

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.

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

The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 20 April 2014.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debates

Transparency of UK visa bans

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140402/halltext/140402h0002.htm#14040266000002>

Asian Restaurateurs (Immigration Enforcement)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140402/halltext/140402h0002.htm#14040266000001>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement and Questions

Yarl's Wood Immigration Centre (Detainee Death)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140331/debtext/140331-0001.htm#1403311000002>

UK Parliament Questions

Entry Clearances

George Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) for what reasons there are differential rates for visas for dependents of British citizens coming from non-EU countries and visas for dependents of EU non-British citizens domiciled in Britain; [193115]

(2) if she will abolish the differential rates for visas paid by British and EU non-British citizens living in the UK for dependents outside the EU and make the cost of all such visas the same as the EU rate. [193116]

Reply from James Brokenshire: Dependants of British citizens from non-EU countries who wish to enter the UK are required to apply for entry under the immigration rules. In line with its legislative powers, the Home Office sets immigration and nationality fees to reflect the administrative cost of processing an application as well as benefits and entitlements that may accrue if an applicant is successful. These fees apply to foreign national family members of British citizens applying for entry under the immigration rules. The Home Office believes that it is right that those who use and benefit most from the immigration system contribute to its running costs. The rights of EU nationals to live and work in other European Union member states, and to be accompanied by their non-EU family members, are set out in European Union law, in directive 2004/38/EC ("the free movement directive"), by which all EU member states are bound. The free movement directive does not cover the rights of EU citizens living in their country of nationality, so it does not apply to British nationals living in the UK. The free movement directive requires member states to issue entry clearance visas to non-EU family members of EU nationals free of charge.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140331/text/140331w0001.htm#14033136000053>

Overseas Students

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to record the departure of non-EU students as they leave the UK at the end of their studies. [191828]

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Office for National Statistics long-term international migration data include estimates of the numbers of students leaving the UK. At the request of the Home Office and other migration statistics users, the ONS has improved its methodology with an aim to identify emigrants who had originally arrived as students. This has assisted in assessing the contribution of students to overall net migration. It is estimated that 49,000 non-EU migrants, who had previously immigrated for study, had emigrated from the UK in the year ending September 2013. HM Government has made a commitment to reintroduce exit checks. By 2015, we will have checks in place on those who leave the UK by scheduled international air, sea and rail services. Introducing exit checks will improve our ability to confirm departure and to identify those who have failed to leave the UK when they should have done so.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140403/text/140403w0001.htm#14040387000020>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applicants receiving support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 have been receiving support for more than (a) two years, (b) four years and (c) six years; and if she will make a statement. [193593]

Reply from James Brokenshire: Data specific to your request can be found in the following table.

<i>Band cases</i>	<i>Number</i>
Up to two years	2,008
More than two years	822
More than four years	473
More than six years	212
Total	3,515

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will announce the asylum support rates for 2014-15. [193594]

Reply from James Brokenshire: There are no immediate plans to change the support rates provided to destitute asylum seekers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140331/text/140331w0001.htm#14033136000049>

Asylum: Pregnant Women

Diane Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the report by the Refugee Council, When Maternity Doesn't Matter, what steps her Department has taken to reform the dispersal policy of the former UK Border Agency. [193461]

Reply from James Brokenshire: The report covers procedures for accommodating pregnant asylum seekers who are destitute. The Home Office has been consulting about changes to these procedures and is considering some detailed suggestions by the Refugee Council and Maternity Action. Once that is completed we will move towards finalising and publishing revised guidance on the procedures.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140331/text/140331w0001.htm#14033136000050>

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Bob Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures her Department has introduced in the last year to reduce the number of businesses employing illegal immigrants. [193823]

Reply from James Brokenshire: Employers have a duty to ensure that their employees have the right to work in the UK, and this duty has been underpinned by a civil penalty scheme since 2008. The Government is taking measures to ensure a tougher response to employers who use illegal labour, while simplifying arrangements for legitimate businesses to conduct right to work checks.

To deter employers from using illegal workers, the Home Office is doubling the maximum penalty to £20,000. The Government is also using the current Immigration Bill to make it easier to enforce unpaid civil penalties in the civil courts. In addition, with the creation of the new Immigration Enforcement Directorate last year, there has been a 47% increase in illegal working enforcement operations and a corresponding increase in civil penalties imposed, with 1,862 penalties served in 2013-14 (to the end of February) compared to 1,270 in 2012-13. We are also ensuring greater collaboration across Government

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

to increase our “enforcement reach” and the range of sanctions that can be brought to bear against rogue employers who exploit illegal workers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140331/text/140331w0001.htm#14033136000055>

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

David Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fines levied under the Immigration (Employment of Adults Subject to Immigration Control) (Maximum Penalty) Order 2008 of a value of (a) up to £1000, (b) between £1000 and £2000, (c) between £2000 and £5000 and (d) between £5000 and £10000 remained unpaid. [194135]

Reply from James Brokenshire: Information on how many fines levied under the Immigration (Employment of Adults Subject to Immigration Control) (Maximum Penalty) Order 2008 of a value of (a) up to £1,000, (b) between £1,000 and £2,000, (c) between £2,000 and £5,000 and (d) £5,000 and £10,000 remained unpaid, is not recorded in a format compatible with National Statistics protocols. Data constraints on electronic records mean that the Home Office would have to examine in detail a large number of individual case files in order to ascertain the information required. The cost of producing the data linking civil penalties issued to our accounting system for civil penalties which remain unpaid by value would be at a disproportionate cost to the Home Office.

However, the Home Office has collected £30.6 million in fines through the life of the regime and the current total value of outstanding collectable debt is £14.6 million.

The Home Office is using the Immigration Bill to make it easier to enforce civil penalty debts in the courts and is incorporating debt recovery best practice from across Government Departments, with earlier initiation of legal proceedings for debt recovery if required.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140402/text/140402w0003.htm#14040286000022>

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Christopher Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the number of illegal immigrants employed in the UK; and what change there has been in this number since May 2010. [192961]

Reply from James Brokenshire: HM Government has not made any estimate of the number of illegal migrants currently employed in the UK. Given the clandestine nature of illegal migrants, any estimation is, by definition, extremely difficult and prone to considerable uncertainty.

However, the Government takes illegal immigration very seriously and is focusing on measures to ensure that illegal migrants cannot live, work or abuse benefits and services in the UK. The Immigration Bill will prevent illegal migrants from accessing and abusing public services. It will also strengthen our existing arrangements to prevent illegal working, by making it easier to enforce penalties on employers found to be employing illegal workers; reform the removals and appeals system, making it simpler to remove those with no right to be in the UK; and end the abuse of Article 8 of the ECHR—the right to respect for private and family life. Parallel changes to secondary legislation will also double the maximum penalty for employing an illegal worker and strengthen the scheme as a whole, including by simplifying the checks employers must perform.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140403/text/140403w0001.htm#14040387000019>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Immigrants: Detainees

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people held in immigration removal centres and who refused food or fluids have been transferred to prisons since May 2013. [193784]

Reply from James Brokenshire: No persons held in immigration removal centres have been transferred to prisons since May 2013 due to refusal of food or fluids.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140331/text/140331w0001.htm#14033136000056>

Deportation

David Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many serious misconduct complaints related to the use of control and restraint during enforced removal were referred to the Professional Standards Unit in each year since 2010. [193473]

Reply from James Brokenshire: Complaints made by, or on behalf of, detainees are managed in accordance with Detention Services Order 3/2011. All allegations of serious misconduct are referred to the Home Office Professional Standards Unit (PSU) for investigation. These include allegations made against staff who work in the detention estate or who are engaged in escorting work.

Data on the number of complaints referred to the PSU is not recorded. Only data of those complaints where PSU have agreed to investigate are recorded. The number investigated relating to the use of control and restraint during enforced removal is detailed as follows:

2010: 42

2011: 30

2012: 39

2013: 19.

These figures are based on management information, which is subject to change, and does not form part of our publicised statistics.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140331/text/140331w0001.htm#14033136000052>

Human Trafficking

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role the UK's embassies and consulates play in preventing human trafficking in source countries. [193547]

Reply from Hugo Swire: Britain's diplomatic missions implement a Human Trafficking Strategy overseas, on behalf of her Majesty's Government. They work with foreign governments in source and transit countries to build their capacity to disrupt and tackle human trafficking. They support local investigators to increase prosecutions for human trafficking offences and conduct awareness raising projects. They contribute to the UK's and international efforts to combat trafficking by ensuring that UK interests are effectively represented bilaterally and in multilateral fora including the EU and the UN. Our missions also address the root causes of human trafficking through the Department for International Development's work in the world's poorest countries.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140331/text/140331w0002.htm#14033136000085>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking: Victim Support Schemes

Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many survivors of human trafficking who have been placed in shelters funded by the Government through the Salvation Army received support from the government victim care contract specialist support providers to develop a move-on strategy in (a) 2012 and (b) 2013; how many of these victims were (i) men and (ii) women; how many (A) men and (B) women are still receiving such support; and if she will make a statement. [191305]

Reply from Karen Bradley: Support to develop a move-on strategy is offered to all victims supported under the Government victim-care contract. The number of victims who have received Government-funded support are given as follows.

<i>Year of entry to service</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Trans-gender</i>	<i>Total</i>
2013	387	270	2	659
2012	246	163	-	409
Total	633	433	2	1,068

Of the above, the numbers still receiving such support, by calendar year of entry and gender:

<i>Year of entry to service</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Total</i>
2013	96	23	119
2012	0	1	1
Total	96	24	120

Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with how many victims of human trafficking the government victims care contract specialist support providers are now working; and if she will make a statement. [191306]

Reply from Karen Bradley: The number of victims of human trafficking the Government victim-care contract specialist support providers are currently working with is as follows:

<i>Currently supported in service</i>	
	<i>Number</i>
Female	219
Male	78
Total	297

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140402/text/140402w0003.htm#14040286000021>

Human Trafficking: Repatriation

Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) men and (b) women who are victims of human trafficking are nationals of non-EEA countries have received return and reintegration assistance through the Assisted Voluntary Returns for Irregular Migrants programme since April 2011; and how much was so made available to those trafficked from (i) inside and (ii) outside the EU. [191303]

Reply from Karen Bradley: 16 victims of trafficking (one male, 15 female) have received financial assistance under the programme since April 2011.

While the Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants (AVRIM) programme does not normally include financial assistance, a discretionary sum of up to £1000 is provided for specified vulnerable cases, and this includes victims of trafficking. Assisted Voluntary Return is only available to non-EEA nationals and the support is not dependent upon whether the individual has arrived from inside or outside the EU.

The figures provided are sourced from a Home Office management information system which is not quality assured under National Statistics protocols and is

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

subject to change due to internal data quality checking. Figures provided from this source do not constitute part of National Statistics and should be treated as provisional.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140401/text/140401w0003.htm#14040211000065>

Press Releases

New international enquiry service for visa applications

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-international-enquiry-service-for-visa-applications>

More flexible visa rules to boost growth and job creation

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-347_en.htm

New Publications

Life in the UK test data

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299633/HO_Transparency_Data_Q3_2013-14_Life_In_The_UK_Test_Data.PDF

Percentage of asylum applications concluded in one year

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299845/HO_Transparency_Data_Q3_2013-14_Asylum_applications_concluded_in_12_Months.pdf

Number of adult decisions made within 6 months of the asylum application

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299849/HO_Transparency_Data_Q3_2013-14_Asylum_6_month_decisions.pdf

Asylum decision speed measures

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299605/HO_Transparency_Data_2012-13_-_Asylum_Speed_Measures_-_Annual_Data.pdf

Asylum work in progress costs

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299612/HO_Transparency_Data_2012-13_-_Asylum_WIP_Costs_-_Annual_Data.pdf

Percentage of migration applications decided within published standards

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299640/HO_Transparency_Data_Q3_2013-14_Migration_Applications_decided_within_published_service_standards.pdf

Hidden Away: Abuses against Migrant Domestic Workers in the UK

<http://www.hrw.org/node/124191>

News

Government visa rules 'license domestic slavery'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-26769349>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Decline of overseas students at England's universities

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-26836962>

Yashika Bageerathi's bid to stay in UK blocked

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-26856434>

Yashika Bageerathi and the law

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-26860400>

Mauritian student will be deported tonight after judge refuses to grant emergency injunction to allow her to appeal her case

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2595232/Mauritian-student-denied-asylum-despite-campaign-let-finish-A-levels-deported-tonight.html>

The Yashika Bageerathi case reveals the death of compassionate Conservatism

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/apr/04/yashika-bageerathi-compassionate-conservatism-minister-expenses>

Yashika's deportation is a shocking story, but it does bring hope

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/apr/03/shocking-story-yashika-bageerathi-deportation-immigration>

Immigration minister pledges full investigation over Yarl's Wood death

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/apr/01/immigration-sercogroup>

Yarl's Wood death: family and fellow detainees tell of shock and despair

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/apr/03/yarls-wood-immigration-removal-centre-death-family-detainees>

Why are the nerves of empathy severed when it comes to immigration?

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/apr/02/nerves-empathy-severed-immigration-daily-mail>

Dying to get into Britain: Four desperate migrants are killed in Calais in just one week as they target lorries bound for UK

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2594640/Dying-Britain-In-one-week-four-desperate-migrants-killed-Calais-target-lorries-bound-UK.html>

Four years of EU migrants coming here 'will fill a city the size of Manchester': Study predicts 130,000 people will come in a year if current trends continue

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2594681/Four-years-EU-migrants-coming-city-size-Manchester-Study-predicts-130-000-people-come-year-current-trends-continue.html>

We can't take any more! Residents of deprived borough speak out as it's predicted Britain will need another Manchester to absorb immigration

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2597454/We-Residents-deprived-borough-speak-predicted-Britain-need-Manchester-absorb-immigration.html>

Clear and coherent legal rules for family members of migrants in the EU

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/2014/20140403_02_en.htm

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

First victims of trafficking — then victims of the UK courts

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4052406.ece>

Trafficked victims need guardians, say campaigners

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/trafficked-victims-need-guardians-say-campaigners-9241142.html>

Tighter visa curbs drive away foreign students

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article4051986.ece>

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Community Relations

UK Parliament Question

Schools: Religious Education

Lord Taylor of Warwick: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to maintain the status of religious education teaching in schools; and what assessment they have made of the role of religious education in fostering inter-community relations.[HL6200]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Nash): The Government firmly believes in the importance of Religious Education (RE). To help maintain progress in improving RE teaching, we are establishing a subject expert group on RE chaired by Dave Francis from RE:ONLINE. By working with schools to clarify the key challenges in teaching RE, the expert group will help to ensure that support and resources are available for high quality RE teaching. In addition, as part of reforms to non-EBacc subjects, Ofqual is considering how it could improve the content and rigour of the Religious Studies GCSE.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140402w0001.htm#14040273000831>

News

The British Muslim is truly one among us – and proud to be so

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10742683/The-British-Muslim-is-truly-one-among-us-and-proud-to-be-so.html>

St Matthew's school in Blackburn shows that a multi-faith approach can pay dividends

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/schools/st-matthews-school-in-blackburn-shows-that-a-multifaith-approach-can-pay-dividends-9234081.html?origin=internalSearch>

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Equality

UK Parliament Debate

International Roma Day

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140402-0001.htm#14040267000447>

Press Releases

European and Human Rights Commission's new programme of work focuses on protecting people most at risk

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2014/april/commissions-new-programme-of-work-focuses-on-protecting-people-most-at-risk/>

Roma integration: EU Framework triggers first results

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-371_en.htm?locale=en

Roma deserve a better education and an end to segregation

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-14-290_en.htm?locale=en

Roma Integration – 2014 Commission Assessment: Questions and Answers

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-249_en.htm?locale=en

Roma inclusion policy has to take real needs of the community into account

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2014/roma-inclusion-policy-has-take-real-needs-community-account>

New Publications

No equality without equality data

<http://www.enargywebzine.eu/spip.php?article341&lang=en>

Contested Ground: Ethnic Monitoring in the UK

<http://www.enargywebzine.eu/spip.php?article344&lang=en>

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Business Plan 2014/15

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/pdfs/Corporate/ehrc_business_plan_2014-15_01-04-14.pdf

News

Commission's new programme of work focuses on protecting people most at risk

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2014/april/commissions-new-programme-of-work-focuses-on-protecting-people-most-at-risk/>

White people TWICE as likely as ethnic minorities to say they are disabled

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2594925/White-people-TWICE-likely-ethnic-minorities-say-disabled.html>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Press Release

Call for papers: conference – ‘Racism and Anti-Racism: from the labour movement to the far-right’

http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/14v_call_for_papers.pdf

News

Boris Johnson to consider Met police positive discrimination

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/apr/01/boris-johnson-met-police-positive-discrimination>

'Met police still racist despite Stephen Lawrence inquiry': Claims black female firearms officer who is suing force for sex and race discrimination

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2594274/Met-police-racist-despite-Stephen-Lawrence-inquiry-Claims-black-female-firearms-officer-suing-force-sex-race-discrimination.html>

'I'm no racist': Nicolas Anelka defends his quenelle goal celebration

<http://www.theguardian.com/football/2014/apr/04/nicolas-anelka-quenelle-defence-not-racist>

Nicolas Anelka 'quenelle' gesture: Striker stand by gesture, but insists 'I'm not anti-Semitic

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news-and-comment/nicolas-anelka-quenelle-gesture-striker-stand-by-gesture-but-insists-im-not-antisemitic-9238374.html?origin=internalSearch>

Benoît Assou-Ekotto 'disappointed' by FA's improper conduct charge

<http://www.theguardian.com/football/2014/apr/02/benoit-assou-ekotto-disappointed-fa-charge>

Sir Trevor McDonald warns of risk of 'apartheid' system in media

<http://www.theguardian.com/media/2014/mar/31/sir-trevor-mcdonald-warns-risk-apartheid-media>

Class, race and classical music

<http://www.theguardian.com/music/musicblog/2014/apr/04/class-race-and-classical-music-candace-allen>

Landmark legal case to rule whether GP exam 'discriminates' against Asian and black doctors

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/landmark-legal-case-to-rule-whether-gp-exam-discriminates-against-asian-and-black-doctors-9241139.html>

Men in court over alleged racist attack

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/men-in-court-over-alleged-racist-attack.23888032>

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Scottish Independence Referendum

News

Scottish independence: Do I get a vote in the referendum?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-26851021>

Scottish Independence Referendum

News (continued)

Scottish Independence: Role of religion 'should be recognised'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-26903855>

Interfaith conference to discuss place of religion in written constitution

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2014/interfaith_conference_to_discuss_place_of_religion_in_written_constitution

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Motion

S4M-09591 Anne McTaggart: African and Caribbean Women's Association Report on Sickle Cell Disorder—That the Parliament recognises the work of the African and Caribbean Women's Association on raising awareness of sickle cell disorder (SCD) in communities in Glasgow and across Scotland; recognises that SCD is an inherited condition that affects one in every 2,500 children born in the UK; understands that sickle cell traits have been identified in as many as one in 10 people of African and Caribbean descent and that over 6,000 adults in the UK have SCD; notes the calls for a universal antenatal and newborn screening programme to be implemented across Scotland in order to identify new cases at the earliest stage, for NHS staff to be provided with comprehensive training on the specific needs of people with the condition and for health and social care providers to be appropriately resourced to treat SCD as a lifelong condition; notes the findings of the report by the African and Caribbean Women's Association, which calls for greater awareness of the condition among GPs, the Scottish Ambulance Service and accident and emergency staff, and further notes the view that support for people with SCD should be delivered in partnership between the Scottish Government, local authorities and the NHS.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-09591&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Release

More bodies eligible for FOI requests

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/More-bodies-eligible-for-FOI-requests-aec.aspx>

News

Independent MSP Margo MacDonald dies

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-26883278>

Obituary: Margo MacDonald

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/obituaries/margo-macdonald.23883336>

Obituary: Margo MacDonald, independent MSP

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/obituaries/obituary-margo-macdonald-independent-msp-1-3365992>

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

News (continued)

Obituary: A farewell to Margo MacDonald 1943-2014

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/obituary-farewell-margo-macdonald-1943-2014-3374881>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Forced Marriage

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many forced marriage protection orders have been granted with a power of arrest attached in each year since such orders came into force. [193701]

Reply from Damian Green: Information on the number of forced marriage protection orders that have been granted in England and Wales with a power of arrest attached, for each year since such orders came into force, are available in table 2.8 of the Court Statistics Quarterly bulletin. The latest edition of this publication is available at the following link:

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140401/text/140401w004.htm#14040214000041>

Forced Marriage

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested for breach of a forced marriage protection order in each year since such orders came into force. [193700]

Reply from Norman Baker: The information requested is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

Powers of arrest for breach of a forced marriage protection order are currently issued by the civil courts. Arrests for civil offences are not covered by the Home Office arrest collection.

Breach of a forced marriage protection order will become an offence when section 120 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 comes into force in summer 2014.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140401/text/140401w003.htm#14040211000064>

Female Genital Mutilation

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Attorney-General what steps he is taking to ensure that victims of female genital mutilation whose cases go to trial have access to the full range of support and special measures that are available to victims of other sexual offences. [193653]

Reply from the Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) recognises that appropriate support is vital to ensure that victims of female genital mutilation (FGM) are able to give their evidence effectively in court. The CPS legal guidance advises prosecutors that in all cases of FGM they must ensure that the complainant is aware of the special measures that can be applied for at court, and that applications are made in time. For all child witnesses there is a presumption that they will give their evidence in chief by recorded interview and any further

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

evidence by live link unless the court is satisfied that this will not improve the quality of the child's evidence. Adult victims of FGM are also eligible for special measures on the grounds that they are likely to be intimidated witnesses in relation to testifying at court. However it is a matter for the court to grant the application.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Attorney-General if he will make it his policy to introduce the option of anonymity for victims of female genital mutilation in court trials. [193654]

Reply from the Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service recognises that more needs to be done to encourage victims of female genital mutilation (FGM) to come forward. The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) has said that the introduction of anonymity for victims of FGM should be considered to encourage more victims to come forward as, given the very personal nature of the offence, very few do so. However, any change of law on anonymity is a matter for the Ministry of Justice.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140401/text/140401w0002.htm#1404026000034>

Female Genital Mutilation

Lord Blencathra: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will instruct the Crown Prosecution Service to bring prosecutions relating to all cases of female genital mutilation reported in London since 2009.[HL6240]

Reply from the Advocate-General for Scotland (Lord Wallace of Tankerness) (LD): The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is committed to tackling cases of female genital mutilation (FGM), however it can only prosecute cases referred to it by the police which meet both of the tests outlined in the Code for Crown Prosecutors.

The Code sets out a two stage test which must be applied when deciding whether a case should be prosecuted. The first stage is the evidential test which requires prosecutors to be satisfied that there is sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction. If the evidential stage of the test is met prosecutors must then go on to identify the relevant public interest factors tending for and against the prosecution in order to form an overall assessment of whether a prosecution is in the public interest.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140402w0001.htm#14040273000812>

Sharia Law

Lord Pearson of Rannoch: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the Law Society's practice note on drawing up wills which are compliant with Sharia law.[HL6320]

Reply from the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord Faulks) (Con): Sharia law has no jurisdiction in England and Wales and the Government has no intention to change this position.

The Law Society's practice note gives guidance to solicitors preparing wills under the law of England and Wales. It is a fundamental principle of this law that testators are, by making a valid will, able to leave their property to whomsoever they wish, subject only to the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975. The practice note does not and cannot change the law.

Lord Bradshaw: To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the guidelines issued by the Law Society on 13 March on making wills "Sharia compliant", what steps they are taking to prevent the escalation of the problem identified by the Law Society. [HL6394]

Reply from Lord Faulks: Sharia law has no jurisdiction in England and Wales

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

and the Government has no intention to change this position.

The Government also has no intention of changing the fundamental principle of the law of succession in England and Wales that testators are, by making a valid will, able to leave their property to whomsoever they wish, subject only to the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975.

We encourage people to make wills by providing a relatively straightforward legal framework that keeps the formalities to a minimum and enables wills to be made quickly and inexpensively; and are considering what further steps we can take to raise awareness of the importance of making a will and to make the process simpler. We provide information to help people considering making a will on government websites: see, for example, <https://www.gov.uk/make-will> and www.justice.gov.uk/courts/probate/why-make-a-will

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140403w0001.htm#14040361000309>

Abortion

Lord Taylor of Warwick: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to prevent the selective abortion of girls in ethnic communities.[HL6199]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): Abortion on the grounds of gender alone is illegal. The 1967 Abortion Act states that two practitioners have to be "of the opinion, formed in good faith" that the woman has grounds for an abortion according to the criteria set out in that Act.

The Chief Medical Officer for England has written twice (on 23 February 2012 and 22 November 2013) to all practitioners reminding them of their responsibilities under the Abortion Act.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140403w0001.htm#14040361000286>

Press Releases

Global Islamic Finance and Investment Group

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/global-islamic-finance-and-investment-group>

Muslims in the armed forces

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/muslims-in-the-armed-forces--2>

New loans to help Muslim students go to university

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-loans-to-help-muslim-students-go-to-university>

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New Publication

UK Civil Society Almanac 2014

<http://data.ncvo.org.uk/category/almanac/>

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Other News

Plans to overhaul GCSE timetable to avoid clash with Ramadan

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/10747818/Plans-to-overhaul-GCSE-timetable-to-avoid-clash-with-Ramadan.html>

Vets urge halal ban after 'being misled on slaughter'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4055176.ece>

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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>

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>

Report Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140401-0001.htm#14040169000826>

and

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament (continued)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140401-0002.htm#14040187000893>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140403-0002.htm#14040353000571>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140403-0002.htm#14040353000571>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2013-2014/0096/amend/su096-l-a.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2013-2014/0096/amend/ml096-ll.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2013-2014/0096/amend/su96-ll-a.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>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Charity Pulse 2014 (11 April 2014)

<http://bird-song.co.uk/charity-pulse-2014/>

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

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

Assisted Suicide Bill (closing date 6 June 2014)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/74417.aspx>

**** Student Finance: a Sharia-compliant alternative finance product** (closing date 12 June 2014)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299124/bis-13-1311-consultation-on-a-sharia-compliant-alternative-finance-product.pdf

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>

Bullying and Prejudice in Schools: Pupil Views and Experiences (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BullyingAndPrejudicePupils?v=3>

Bullying, Harassment and Prejudice in Schools: Teacher Views and Experiences
(no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BullyingandPrejudiceStaff?v=3>

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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

** Homecoming Scotland 2014

Wide range of events throughout the whole of 2014. For more information see the full programme <http://www.visitscotland.com/see-do/homecoming-scotland-2014/events/>

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>

** Discrimination and the Modern Family – playing catch up?

30 April 2014 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 12.30, preceded by AGM at 9.00)

Scottish Discrimination Law Association seminar about the way recent developments in employment law reflect families today. For information contact sgilzean@hbjgateley.com

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children and Young People:

1st (9.30am-4.30pm) & 2nd (9.30am-12.30pm) May 2014 in Edinburgh

9th (9.30am-4.30pm) & 10th (9.30am-12.30pm) June 2014 in Edinburgh

7th (9.30am-4.30pm) & 8th (9.30am-12.30pm) July 2014 in Edinburgh

Shakti 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> or contact 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

GRAMNet Film Series

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

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>

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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

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

Useful Links (continued)

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

BBC Democracy Live http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm

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



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



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

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