-flow-surges-to-212000-x.23568688>

David Cameron's migration pledge 'in tatters', as figures reveal net immigration of 200,000

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/david-camersons-migration-pledge-in-tatters-as-figures-reveal-net-immigration-of-200000-9157334.html>

Net migration soars over 200,000 despite David Cameron's pledge

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/10664667/Net-migration-soars-over-200000-despite-David-Camersons-pledge.html>

Net migration to UK jumps 30% in a year to 212,000

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/feb/27/net-migration-uk-jumps-30-percent>

Immigration surge: 'government losing grip'

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/immigration-surge-government-losing-grip-1-3323375>

Rise in net immigration leaves Cameron's promise 'in tatters'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4017829.ece>

Soaring immigration is good, says Cable: Business Secretary mocks Cameron's failure to control EU influx

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2569103/Net-migration-soars-212-000-year-despite-Camersons-tough-talk-cutting-number-tens-thousands.html>

Conservatives 'won't ditch' migration target

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-26405713>

Immigration target can still be met, says Tory chairman

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/mar/02/immigration-target-tory-chairman-nigel-farage-ukip>

More than a quarter of London's vagrants are from Eastern Europe: Figures revealed by official report showing England's rough sleepers up by a third in three years

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2567877/More-quarter-Londons-vagrants-Eastern-Europe-Figures-revealed-official-report-showing-Englands-rough-sleepers-three-years.html>

Two cities the size of Leeds needed to house influx of new migrants as officials fear migration will drive up house prices

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2566463/Two-cities-size-Leeds-needed-house-influx-new-migrants-officials-fear-migration-drive-house-prices.html>

Two cities the size of Leeds needed to house migrants

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4015275.ece>

Mass immigration has left Britain 'unrecognisable', says Nigel Farage

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/ukip/10668996/Mass-immigration-has-left-Britain-unrecognisable-says-Nigel-Farage.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

I feel awkward in towns where no one talks English, Farage tells party

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4020193.ece>

Auction British visas for super-rich, say migration advisers

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4016437.ece>

Sell UK visas to highest bidders, say government immigration advisers

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/feb/25/uk-visa-sale-wealthy-bidder>

UK visa sell-off plan defended by government's immigration advisers

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/feb/25/uk-visa-sell-off-defended-government-advisers>

Plan to sell British visas to the highest bidders 'sends out the wrong message'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/plan-to-sell-british-visas-to-the-highest-bidders-sends-out-the-wrong-message-9150369.html>

Citizenship ought not to be hawked to the highest bidder

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/citizenship-ought-not-to-be-hawked-to-the-highest-bidder-9150113.html?origin=internalSearch>

Attack on 'eBay culture' of visa sales

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4015218.ece>

Immigrants to feel force of banking crackdown

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/industries/banking/article4016264.ece>

Romanian and Bulgarian students challenge UK loans and grants ban

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/feb/26/romanian-bulgarian-students-challenge-loans-grants>

Syrian refugees gain immediate access to legal aid system

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/feb/28/syria-refugees-legal-aid-uk>

Care system would collapse without migrant workers says health minister

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/nhs/10667318/Care-system-would-collapse-without-migrant-workers-says-health-minister.html>

[TOP](#)

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-09188 Hanzala Malik: Interfaith Glasgow Talking Books Project—That the Parliament congratulates Interfaith Glasgow on the start of its pilot project, Talking Books; notes that the project includes people of all faiths and belief systems from Glasgow and the surrounding area; understands that the aim is to raise awareness in the Glasgow community of different cultures and faith; further notes that the project has nine volunteers of diverse faiths to talk about real life experiences in their belief systems and culture; commends the progress already made by Interfaith Glasgow and wishes it luck with the final event of the project in which volunteers will share their stories on a

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion (continued)

one-to-one basis with staff from Police Scotland, and looks forward to further such collaborations between the voluntary sector and public bodies to improve their understanding of different beliefs and cultures.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-09188&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Release

Multi-faith communities to benefit from new £3 million grant

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/multi-faith-communities-to-benefit-from-new-3-million-grant>

News

Nick Clegg: faith schools risk being 'silos of segregation'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/10666200/Nick-Clegg-faith-schools-risk-being-silos-of-segregation.html>

[TOP](#)

Equality

UK Parliament Questions

Helmets: Sikhs

John Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to extend to industrial premises the exemption for Sikhs from requirements to wear safety helmets on construction sites. [185731]

Reply from Mike Penning: As the law currently stands, turban-wearing Sikhs are exempt from wearing head protection in a high hazard industry, construction, but may be required to wear it in lower hazard workplaces.

I am seeking to table an amendment to the De-regulation Bill, which is currently before Parliament, to extend this exemption to all workplaces, including industrial premises. The amendment will also extend the limitation on liability for employers to any work situation where a turban-wearing Sikh chooses not to wear head protection. There may be very limited exceptions, such as for specific roles in the emergency services or armed forces. The Health and Safety Executive is currently consulting on the proposals.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140203/text/140203w0004.htm#1402049000041>

NHS: Black and Minority Ethnic Managers

Lord Boateng: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many black and minority ethnic managers are employed in each of the three top grades of NHS England and on the Board at executive or non-executive level of NHS England.[HL5440]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe) (Con): NHS England advises that it is currently undergoing a refresh of its equality and diversity data, which includes all grades. To this end, all its staff have been asked to update their information including, if they are willing to

Equalities

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

do so, self-classifying their ethnicity, in keeping with provisions of the Equality Act 2010. The completion rate of the refresh currently exceeds 80% and is scheduled to be concluded by 31 March 2014.

In line with Cabinet Office guidance we do not publish details about individuals' protected characteristics. Given the small numbers of Board members we could not disclose the results of our monitoring, or NHS England's monitoring, without infringing the rights of the individuals concerned. Our data is included in broader data on appointments by ethnic minority background, role, and body, which have been published by the Commissioner for Public Appointments in the Annual Survey of Ministerial Appointments and Reappointments to the Boards of Public Bodies Regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. This is available at:

<http://publicappointmentscommissioner.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/130624-Final-OCPA-Statistics-2012-13.pdf>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140225w0001.htm#14022579000432>

NHS: Black and Minority Ethnic Nurses

Lord Boateng: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Earl Howe on 10 February (HL Deb, col 406), when the strategy on the career progression of black and minority ethnic nurses will be completed; and whether it will be published.[HL5438]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of institutional racism in the wider representation of black and minority ethnic nurses amongst executive directors of nursing in the National Health Service.[HL5439]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the membership of the Chief Nursing Officers Black and Minority Ethnic Advisory Group; how many times it met in 2011, 2012 and 2013; and whether its reports are circulated to (1) ministers, and (2) NHS England Board Members.[HL5441]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The Chair of the Chief Nursing Officers (CNO) Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Advisory Group has set up a BME Leadership Strategy Group to develop a BME Leadership Strategy. It plans to publish and implement the strategy later this year. The strategy has a strong focus on support and development for BME staff with the aim to improve services and workplaces that are equitable where everyone feels that they count.

Workforce diversity across all occupations and grades in the National Health Service is a priority. This is not about quotas but it is fundamentally about bringing the best resources to leadership, culture, innovation, ethics and behaviour, thus creating a workforce that has shared values represented by a wide range of perspectives.

To help the NHS perform well on equality, and build on its considerable achievements, the NHS Equality and Diversity Council, working with the NHS, designed an Equality Delivery System for the NHS which was formally launched in November 2011. Following an evaluation, a refresh of the Equality Delivery System for the NHS, known as "EDS2" was published in November 2013.

The EDS2 toolkit is designed to support NHS commissioners and providers to deliver better outcomes for all patients and communities. It does so by asking NHS organisations to monitor their equality performance jointly with their patients, communities and staff, in regard to each of the nine characteristics given protection under the Equality Act 2010, including race (ethnic or national origins).

The CNO BME Advisory Group consists of 25 core members and 65 affiliated members representing Senior Nurses and Midwives in the NHS and independent

Equalities

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

organisations, and educationalists. The Group meets bi-monthly (6 times a year) and has done since its establishment in 2001. The CNO attends some of the meetings herself and minutes of meetings are sent to the CNO; they are not sent to Ministers. Key outcomes and actions are fed back to the NHS Equality and Diversity Council meetings, the Nurse Leadership Programme Board and internal Executive meetings.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140225w0001.htm#14022579000433>

Press Release

Take a closer look at the Roma survey results

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2014/take-closer-look-roma-survey-results>

News

Match Of The Day panel is 'too white' and needs to become more diverse, BBC says

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2570639/Match-Of-The-Day-panel-white-needs-diverse-BBC-says.html>

Black judge claims race discrimination because he is 'paid less than some of his white colleagues'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2571151/Black-judge-claims-race-discrimination-paid-white-colleagues.html>

Stephen Lawrence's mother urges change 'at the top' over media diversity

<http://www.theguardian.com/media/2014/feb/28/stephen-lawrence-mother-media-diversity-bbc>

Roma – an integral part of Europe's diversity

<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.press-releases.31011>

[TOP](#)

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Diane Abbott (1100) UN anti-racism day – That this House notes the commemoration of UN Anti-Racism Day on 22 March 2014; welcomes the initiation by the TUC and Unite Against Fascism of the rally Stand up to racism and fascism in London on that day; hopes that many thousands will support the event; and further notes that the rally is intended to be a riposte to racism, a celebration of the contribution of migrants to this country and to send a clear signal of the British people's confidence in a future free of intolerance.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/1100>

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

Scots urged to speak up against hate crime

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Scots-urged-to-speak-up-against-hate-crime-9ab.aspx>

Tackling sectarianism

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Tackling-sectarianism-9db.aspx>

New Publications

Scottish Government Response to the Report of the Advisory Group on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0044/00445032.pdf>

Caste in Britain: Socio-legal Review

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/caste_review_published_report.pdf

Caste in Britain: Experts' Seminar and Stakeholders' Workshop

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/caste_events_published_report.pdf

News

Hate crime reporting drive launched

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/hate-crime-reporting-drive-launched.1393250343>

Hate crime reporting drive launched

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/hate-crime-reporting-drive-launched-1.238415>

Hate crime reporting drive launched

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/u/hate-crime-reporting-drive-launched.1393252991>

£860,000 for anti-sectarian drive

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/860-000-for-anti-sectarian-drive-1.245954>

Sectarian drama funding boost for groups

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/sectarian-drama-funding-boost-for-groups.23565356>

Community groups will receive almost £1m to tackle sectarianism

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/u/community-groups-will-receive-almost-1m-to-tackle-sectarianism.1393596430>

Sectarian drama cash boost for Citizens Theatre

<http://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/arts/news/sectarian-drama-cash-boost-for-citizens-theatre-1-3324025>

Doreen Lawrence says sections of police 'still racist'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-26321708>

FA racism blocked my England captaincy, says Sol Campbell

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/National/article1382208.ece

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Nicolas Anelka 'quenelle' gesture: West Brom striker given five-match ban and fined £80,000 for 'reverse Nazi salute'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news-and-comment/nicolas-anelka-quenelle-gesture-west-brom-striker-given-fivematch-ban-and-fined-80000-for-reverse-nazi-salute-9158239.html?origin=internalSearch>

What is the 'quenelle'? Nicolas Anelka banned for five-matches for performing gesture in Premier League match

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news-and-comment/what-is-the-quenelle-nicolas-anelka-banned-for-fivematches-for-performing-gesture-in-premier-league-match-9158322.html?origin=internalSearch>

Guilty striker mounted an imaginative but futile defence

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/sport/football/article4018626.ece>

FA urges social media networks to combat widespread racist abuse of black footballers online

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/fa-urges-social-media-networks-to-combat-widespread-racist-abuse-of-black-footballers-online-9162930.html>

Racist jailed for Facebook threat against mosque

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/racist-jailed-for-facebook-threat-against-mosque.23565749>

[TOP](#)

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Female Genital Mutilation

Jackie Baillie: To ask the Scottish Government what community awareness raising and prevention work is undertaken with women from cultures that practice female genital mutilation. (S4W-19523)

Reply from Shona Robison: A number of methods are used to raise awareness and encourage the reporting of female genital mutilation (FGM) including engaging with individuals and minority ethnic women's organisations such as Dignity Alert Research Forum (DARF), Saheliya and Shakti Women's Aid, all of who provide services to women who come from communities affected by FGM.

The Government also works in partnership with health professionals, voluntary organisations, social services, education departments and the police to support victims, engage with communities for the prevention of FGM, and to share good practice and promote awareness across Scotland for the prevention of FGM.

Scottish Government is providing funding to the Scottish Refugee Council and the Women's Support Project, to carry out a project to produce a baseline of information which will inform work to tackle female genital mutilation. We will be looking closely at all findings and recommendations from that report (due for publication September 2014) to ensure that what we are doing and what we are developing meets our shared objective of tackling FGM.

FGM is addressed within the violence against women policy area and will be

Other Scottish Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

included in the Violence Against Women Strategy that is currently being developed and scheduled for publication summer 2014.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-19523&ResultsPerPage=10>

Female Genital Mutilation

Jackie Baillie: To ask the Scottish Government what the (a) prevalence and (b) severity is of female genital mutilation. (S4W-19520)

Reply from Shona Robison: (a) It has been estimated that 3,000 women and girls are at risk in Scotland. This figure for Scotland is a pro rata projection based on research by FORWARD in England and Wales in 2007.

According to the 2001 Census data, there were 2,946 women between the ages of 0-49 living in Scotland and born in one of the 29 countries in which female genital mutilation (FGM) is reported to be a traditional practice. We will consider data from the 2011 Census which is scheduled for release in the first part of 2014, and that will allow a more-up to date prevalence estimate of FGM to be calculated. However initial data from the census shows that the number of people resident in Scotland who were born in Africa has more than doubled since the 2001 Census (from 22,049 to 46,742), and so the number of women and girls estimated to have undergone FGM is also likely to have increased.

That does not mean that all those women who were born in a country where FGM is prevalent have been abused in this way, only that they may be at risk.

(b) FGM is defined by the World Health Organisation as 'all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons'. The Scottish Government does not hold any information on severity of such 'procedures' carried out.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-19520&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Releases

Census 2011: Detailed characteristics on Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religion in Scotland – Release 3A

<http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/news/census-2011-detailed-characteristics-ethnicity-identity-language-and-religion-scotland-%E2%80%933A>

Census spotlights identity in a diverse Scotland

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Census-spotlights-identity-in-a-diverse-Scotland-9d1.aspx>

New Publications

Census 2011: Detailed characteristics on Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religion in Scotland – release 3A

The release includes tables for:

- National identity by sex by age
- National identity and ethnic group
- National identity by religion
- Country of birth by ethnic group
- Ethnic group by religion

Other Scottish Parliament and Government New Publications (continued)

Ethnic group by sex by age

Religion by sex by age

<http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/ods-web/standard-outputs.html>

[TOP](#)

Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Female Genital Mutilation

Lord Taylor of Warwick: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to revise the law on female genital mutilation in order to increase the number of prosecutions. [HL5361]

Reply from the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord Faulks): The Government is committed to tackling and preventing female genital mutilation.

We strongly support the action plan that the Director of Public Prosecutions has published with a view to bringing a successful prosecution for female genital mutilation.

As part of that plan, the Director of Public Prosecutions has recently written to Ministers identifying possible ways in which the criminal law might be strengthened to make prosecutions for female genital mutilation more likely. The Government will give careful consideration to the areas identified.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140225w0001.htm#14022579000421>

Female Genital Mutilation

Margot James: What steps [is the Department for Health] taking to tackle female genital mutilation. [902631]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Jane Ellison): We recently announced that all NHS acute hospitals must provide information on patients who have undergone female genital mutilation, but that is just one element of a wider-ranging programme of work that is under way in order, most importantly, to improve the way in which we care for girls and women who have undergone FGM and to follow up on, respond to and prevent FGM. I will make further announcements in due course.

Margot James: I congratulate my hon. Friend on all the work she has done to combat this abhorrent crime since she entered Parliament. Will she confirm that the data reported to her Department will be used to mount educational campaigns to stamp out FGM in the vicinity of hospitals reporting patients who have been abused in this way?

Reply from Jane Ellison: We anticipate that we will be able to share the data collected with all appropriate Government Departments and partner organisations. On local education campaigns, I see no reason why requests to access the data would not be approved. We want to build a proper national picture of what is going on with FGM so that we can do all we can both to care for victims and to stamp out this abuse.

John Cryer: On the issue of widening education, could the Minister encourage her colleagues at the Department for Education to write to schools to raise awareness of this abhorrent practice?

Reply from Jane Ellison: Fahma Mohamed, the brilliant young woman who has led the campaign on this, will meet the Education Secretary today and there is a

UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

lot of work under way across all Government Departments. There was recently a cross-Government declaration on the things that are going on to stamp out FGM and to care for its victims. The hon. Gentleman's question is a matter for the Department for Education, but I assure him that the Government as a whole are hugely committed to wiping out FGM within a generation and to caring for its victims.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140225/debtext/140225-0001.htm#14022547000019>

Female Genital Mutilation

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she last met the Secretary of State for Education to discuss campaigns against female genital mutilation; and if she will make a statement. [188180]

Reply from Norman Baker: On 6 February 2014, Ministers from across Government, including the Minister for Children and Families and myself, met with charities and stakeholders to discuss progress being made in tackling Female Genital Mutilation, and signed a joint declaration announcing a range of measures to combat this harmful practice in the UK and internationally.

I have also written to my Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Education on the matter.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria will be used to determine the allocation of funds from the Female Genital Mutilation Community Engagement Initiative. [188181]

Reply from Norman Baker: We will determine the allocation of funds from the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Community Engagement initiative, by inviting bids. Bidders are required to meet the following criteria:

That they are submitted by a voluntary sector organisation.

That the proposed project will raise awareness about socio-cultural, ethnic-legal, sexual health and clinical implications of FGM.

That the proposed project will strengthen the voice of communities speaking out against FGM.

That the proposed project will create new opportunities to talk about FGM.

The proposed method of evaluation.

This is set out in the guidance notes for bids which has been published on the Home Office website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-fund-guidance-notes>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140224/text/140224w0002.htm#1402255000009>

Female Genital Mutilation

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what use his Department plans to make of information on female genital mutilation reported by acute hospitals after September 2014. [188442]

Reply from Jane Ellison: Data collection is the first stage of a wider ranging programme of work in development to improve the way in which the national health service will respond to the health needs of girls and women who have suffered female genital mutilation (FGM) and actively support prevention.

Further announcements on the collection and use of FGM information will be made in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140224/text/140224w0006.htm#14022524000047>

Other UK Parliament and Government (continued) News

Gove to write to England's schools to stamp out FGM

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-26352877>

Michael Gove to write to every school on FGM

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/10661831/Michael-Gove-to-write-to-every-school-on-FGM.html>

[TOP](#)

Other News

Commission writes to government about FGM strategy

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2014/february/commission-writes-to-government-about-fgm-strategy/>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Assisted Suicide Bill

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

** Criminal Justice Bill

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

Stage 1 debate

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8968&mode=html#iob_80947

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>

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament (continued)

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>

Proposed amendments

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

and

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

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

Romanian and Bulgarian Accession (Labour Restriction) Bill

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

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** New rules on non-party campaigning** (14 March 2014)

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TZVF7ZW>

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>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

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

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 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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children, and Young People

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>

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

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 / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://tinyurl.com/q7bk67v>

Positive Action in Scotland: Fair Employment for All

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>

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 / 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 or see <http://tinyurl.com/nzcptyx>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Developing Management and Leadership Programme**

May 2014 to January 2015 in Glasgow

PATH (Scotland) training course with funding from the Equality Unit of the Scottish Government to examine power inequalities and the impact of such inequalities on under-represented groups. It will also enable participants to recognise and develop their skills and abilities as managers and leaders. The course is validated by the University of Glasgow, Centre for Open Studies. For information see http://pathscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/DMLS_14-15_CourseOutline.pdf and to apply complete the form at <http://pathscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Leadership-Application-Form-14-15.doc>

[TOP](#)

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

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

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/>

Useful Links (continued)

BBC Democracy Live 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/>

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.