

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.*

Contents

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

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

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-09965 Nigel Don: Stop the Traffik—That the Parliament recognises the importance of the STOP THE TRAFFIK campaign in Scotland and across the world in educating people on how to deal with cases of human trafficking in their areas and congratulates the STOP THE TRAFFIK movement on its global and local work in equipping organisations, individuals and communities with the tools needed to help prevent further cases of human trafficking.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-09965&ResultsPerPage=10>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

UK Parliament Questions

British Nationality

Baroness Berridge: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many British citizens have obtained their nationality by naturalisation.[HL6624]

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many British citizens have obtained their nationality by registration.[HL6625]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Information on the resident population of the UK by nationality and country of birth is published by Office for National Statistics at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=International+Migration>

Information on the total number of British citizens who have obtained their nationality by naturalisation or by registration is not available.

Data is published on the annual number of grants of British citizenship based on naturalisation and registration made in each year from 1962 to 2013 in table cz 03 of Immigration Statistics, available in the library of the House and at:

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

The latest edition of table cz 03 is available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/283703/citizenship-q4-2013-tabs.ods

From 1962 to 2013 there were 2.9 million grants of British citizenship based on naturalisation and 0.9 million grants based on registration. It is not possible to determine from the administrative data how many of the persons granted British citizenship since 1962 have subsequently died or changed citizenship.

Baroness Berridge: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many British citizens have nationality by being born in Britain.[HL6626]

Reply from Lord Wallace of Saltaire: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Joe Grice, Director & Chief Economist for National Statistics, to Baroness Berridge, dated April 2014 ...

ONS does not have data on the number of British nationals who were born in Great Britain. However, the Annual Population Survey provides estimates of the number of UK nationals who were born in the UK and who were resident in the UK at the time of the survey. This estimate would exclude UK nationals who were born in the UK but who are usually resident abroad.

The latest estimates use APS data for the 12-month period of January to December 2012 and show that there were 54,151,000 UK nationals who were born in the UK and were usually resident in the UK in 2012, with a corresponding margin of error of +/- 321,000. The margin of error refers to the 95 per cent confidence interval and is a measure of the uncertainty associated with making inferences from a sample.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140506w0001.htm#14050626002663>

Justice: Immigration and Asylum

The Earl of Sandwich: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans significantly to reduce the involvement of expert non-legal members in the Immigration and Asylum Chamber; if so, in the light of the volume of deportation appeals and of unrepresented appellants, what alternative provision there will be for expert advice in sensitive cases; and how they will ensure that the public interest is fully represented on panel hearings.[HL6578]

Reply from the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord Faulks): The panel composition for Tribunals within the unified Tribunal structure are matters for the Senior President of Tribunals under the Tribunals, Courts & Enforcement Act

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

2007. These powers are delegated where appropriate to Chamber Presidents of individual chambers of the First-tier and Upper Tribunals. The Senior President published a consultation document regarding the deployment of non-legal members within the Immigration and Asylum Chamber in November 2013. The consultation sought views on whether senior judges within the Chamber should decide on a case-by-case basis whether a non-legal member should sit on a Tribunal panel “where the President of First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum) or a Resident Judge has decided that there are strong public interest reasons”. The Senior President will publish a response to the consultation on www.judiciary.gov.uk. A copy of the consultation document published in November 2013 is available at the following link:

<http://www.judiciary.gov.uk/about-the-judiciary/the-judiciary-in-detail/judicial+roles/tribunals/senior-president-tribunals>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140506w0003.htm#14050626002753>

Yarl’s Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Lord Ramsbotham: To ask Her Majesty’s Government why the United Nations special rapporteur on violence against women was refused access to Yarl’s Wood immigration detention centre while on an official visit to the United Kingdom.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): My Lords, a visit to Yarl’s Wood immigration removal centre was never agreed as part of this fact-finding mission. However, as part of her visit, the special rapporteur, Ms Rashida Manjoo, met the Home Secretary, the Minister for Crime Prevention and the Chief Inspector of Prisons.

Lord Ramsbotham: ... As he will appreciate, it can do our national reputation no good at all if it should ever be felt that the United Kingdom is refusing access to a UN special rapporteur who is here in connection with the signature that we have given to the optional protocol on the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment. Therefore, I hope very much that, in future, that position will be clarified, as the publicity can have done no good at all. I would be very grateful if the Minister could inform the House of what action will be taken to ensure that future visits can be properly handled.

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: I disagree with the premise of the noble Lord’s question, because Ministers met the special rapporteur and were keen to support a programme for her visit that was more directly relevant to addressing violence against women and girls. That is why we offered the visit to a refuge, facilitated by Women’s Aid, and supported a number of other visits for the special rapporteur, including a visit to a number of government departments, devolved Administrations and front-line agencies relevant to the reasons for her visit.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett: My Lords, the recent report by Women for Refugee Women found that many of the women in Yarl’s Wood had experienced sexual violence, which surely makes it a relevant visit for the special rapporteur. What is the Government’s response to that report, which showed the traumatic impact on those women of detention?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: No one can be unaware of the fact that detention is a necessary evil. It is part of the requirements that we have in enforcing an immigration policy. However, the inspection by the Chief Inspector of Prisons found very little evidence of victimisation of women at the centre. It was felt that there was insufficient recognition of particular vulnerabilities of detained women; those points were taken and are being addressed by Yarl’s Wood.

Lord Avebury: My Lords, apart from the chief inspector’s findings on the lack of

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

recognition of the vulnerabilities of women detained in Yarl's Wood, there was also a finding that the quality of rule 35 reports was poor. Was not the refusal to admit Ms Manjoo not only a kick in the teeth for the UN, violating the terms of its mandate, but an unfortunate indication that those concerns had not been addressed, as the special rapporteur seems to have suspected?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: No, my Lords, that is not the case. Yarl's Wood was inspected by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons last year and, overall, the report was positive. I mentioned those aspects of which I felt it was important for the House to be aware. Detention is an essential part of effective immigration control and we take the welfare of those in our care very seriously. Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons has responsibility for ensuring that those standards are maintained.

Baroness Scotland of Asthal: My Lords, does the noble Lord not appreciate that Yarl's Wood has caused a lot of concern not only in this country but internationally, and that a failure to allow the UN special rapporteur to enter causes even more alarm, although I accept absolutely what he says about detention being necessary in some cases?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: I have explained to noble Lords and, I hope, to the noble Lord, Lord Ramsbotham, in responding to his Question, the reasons why we felt that it was more appropriate to give the rapporteur the opportunity to see the effective measures that the Government are taking to address violence against women and girls.

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: My Lords, the noble Lord has been very good in explaining the meetings that the special rapporteur had and sought to say that he thought those meetings were sufficient. However, he has absolutely failed to explain to the House why the special rapporteur was denied access to Yarl's Wood. It is a very simple question, not about the meetings that she had but why, specifically, she could not go to Yarl's Wood.

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: Access to Yarl's Wood is in the gift of the Home Office, which determines whether it is suitable for people to visit it. Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons has a statutory role to address that issue. It was not a question of denying this person the opportunity to do her job. She was given every chance to take up our offers to visit refuges, but she did not choose to do so.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: My Lords, what statement did the Chief Inspector of Prisons make following the refusal to allow the rapporteur to enter Yarl's Wood?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: I am afraid that I cannot comment on that as I do not have the details of that question.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140506-0001.htm#14050619000592>

Asylum

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on developing international frameworks and forums to provide refugees from climate-induced displacement with legal protection, including legally-worded definitions for such cases. [196876]

Reply from Mark Simmonds: The Government supports work to establish how existing international institutions and frameworks can be used to address climate change induced migration. Refugee status under existing international and EU legislation is based on the risk of persecution, and it is Government policy to avoid developing separate frameworks that could duplicate or contradict this. The Government is also committed to securing an ambitious and legally-binding

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

climate agreement next year at Paris COP 21 to limit the damage caused by anthropogenic climate change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140506/text/140506w0003.htm#14050638000169>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of asylum applications were granted (1) in the first instance, and (2) after some form of appeal, in each year since 2010.[HL6630]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The table below shows the total number of asylum applications received in each year since 2010, and the proportion of asylum applicants in the first instance that were (1)(i) granted asylum, (ii) granted Humanitarian Protection, Discretionary Leave or Other Grants, and after some form of appeal were (2)(i) granted asylum, (ii) granted Humanitarian Protection, Discretionary Leave or Other Grants, as at May 2013 when the statistics were compiled.

Figures for 2013 will be published at the end of August 2014.

Proportion of asylum applicants granted (1) in the first instance and (2) after some form of appeal					
Year of application	Total main applicants	(1)(i) % granted asylum in the first instance	(1)(ii) % granted HP/DL/Other Grants in the first instance	(2)(i) % granted asylum after appeal	(2)(ii) % granted HP/DL/Other Grants after appeal
2010	17,916	16.5	7	11.9	1.8
2011	19,865	23.2	6.2	9.9	1.3
2012	21,843	23.3	3.5	6.8	0.8

Source: Table as_06 Outcome analysis of asylum applications, as at May 2013

HP Humanitarian Protection

DL Discretionary Leave

The analysis of the outcomes of asylum applications are the recorded outcomes of the group (or cohort) of applicants in any one year, as at a particular time. A proportion of applications made in each of the years provided will be awaiting the outcome of an initial decision or an appeal. Applications from earlier years will inherently have had longer for the case to be processed than those from more recent years. This dataset is updated, in full, annually.

There are a large variety of routes that an asylum application can take to a final asylum outcome. As a consequence, analysis of the outcomes of asylum applications in any one year requires interpretation for a small percentage of cases. This interpretation is undertaken consistently by established computer code. The proportions and underlying figures for final outcomes of the analysis of applications for the group (or cohort) of applicants in any one year, are therefore estimated.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the outcome of asylum applications in Table as_06 (Asylum data tables Volume 1) of Immigration Statistics. The latest release Immigration Statistics October to December 2013 is available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2013> and from the Library of the House.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the judgment issued on 9 April by Mr Justice Popplewell in Refugee Action v Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether they have any plans to establish an inquiry into the way asylum support rates are calculated.[H L6814]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: The Government plan to review asylum

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

support rates. That review will take account of the judgment and other information. The review will be completed by 9 August 2014.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140506w0001.htm#14050626002655>

Asylum: Scotland

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many pregnant women in Scotland were granted section 4 support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 for reasons including that they were deemed unfit to travel in each of the last five years; [197399]

(2) at what gestation stage each pregnant women in Scotland granted section 4 support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 received the decision to grant that support; [197400]

(3) how many pregnant women in Scotland are in receipt of section 4 support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999; how many such women were moved to different accommodation during pregnancy; how many weeks pregnant each such woman was when she was moved; what the reason for each such move was; and if a risk assessment of each such move was undertaken which included input from a treating clinician; [197427]

(4) what the length of time was between the date of application by each pregnant woman in Scotland for section 4 support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and the date of receipt by the applicant of that support; [197431]

(5) how many pregnant woman in Scotland were denied section 4 support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 for reasons that included an assessment that they were fit to travel; and what the gestation stage of each such woman was when that decision was made in each of the five years to 2013-14. [197432]

Reply from James Brokenshire: The information requested is not routinely collected and could be provided only by examining individual case records, which would result in disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140507/text/140507w0003.htm#140507105000098>

Asylum: Finance

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will make it her policy to ensure that pregnant women and nursing mothers in receipt of section 4 support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 are recognised as a vulnerable group when contracting and allocating placement accommodation; [197402]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of all guidance and benchmarking criteria used by her Department, its contractors and agents when assessing the adequacy and suitability of placement accommodation allocated to pregnant women and nursing mothers in receipt of section 4 support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. [197401]

Reply from James Brokenshire: The guidance and procedures on providing accommodation to pregnant women in the asylum support system is contained in the policy document "Healthcare needs and Pregnancy Dispersal guidance", which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/healthcare-needs-and-pregnancy-dispersal-instruction>

The Home Office is currently considering some changes to the document following consultation with the Refugee Council and Maternity Action.

Pregnant women are already recognised as a vulnerable group in the asylum support system. Regulation 4 of the Asylum Seekers (Reception conditions)

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Regulations 2005 provides that their special needs must be taken into consideration.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140507/text/140507w0003.htm#140507105000096>

Children in Care: Asylum

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what responsibilities local authorities have to ensure that asylum seekers who are leaving care they entered as a child receive alternative support once they reach adulthood. [194872]

Reply from Edward Timpson: Unaccompanied asylum seeking children must be provided with the same support as for any care leaver, as set out in Volume 3 of 'The Children Act Guidance and Regulations: Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers'¹.

Financial support for looked after unaccompanied asylum seeking children should reflect their needs as eligible care leavers and their immigration needs. As for any relevant child, once an unaccompanied asylum seeking child leaves care or reaches the age of 18, a personal advisor must be appointed to support them.

¹ <http://resources.leavingcare.org/uploads/c4f7aeaf941cdefb8f4a18f478aa1f19.pdf>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140506/text/140506w0002.htm#14050638000139>

Asylum: Children

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 April 2014, *Official Report*, column 111W, on asylum: children, what funding her Department provides to local authorities to help cover the costs of supporting care-leavers who are asylum seekers; and how the Department monitors the use of that funding. [196547]

Reply from James Brokenshire: Local authorities are able to claim funding of £95 per day for each asylum seeker they support who is aged under 16 and £71 per day for each asylum seeker they support who is aged 16 or 17. Local authorities who continue to support care leavers past the age of 18 may apply for funding of £150 per week for each supported person above a threshold of 25 cases. A small number of local authorities receive extra funding because of their special circumstances, for example if they receive an exceptionally large number of cases. In order to claim the funding local authorities are required to submit detailed information about their expenditure, to ensure that it is incurred only for supporting cases eligible to the funding.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 April 2014, *Official Report*, columns 352-3W, on asylum: children, if she will publish a breakdown by constituency of the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in each of the last 10 years. [197188]

Reply from James Brokenshire: Figures for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children by parliamentary constituency are not collected by the Home Office.

The Home Office publishes aggregate 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. Figures based on revised counting rules appear in the latest release Immigration Statistics October to December 2013 which is available from:

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140506/text/140506w0003.htm#14050638000160>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Immigration: Detention

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government, at the latest date, how many immigration detainees were being held in HM prisons; how many foreign national offenders, whose sentences had already expired but who had not been deported were being held; and what assessment they have made of the impact of such persons on the rehabilitation of British prisoners.[HL6579]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): For the week commencing 31 March, there were 720 immigration detainees in prisons.

Please note that the data includes a small number of individuals who have never served a custodial sentence, but who present specific risk factors that indicate they pose a serious risk of harm to the public or to the good order of an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) including the safety of staff and other detainees, which cannot be managed within the regime applied in IRCs.

To extract this small number of cases would incur a disproportionate cost.

Foreign national offenders held in prisons beyond the end of their sentence under immigration powers are normally held in unconvicted conditions. Their presence in these prisons does not affect the rehabilitation of British nationals whose access to accredited interventions and other rehabilitation services is governed by risk of offending and offender-related need.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140506w0003.htm#14050626002745>

Human Trafficking

John Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to ensure that assets of human traffickers are frozen within 48 hours of their arrest; and if he will make a statement. [903856]

Reply from Karen Bradley: The Serious and Organised Crime Strategy, published in October 2013, sets out how the Government will make it harder for criminals to use, hide and move the proceeds of crime. The Government will, as soon as parliamentary time allows, seek to amend the Proceeds of Crime Act to enable assets to be frozen more quickly and easily.

Section 60B of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 allows for relevant land vehicle, ship or aircraft to be detained where a person has been arrested for a human trafficking offence. These powers will be brought forward and consolidated into the Modern Slavery Bill.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140507/text/140507w0003.htm#140507105000103>

Human Trafficking: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department's Personal Advocate Pilot for trafficked children will start; how non-governmental organisations will participate in the schemes; and when each pilot scheme in each participating local authority will start and end. [197530]

Reply from Karen Bradley: The Modern Slavery Bill will enable us to strengthen our response to human trafficking and modern slavery for both adults and children. We announced in January our intention to trial specialist independent advocates for victims of child trafficking.

23 local authorities that represent a wide demographic range as well as major transport hubs and asylum screening units have agreed to participate in the trial. These areas also have the highest rates of trafficking referrals to the National Referral Mechanism or are areas where we are aware of a high number of

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

trafficking investigations by law enforcement agencies.

We are currently considering bids from a number of voluntary and community services organisations that were identified as potential providers of the advocacy service because of the particular expertise they hold. When the trial goes live we will invite a number of relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organisations, to inform the project through a consultative group.

We have to consider this matter following the passing in the Lords of an amendment to the Immigration Bill that has put on hold our proposals for these trials.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140508/text/140508w0002.htm#140508102000100>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

John McDonnell (1318) Detention Centre Demonstration – That this House express its concern at the reports of a major demonstration undertaken by detainees at Harmondsworth detention centre to highlight their plight on the Government's fast track procedure for asylum seekers and the lack of facilities to assist in pursuing their appeals, including access to legal advice and means of communication with their legal representatives; and urges the Home Secretary to commission an independent review of the grievances raised by the detainees with the aim of resolving this dispute.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/1318>

News

The school with 600 children and 42 different languages

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-27281414>

Care agencies 'must ensure recruits can speak English'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/health-27295554>

Poor English of home help 'is putting the elderly at risk': Government adviser says care agencies must ensure staff have decent language skills

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2622498/Carers-tested-make-sure-speak-English-prevent-abuse-peoples-homes-says-No-10-adviser.html>

Up to 200,000 Romanians and Bulgarians now in UK

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/10822320/Up-to-200000-Romanians-and-Bulgarians-now-in-UK.html>

[TOP](#)

Community Relations

New Publication

A Portrait of Modern Britain

<http://www.policyexchange.org.uk/images/publications/a%20portrait%20of%20modern%20britain.pdf>

Community Relations (continued) News

Non-white people almost 30 per cent of population by 2050

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/10809481/Non-white-people-almost-30-per-cent-of-population-by-2050.html>

Ethnic minorities 'shouldn't be treated as single group'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-27295412>

Ethnic minorities not all the same, MPs told

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/ethnic-minorities-not-all-the-same-mps-told-1-3399508>

A Portrait of Modern Britain – or a warning to curb minority populations?

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/may/08/warning-minority-ethnic-voters-policy-exchange-tories>

Main parties are still lumping ethnic minorities together, thinktank warns

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/06/political-parties-ethnic-minorities-policy-exchange>

Why our rainbow nation offers hope for the future

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/features/why-our-rainbow-nation-offers-hope-for-the-future-9328338.html?origin=internalSearch>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Scottish Parliament Questions

Police Scotland

Jackie Baillie: To ask the Scottish Government how Police Scotland tackles the barriers that might prevent people from underrepresented groups from joining the force. (S4W-20708)

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: The recruitment of police officers is a matter for Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority.

Police Scotland has set out in its recently published Corporate Strategy, plans to diversify its workforce through the promotion of attractive, inclusive and responsible practices including exploring alternative, flexible recruitment options to build a more diverse workforce. Police Scotland also set out in its 2013 Equality and Diversity Report, that Police Scotland will continue its commitment to the principles of positive action in respect to recruitment, retention, progression and development in order to achieve an equitable work environment.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-20708&ResultsPerPage=10>

Police Scotland

Jackie Baillie: To ask the Scottish Government how Police Scotland encourages officers from underrepresented groups to remain in the force. (S4W-20709)

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: The retention of police officers is a matter for Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority.

Police Scotland has set out in its recently published Corporate Strategy, plans to diversify its workforce through the promotion of attractive, inclusive and

Equality

Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

responsible practices. Police Scotland also set out in its 2013 Equality and Diversity Report, that Police Scotland will continue its commitment to the principles of positive action in respect to recruitment, retention, progression and development in order to achieve an equitable work environment.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-20709&ResultsPerPage=10>

Police Scotland

Jackie Baillie: To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the comments in The Scotsman on 11 April 2014 by the former chair of the Scottish Women's Development Forum that Police Scotland's recruitment policy was "unfair and discriminatory" and that it "has created additional barriers to some underrepresented groups joining the service as well as those applying for promotion". (S4W-20710)

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: The recruitment and promotion of police officers is an operational matter for Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority.

Police Scotland has set out in its recently published Corporate Strategy, plans to diversify its workforce through the promotion of attractive, inclusive and responsible practices including exploring alternative, flexible recruitment options to build a more diverse workforce. Police Scotland also set out in its 2013 Equality and Diversity Report, that Police Scotland will continue its commitment to the principles of positive action in respect to recruitment, retention, progression and development in order to achieve an equitable work environment.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-20710&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Questions

BBC: Black and Minority Ethnic Issues

Lord Patel of Bradford: To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the BBC's decision to withdraw one of its black and minority ethnic (BME) reporter posts and its BBC UK Black weekly Podcast, whether in the negotiations with the BBC in respect of the renewal of its Charter they intend to set requirements relating to the coverage of BME issues in the BBC's output; and if so, what requirements.[HL6773]

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The process, scope and timing of the review of the BBC's Charter has yet to be determined. However, the Government is committed to the issue of BAME diversity in TV, film and the Arts, both on and off screen. The Culture Minister recently met with leading figures from these sectors, including the BBC, to consider options to improve representation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140506w0001.htm#14050626002657>

Police: Ethnic Minority Recruitment

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to promote ethnic minority recruitment to the police.[HL6541]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Improved diversity in policing is absolutely necessary to cut crime in a modern, diverse society, while building the trust and confidence of local communities. It is important police forces reflect the communities they serve. While progress has been made to increase diversity of the workforce, the Government has said that there is still more for forces to do.

This Government's reforms have already made improvements; for example we set

Equality

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

up the College of Policing which has embarked on a major programme to improve the recruitment, retention and progression of black and minority ethnic officers. Locally, Police and Crime Commissioners will ensure that the public's priorities on crime and community safety are acted upon.

The Home Office is actively engaged with the College and forces to ensure that this work is given appropriate priority and that learning, best practice and opportunities are identified and shared.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140506w0003.htm#14050626002775>

Senior Civil Servants

Hilary Benn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the Government's target is for the proportion of (a) women, (b) people from black and minority ethnic communities and (c) disabled people in senior management posts in central Government Departments. [196793]

Reply from Francis Maude: Appointments and promotion in the civil service should be made on merit through fair and open competition. To ensure our civil service delivers the best for Britain we must draw on the widest possible pool of talent. We want to ensure that the best people—irrespective of who they are—rise to the top of the civil service but are concerned that for too long the very top ranks do not reflect those further down. We have commissioned independent research to look at the blockages women face making it to the very top and will use this to drive a new strategy for managing talent.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140506/text/140506w0001.htm#14050638000026>

[TOP](#)

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions

Racial Equality

Lord Taylor of Warwick: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of why racial equality has not been achieved in higher-ranking jobs.[HL6268]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: Action on inequalities in the workplace is taking place across government and public bodies and is reflected in the Government's strategies and measures to tackle disadvantage such as: the Social Mobility Strategy; the Equality Act 2010 and the Equality Strategy; the Child Poverty Strategy and the Social Justice Strategy. The Government are not complacent on these issues and know there is more to be done.

A specific example of action is the Financial Reporting Council's requirement for companies to disclose their policy on boardroom diversity, along with any measurable objectives that have been set for implementing the policy, and progress on achieving the objectives. In addition, the UK Corporate Governance Code states that companies should consider the balance of skills, experience, independence and knowledge of the company on the board, its diversity, and other factors relevant to its effectiveness as part of the board evaluation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140506w0004.htm#14050626002789>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Sport: Racism

Lord Mendelsohn: To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the cost of the legal advice gained by the Metropolitan Police Service and Crown Prosecution Service which led to the policy of investigating the chant of "yids" by Tottenham Hotspur supporters by the Metropolitan Police Service prior to the Prime Minister's comments on the matter on 16 September 2013; and what was the cost of the advice gained after that date. [HL6473]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was total cost associated with the charges dropped against three Tottenham Hotspur supporters in March relating to the chant of "yids". [HL6474]

To ask Her Majesty's Government who first contacted (1) the Metropolitan Police Service, and (2) the Crown Prosecution Service, with the suggestion that it was unlawful for the supporters of Tottenham Hotspur to chant "yids", or that they should investigate the issue; whom they subsequently consulted; and how many meetings were held between those individuals or organisations, and at what level of seniority, to discuss the matter. [HL6475]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The Home Office does not hold the information requested. The Crown Prosecution Service has no specific policy relating to the chanting of the word "yids" by Tottenham Hotspur supporters and incurred no legal advice costs on this specific issue. The case against the three Tottenham Hotspur supporters was discontinued by the Crown Prosecution Service prior to the adjourned date of the hearing, without parties having to attend court, and without the associated costs being incurred.

The Crown Prosecution Service National Football lead has been consulted on a number of occasions regarding whether the use of the word "yid" could amount to a criminal act. The general advice given on each occasion was that each case depends on its specific facts. In relation to the case that was dropped against the three Tottenham Hotspur supporters, the police contacted the Crown Prosecution Service prior to charge. Advice was given that there was a realistic prospect of conviction. It subsequently transpired that the further evidence was not available and the case was therefore discontinued. Prior to the discontinuance a meeting took place between senior police officers and the Crown Prosecution Service officials.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140506w0004.htm#14050626002801>

Caste Discrimination

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of their announcement in July 2013 that the consultation on caste legislation was expected in February or March 2014, why it has not yet been issued. [HL6447]

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government is currently considering two issues which have developed and which have potential implications for the consultation.

In February, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) published helpful research designed to inform the introduction of new legislation on caste, as outlined in the July 2013 announcement. However, that announcement said: '...work will also be undertaken to determine information about the extent of caste discrimination in Britain that can be used as a comparative baseline for any future consideration of the effectiveness of caste legislation.'

We had intended to reflect consideration of this work in the public consultation process. However, further discussions between Government and the EHRC about

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

the research needed for it have revealed concerns that not only might this be difficult to commission successfully, but it could be seen as intrusive and might have an adverse effect on good relations in the relevant communities. We are therefore considering how best to proceed with the consultation in the light of this. Another recent development is the judgment in the Employment Tribunal case of *Tirkey v Chandok* which concluded that there is already legal protection against caste discrimination through the race provisions of the Equality Act 2010. We need to review recent case law to consider whether and how it may affect the way in which we implement the legislation.

We would expect the public consultation document, including our conclusions on these matters, to issue in the Autumn.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140506w0001.htm#14050626002668>

Press Release

Hate crime: Report finds significant progress in reducing hate crime

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hate-crime-report-finds-significant-progress-in-reducing-hate-crime>

News

Call for Papers: Racism and Anti-Racism: from the labour movement to the far-right
Closing date for submissions: 16 May 2014

http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/socialpolitical/news/headline_324941_en.html

'People grab our veils, call us terrorists and want us dead'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-politics/10804880/Islamophobia-People-grab-our-veils-call-us-terrorists-and-want-us-dead-What-its-really-like-to-be-a-Muslim-woman-in-Britain.html>

Islamophobia: why do so many young men hate Muslims?

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-politics/10819884/Islamophobia-why-do-so-many-young-men-hate-Muslims.html>

Tory MP Branded 'Dirty Jew' By Voters, Told He Should Be 'Stoned To Death'

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/05/08/conservative-mp-abuse-dirty-jew_n_5288253.html?utm_hp_ref=uk-politics&ir=UK+Politics

[TOP](#)

Scottish Independence Referendum

UK Government Publication

Scotland in the UK

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/308870/Scotland_in_the_UK_final.pdf

Scottish Independence Referendum (continued) UK Government Press Releases

Scotland. The UK. 10 Myths. 10 Facts.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scotland-the-uk-10-myths-10-facts>

Devolution delivering more powers for Scotland

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/devolution-delivering-more-powers-for-scotland>

[TOP](#)

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Gypsy/Traveller sites

Nanette Milne: To ask the Scottish Government how many Gypsy/Traveller sites have been set up in each year since 1999, broken down by local authority. (S4W-20821)

Reply from Margaret Burgess: The Scottish Government does not collect specific information on the number of Gypsy/Traveller sites set up each year since 1999. However from 1998 to 2009 the Scottish Government collected twice yearly data on the number of Gypsy/Traveller sites, their occupancy levels, and other related information. The following table shows the total number local authority Gypsy/Traveller sites in Scotland for each year from 1999 to 2009 (when the last count was carried out):

Year	Total number of Local Authority Gypsy/Traveller sites*
1999	35
2000	35
2001	35
2002	33
2003	34
2004	34
2005	33
2006	31
2007	32
2008	32
2009	31

* Please note that local authority and Registered Social Landlord sites were counted together from 2007, and these numbers are those provided in the summer data collection for each year.

While the information we hold gives a snapshot of the number of local authority Gypsy/Traveller sites each year, it does not provide figures on the number of new Gypsy/Traveller sites established by each local authority each year.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-20821&ResultsPerPage=10>

Gypsy/Traveller sites

Nanette Milne: To ask the Scottish Government what advice it provides to local authorities regarding the setting up of Gypsy/Traveller sites. (S4W-20823)

Reply from Margaret Burgess: The most recent guidance on establishing

Other Scottish Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Gypsy/Traveller sites is set out in the Guidance Notes on Site Provision for Travelling People, issued in 1997 by the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Scotland Travelling People. A copy of the guidance notes has been placed in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre, Bib number 55850.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-20823&ResultsPerPage=10>

Gypsy/Traveller sites

Nanette Milne: To ask the Scottish Government how many Gypsy/Traveller sites it estimates are needed, broken down by local authority area. (S4W-20824)

Reply from Margaret Burgess: The Scottish Government does not estimate the number of Gypsy/Traveller sites to be provided by local authorities. However Scottish Planning Policy requires local authorities to consider the accommodation needs of Gypsy/Travellers through their, Housing Needs and Demand Assessment (HNDA). A local authority should consider the results of their HNDA when preparing the development plan and local housing strategy for their area.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-20824&ResultsPerPage=10>

Parliamentary Motions

S4M-09932 Sandra White: Congratulations to Glasgow Gurdwara on its First Anniversary—That the Parliament congratulates the Glasgow Gurdwara on its first anniversary; commends the Sikh community for working hard to implement the core principles of Guru Nanak; understands these principles as being remembrance of Vaheguru, earning an honest living and distributing to the poor; considers that the Gurdwara has been open and welcoming to not only the Sikh community but the whole Scottish community and has welcomed 35,000 visitors in order to appreciate its architecture as well as to learn the message of the Sikh faith, and wishes the Glasgow Gurdwara and its congregation every continued success.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-09932&ResultsPerPage=10>

S4M-09976 John Finnie: Give the Tinkers' Heart of Argyll back to the Travelling People—That the Parliament acknowledges petition PE01523, Give the Tinkers' Heart of Argyll back to the Travelling People, currently lodged with the Public Petitions Committee; understands that the Tinker's Heart is a series of quartz stones laid out in a heart shape near Loch Fyne used by the Travelling community of Argyll and beyond as a wedding place and a place for blessings; notes that the petition calls on the Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to instruct the restoration and preservation of the Tinker's Heart; further understands that the Tinker's Heart is the last monument that the Travelling community in Scotland has; believes that a monument dating back to the 18th century deserves proper protection, and looks forward to the committee's response.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-09976&ResultsPerPage=10>

[TOP](#)

Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Question

Forced Marriage

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the perpetration of forced marriage becoming a criminal offence later in 2014, they have any plans to increase funding to United Kingdom charities helping victims of forced marriage and honour-based abuse.[HL6531]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The Home Office and Ministry of Justice have collectively ring-fenced nearly £40 million of stable funding up to 2015 for specialist local support services and national help lines to tackle violence against women.

The Forced Marriage Unit has also allocated £150,000 to the domestic programme fund, which supports local forced marriage-related projects in the UK. We keep funding for the provision of national services under review. Decisions on how best to fund local services for victims of forced marriage are a local matter and it is the responsibility of the Local Authorities to identify any gaps in service provision and put in place appropriate solutions to address this.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140506w0002.htm#14050626002706>

Press Releases

FGM: Border Force targets 'high risk' flights at Heathrow to stop female genital mutilation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fgm-border-force-targets-high-risk-flights-at-heathrow-to-stop-female-genital-mutilation>

Baha'i Faith Ridvan Festival Celebration

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/bahai-faith-ridvan-festival-celebration>

New Publication

Brief guide on engaging the Faith Communities in civil protection

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/308698/Brief_Guide_on_Engaging_the_Faith_Communities_in_civil_protection.pdf

[TOP](#)

Other News

Female genital mutilation: Woman arrested at Heathrow

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-27348776>

Woman held over mutilation plot

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk/woman-held-over-mutilation-plot-1.359925>

Woman arrested at Heathrow for conspiring to commit FGM

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/woman-arrested-at-heathrow-for-conspiring-to-commit-fgm-9347501.html?origin=internalSearch>

Other News (continued)

FGM campaign leads to arrest at Heathrow

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4085596.ece>

Police scour airports for girls dressed as divas in bid to find victims of FGM

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4085031.ece>

Channel 4's Muslim call to prayer is top in viewer complaints tally

<http://www.theguardian.com/media/2014/may/08/channel-4-muslim-prayer-ramadan-top-complaint-2013>

TV call to prayer during Muslim holy month of Ramadan got MORE complaints than anything else on Channel 4 last year

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2623639/TV-call-prayer-Muslim-holy-month-Ramadan-got-MORE-complaints-Channel-4-year.html>

Circumcision: A necessary cut or bodily harm?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/features/circumcision-a-necessary-cut-or-bodily-harm-9328250.html?origin=internalSearch>

Labelling of Halal Meat

Halal labels 'to be reviewed', Downing Street says

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-27345424>

Halal meat: David Cameron 'won't intervene on labels'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-27329870>

What is halal meat?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-27324224>

Downing Street calls for clearer labelling on halal meat

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/downing-street-calls-for-clearer-labelling-on-halal-meat.24181475>

PM urges meat industry transparency

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/pm-urges-meat-industry-transparency-1.361151>

EU labelling of meat stunned before slaughter rejected by Britain

<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/may/11/eu-labelling-meat-stunned-rejected-britain>

Government steers clear of meat-labelling row

<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/may/08/government-steers-clear-meat-labelling-row>

Halal meat row: faith leaders make joint call for clearer labelling

<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/may/08/halal-meat-row-jewish-muslim-leader-clearer-labelling>

Halal: not about food but fear of difference

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/may/11/halal-meat-nandos-pizza-express-islam>

Other News

Labelling of Halal Meat (continued)

David Cameron suggests Government could 'review' halal meat labelling

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10819493/David-Cameron-suggests-Government-could-review-halal-meat-labelling.html>

It's up to retailers whether they clearly label halal products, No 10 says

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10816382/Its-up-to-retailers-whether-they-clearly-label-halal-products-No-10-says.html>

PM: 'I'm happy to eat halal meat'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/david-cameron/10820375/David-Cameron-Im-happy-to-eat-halal-meat.html>

Nick Clegg: I would eat a halal pizza but it must be labelled

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/nick-clegg/10815744/Nick-Clegg-I-would-eat-a-halal-pizza-but-it-must-be-labelled.html>

Customers must be told whenever meat is halal, MPs urge

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10818015/Customers-must-be-told-whenever-meat-is-halal-MPs-urge.html>

Lord Haskins on halal meat row: consumers must have freedom to choose

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10816086/Lord-Haskins-on-halal-meat-row-consumers-must-have-freedom-to-choose.html>

Halal meat row: faith leaders call for clear food labelling

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10814674/Halal-meat-row-faith-leaders-call-for-clear-food-labelling.html>

Halal meat row: myths and reality of religious slaughter

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/foodanddrink/foodanddrinknews/10814716/Halal-meat-row-what-does-religious-slaughter-involve.html>

Supermarkets must identify halal meat

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/foodanddrink/foodanddrinknews/10816579/Supermarkets-must-identify-halal-meat.html>

Halal debate racist, say Muslims and Jews

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4085040.ece>

Fresh calls for halal meat to be labelled

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/life/food/article4083943.ece>

Halal watchdog backs food label call

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/life/food/article4085890.ece>

Meat in the Middle

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/leaders/article4085922.ece>

Halal meat: David Cameron refuses to back meat labelling just a month after promising halal is 'safe in Britain'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/halal-meat-david-cameron-refuses-to-back-meat-labelling-calls-just-a-month-after-promising-halal-is-safe-in-britain-9342581.html>

Other News

Labelling of Halal Meat (continued)

David Cameron staying out of halal meat labelling row

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/david-cameron-staying-out-of-halal-meat-labelling-row-9340487.html>

Nick Clegg has 'no problem' eating halal meat on pizza but says restaurants and supermarkets must do more to label food clearly

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/nick-clegg-has-no-problem-eating-halal-meat-on-pizza-but-says-restaurants-and-supermarkets-must-do-more-to-label-food-clearly-9339389.html>

Pizza Express will review halal policy on menus after campaigners say clearer labelling needed

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/pizza-express-to-review-halal-policy-on-menus-after-campaigners-say-clearer-labelling-needed-9330471.html>

Halal meat labelling plans are on the table, says Downing Street

<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/may/09/halal-meat-labelling-downing-street>

Move to label meat by slaughter method

<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/may/08/label-meat-slaughter-method>

Government steers clear of meat-labelling row

<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/may/08/government-steers-clear-meat-labelling-row>

Halal meat row: faith leaders make joint call for clearer labelling

<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/may/08/halal-meat-row-jewish-muslim-leader-clearer-labelling>

The Sun's halal Pizza Express story is a half-baked attempt to provoke outrage

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/may/07/sun-halal-pizza-express-story-ethnic-restaurant>

What exactly does the halal method of animal slaughter involve?

<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/may/08/what-does-halal-method-animal-slaughter-involve>

The halal outrage has little to do with animal welfare

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/may/09/halal-outrage-concern-animal-welfare-muslim-ritual-slaughter>

It's moral bullshit that we don't care how an animal lives, only how it dies

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2014/may/09/moral-bullshit-animal-lives-upset-dies>

Millions are eating halal food without knowing it: How big brand shops and restaurants sell ritually slaughtered meat - but don't label it

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2622830/Millions-eating-halal-food-without-knowing-How-big-brand-shops-restaurants-sell-ritually-slaughtered-meat-dont-label-it.html>

Other News

Labelling of Halal Meat (continued)

Big brand shops and restaurants face being forced to label halal food as row grows over ritually slaughtered meat on sale in UK

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2622830/Millions-eating-halal-food-without-knowing-How-big-brand-shops-restaurants-sell-ritually-slaughtered-meat-dont-label-it.html>

A stealthy takeover of Britain's supermarket shelves: Unlabelled halal meat has become the 'default' position

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2622851/A-stealthy-takeover-Britains-supermarket-shelves.html>

Our shoppers don't care if meat is halal, claim supermarkets: Retailers face backlash after saying that it is 'unnecessary' to label meats

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2623805/Our-shoppers-dont-care-meat-halal-claim-supermarkets-Retailers-face-backlash-saying-unnecessary-label-meats.html>

Pizza Express reveal ALL the chicken they use is halal - but they don't tell customers unless they ask staff

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2622052/Pizza-Express-reveal-chicken-use-halal-dont-tell-customers-unless-ask-staff.html>

Now halal sneaks into our schools: Parents angered by move by councils to ban pork sausages and bacon and replace them with ritually-slaughtered meat

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2623860/Now-halal-sneaks-schools-Parents-angered-councils-ban-pork-sausages-bacon-replace-ritually-slaughtered-meat.html>

We Muslims should be appalled by the sale of halal meat by stealth

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2623879/We-Muslims-appalled-sale-halal-meat-stealth.html>

[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>

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Return to Nearest Safe Country) Bill

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

Asylum (Time Limit) Bill

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

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament (continued)

Charitable Status for Religious Institutions Bill

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

Collection of Nationality Data Bill

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

Face Coverings (Prohibition) Bill

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

Foreign Nationals (Access to Public Services) Bill

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

Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill

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

**** Immigration Bill**

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

Third Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140506-0001.htm#14050619000594>

Ping Pong: Commons consideration of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140507/debtext/140507-0002.htm#14050791000003>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2013-2014/0099/amend/am099-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>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated this week

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)

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

Scotland's Electoral Future: delivering improvements in participation and administration (closing date 11 July 2014)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0044/00448004.pdf>

Experiences of Race and Religion-Related Hate Speech in the UK (no closing date given)

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HR7RBZ3>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

Homecoming Scotland 2014

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



BEMIS, in partnership with Visit Scotland and the Scottish Government has launched 'Multicultural Homecoming 2014', a programme of events to showcase Scotland's rich cultural diversity, and a small Grants Programme to help community groups put on local events. For information see <http://bemis.org.uk/project/multicultural-homecoming-2014/>

** *this week!*

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 Skills

19 May, 16 Jun, 26 Aug, 22 Sep, 20 Oct, 17 Nov, 15 Dec, and 26 Jan at SCVO, Brunswick House, 51 Wilson Street, Glasgow (9.30 – 4.30)

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-

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

represented groups. It will also enable participants to recognise and develop their skills and abilities as managers and leaders. The course, which is free, 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>

Sensory Mela 2014

21 May 2014 in Edinburgh (11.30 – 4.30)

Edinburgh & Lothians Joint Sensory Partnership: Scotland's first ever Sensory Mela event dedicated to delivering information on sight and hearing loss support services to ethnic minority communities. For more information see

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sensory-mela-2014-tickets-11145274817>

**** UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People, 'Our Rights, Our Future':**

29 May 2014 in Glasgow (10.00 – 3.00)

Bemis/Inclusion Scotland consultation event to provide an opportunity for members of the diverse ethnic minority communities, who consider themselves to have a disability, to share their views on the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/n5fosmd> or contact Angela Marshall angela@inclusionscotland.org / 0141 559 5007

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children and Young People:

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

Refugee Week

16 to 22 June 2014-05-02 Celebration of the warm welcome that Scots give to refugees seeking sanctuary from around the globe and the unique contributions refugees make to our communities. For details of events see

http://issuu.com/scottishrefugeecouncil/docs/refugeeweekscotland2014_guide_singl

[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/>

Useful Links (continued)

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/>

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.