

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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Useful Links

Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month, and that the Scottish and UK Parliament and Government websites been redesigned, so that links published in back issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on these websites, copy details from MEMO into the relevant search facility.

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The UK Parliament is in recess until 3 June 2014.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Questions

Immigration Controls

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are taken so that immigration officers ensure the removal of any face coverings before authorising an individual's entry to the UK. [197802]

Reply from James Brokenshire: All passengers wearing a veil or face covering on arrival in the United Kingdom will be asked to remove their veil so that their appearance can be compared with the photograph in their passport. If a passenger refuses to remove their veil they will be detained until they do so.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140513/text/140513w0002.htm#14051391000052>

Entry Clearances

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what representations she has received on removing the requirement to top up investments

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

held by individuals on Tier 1 (Investor) visas; [197733]

(2) what representations she has received on extending the list of investment products that individuals can use to qualify for a Tier 1 (Investor) visa. [197735]

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office has had meetings with a number of immigration law firms who represent Tier 1 (Investor) clients in which these issues have been raised. The firms consider that removing the requirement to top up investments, and extending the list of qualifying investments, would attract more investors to the UK and encourage investments which would lead to greater returns.

The Government is currently considering its response to the report on the Tier 1 (Investor) route published by the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) on 25 February 2014, which made recommendations on these issues. We will announce our decisions in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140513/text/140513w0001.htm#14051391000049>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2014, *Official Report*, columns 526-27, on student visas, if she will publish details of the successful pilot with one university on ensuring overseas students return home once their course is completed. [197624]

Reply from James Brokenshire: Foreign national students who had been served with an adverse immigration decision were, at times, encountering a delay in receiving their travel documents back from the Home Office. On occasion, this resulted in their immigration status changing to an overstayer.

The pilot referred to was conducted through an informal relationship between the south central immigration compliance and enforcement (ICE) team and the international student advisers embedded within two local universities. Through this link, those whose leave has been curtailed, have had an adverse decision, or wish to depart the UK are provided with local assistance by the immigration enforcement team. The pilot has enabled the local ICE team to facilitate the return of travel documents quickly, resulting in an earlier departure for the student. This has benefits for both the student and university as becoming an overstayer could jeopardise future applications from students to continue their studies. During 2013-14, 50 students were assisted in this way from two universities (this is local data taken from local records that has not been sourced from an official database).

The Government is looking at how this example of local good practice can be extended nationally.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140514/text/140514w0002.htm#1405153000102>

Immigration

Lord Holmes of Richmond: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to remove international students from the headline immigration figures.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): My Lords, the Government publish immigration statistics broken down by category. The number of student immigrants may therefore be easily distinguished from other migrants. The independent Office for National Statistics' net migration statistics include students, and the Government have no plans to remove them. This makes no difference to the policy, which is that there is no cap and genuine international students are welcome.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Lord Holmes of Richmond: My Lords, the message must be clear to international students: we want you and we welcome you. Can my noble friend the Minister assure the House that the Government are doing everything to ensure that, when it comes to global higher education, the brightest and the best choose Britain?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: I think that the whole House will agree with those sentiments. It is certainly the Government's policy, and I hope that it will be possible to persuade universities and Universities UK to take this opportunity to improve our position as the second provider of higher education to the world student population. This is a great opportunity for us, and we need to be united in sending that message.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140512-0001.htm#14051211000460>

Asylum: Scotland

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brent Central of 31 March 2014, *Official Report*, column 411W on asylum, what the (a) gender and (b) age of each applicant represented in the table in Scotland was; and whether each such applicant had (i) family and (ii) dependants in Scotland. [197426]

Reply from James Brokenshire: Data specific to part (a) of the hon. Member's request can be found in the following table.

Region/ Country	Band	Female	Male	All
Scotland	Less than 2 years	64	133	197
Scotland	More than 2 years	30	35	65
Scotland	More than 4 years	22	51	73
Scotland	More than 6 years	2	12	14
Scotland	All	121	231	349

We are unable to provide data for part (b) of the hon. Member's request for reasons of data protection.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140512/text/140512w0004.htm#14051310000240>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government why they changed their contracting model for the provision of accommodation for asylum seekers in danger of destitution. [HL6878]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The COMPASS (Commercial and Operational Managers Procuring Asylum Support Services) project procured in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2006. The commercial principles behind the COMPASS procurement included:

A desire to manage demand for asylum accommodation services under a regional procurement model to create efficiency and quality from economies of scale• Appointing financially secure suppliers able to respond with potentially significant fluctuations (increases and decreases) in demand• Identifying suppliers with a proven track record and who would take the care of asylum seekers seriously• Updating the contract performance regime to align with Government procurement and Home Office strategic objectives and in recognition of National Audit Office reports into the previous accommodation contracts

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Home Office plans to re-examine its savings forecasts in the light of the additional costs incurred in the transition between contractors overseeing the Government's accommodation provision for destitute asylum seekers.[HL6880]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: COMPASS savings are directly linked to the number of people in asylum accommodation that changes continually. COMPASS savings are therefore monitored and reappraised against Home Office forecasts continually. The latest benefits review, carried out after the end of the 2013-14 financial year, indicates that savings for that year exceeded those profiled in the original business case and that the project remains on target to deliver £140m of financial benefits during its lifetime. Savings are being made despite the supported population increasing in line with higher asylum intake.

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications for asylum were received from children arriving unaccompanied into the United Kingdom for each of the last three years for which figures are available.[HL6883]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: In 2012 and 2013 there were 1,125 and 1,174 applications for asylum received from children arriving unaccompanied into the United Kingdom (Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children).

These figures are available in table as_08 (Asylum data tables Volume 2) of Immigration Statistics October to December 2013:

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

There are currently no comparable figures for 2011. An internal review of UASC data highlighted issues with the definitions used for data published prior to 2012. Revised UASC figures for 2011 will be published in Immigration Statistics January to March 2014 on 22 May 2014.

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will assess the research in progress in the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford on communicable diseases among refugees and displaced people.[HL6886]

Reply from Baroness Northover: Once the study publishes its findings, we look forward to assessing this as part of the overall body of evidence on the topic.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government how they decide which retailers can be accessed using the Azure prepayment card given to asylum seekers. [HL6997]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: The Azure card is provided to failed asylum seekers supported under the provisions of section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Any retail outlet that provides food and other essential living items and accepts visa transactions can apply to join the Azure card scheme. The card is currently accepted by Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury's, Morrison's, the Co-operative, Boots, Peacocks, Early Learning Centre, Mothercare, The British Red Cross, The Salvation Army and a few small independent retailers. There are ongoing discussions with other outlets that may be interested in joining the scheme.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140514w0001.htm#14051464000611>

Asylum: Deportation

David Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been removed from the UK under the Dublin Convention in each year since 2010. [197239]

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

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

<i>People removed</i>	
	<i>Number</i>
2010	1,449
2011	1,308
2012	970
2013	1,020

Note: The figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Removals fell in 2011 and 2012 because we stopped transferring asylum applicants to Greece under the Dublin Regulation in 2010. This was because it was found conditions there amounted to a breach of article 3 of ECHR. There then followed similar litigation around conditions in Italy, but we are still able to effect transfers there.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140513/text/140513w0001.htm#14051391000042>

Deportation

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what payments her Department makes to destination countries for visas allowing entry to people being deported from the UK to those countries. [198275]

Reply from James Brokenshire: We work closely with embassies from a wide range of countries to obtain travel documents, rather than visas, to assist removal. We pay a small administrative fee for these documents, which enable the removal of people who have no right to be in the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140514/text/140514w0002.htm#1405153000098>

Press Releases

Immigration Bill becomes law

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/immigration-bill-becomes-law>

In Stockholm, Ban calls for optimizing benefits of ‘journey of hope’ for migrants, society as a whole

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47786#.U3OqKq1dUbc>

New Publication

Baseline Study on Cross-Border Mobility in the OSCE Region

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/118506?download=true>

News

Net migration target perfectly achievable - Cameron

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-27389189>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Migrant target 'achievable' - PM

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/migrant-target-achievable-pm-1.367640>

Cameron sticks by target for reducing migration

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/wider-political-news/cameron-sticks-by-target-for-reducing-migration.24217344>

No surge in Romanian and Bulgarian migrants to UK

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/no-surge-in-romanian-and-bulgarian-migrants-to-uk-1-3410917>

Number of Romanian and Bulgarian workers in UK falls

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/may/14/number-romanian-bulgarian-workers-falls-border-controls>

Romanian and Bulgarian workers in the UK: the facts

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/may/14/romanian-bulgarian-workers-in-britain>

Romanian and Bulgarian workers in the UK – reaction to official figures

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/14/romanian-bulgarian-workers-uk-reaction>

Flood of Bulgarian and Romanian migrant workers fails to materialise

<http://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2014/may/14/flood-bulgarian-romanian-migrant-workers-fails-to-materialise>

Number of Romanian and Bulgarian workers falls since EU restrictions relaxed

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/10829620/Number-of-Romanian-and-Bulgarian-workers-falls-since-EU-restrictions-relaxed.html>

Minister admits immigration target off course

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/10830987/Minister-admits-immigration-target-off-course.html>

Migrants 'able to buy' language test pass certificates

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-27452766>

Migrants who can't speak English 'can buy language certificate for £500', investigation finds

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/migrants-who-cant-speak-english-can-buy-language-certificate-for-500-9389363.html>

Investigation into claims UK English language test results are being sold

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/may/17/claims-english-language-test-results-are-being-sold>

English language certificates 'for sale'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/10837644/English-language-certificates-for-sale.html>

Immigrant language test sale under investigation

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4092866.ece>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Immigrants 'not the answer' for Scotland's economy

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/immigrants-not-the-answer-for-scotland-s-economy-1-3413055>

MPs to investigate Serco over sex assault claim at Yarl's Wood centre

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/may/17/mps-serco-yarls-wood-centre-sex-assault-claim>

Serco facing inquiry over claims of sexual assaults at Yarl's Wood detention centre

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/serco-facing-inquiry-over-claims-of-sexual-assaults-at-yarls-wood-detention-centre-9391631.html?origin=internalSearch>

Immigrants must learn to be British, says Asian Tory

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/10838710/Immigrants-must-learn-to-be-British-says-Asian-Tory.html>

Immigrants must 'try to learn English' says Asian Tory MP

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/immigrants-must-try-to-learn-english-says-asian-tory-mp-9391691.html>

Immigrants must 'respect our way of life', says minister

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4093157.ece>

Immigrants need to learn English says new culture secretary Sajid Javid

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/may/18/sajid-javid-immigrants-need-to-learn-english>

Immigrants who move to Britain need to learn to speak English and 'respect our way of life', Culture Secretary Sajid Javid claims

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2631618/Learn-speak-English-want-live-Britain-Asian-Tory-son-Pakistani-immigrants-tells-new-migrants.html>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-10039 Jackie Baillie: Severe Funding Cut for Show Racism the Red Card—

That the Parliament notes with concern the significant reduction of funding for Show Racism the Red Card (SRTRC) and its anti-sectarianism strand, Show Bigotry the Red Card (SBTRC), from £120,000 in 2011-12 to £40,000 in 2014-15; understands that this cut was not agreed with the charity despite the answer to parliamentary question S4W-20199 on 7 April 2014 stating otherwise; believes that the cut was only agreed after negotiation that other funds would be made available, which has not happened; understands that, with the significant financial pressure being placed upon it, the charity is currently unable to fill a key post, which has had a severe impact on the services it provides; believes that the work of SRTRC is vital in tackling racism and sectarianism; understands that, of SRTRC and SBTRC participants who admitted to using sectarian or racist behaviour in the past, 70.5% said they would not do so again and that 90.6% of participants said that they would report incidents thanks to the charity's input, and calls on the Scottish Government to reinstate financial support to SRTRC to 2011-12 levels to

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion (continued)

allow it to continue to deliver its essential education and campaign work against racism and sectarianism in Scottish communities.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-10039&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Questions

Castes

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Ministers for Women and Equalities when the Government plans to introduce regulations under the Equalities Act to prevent discrimination by caste and descent. [198276]

Reply from Helen Grant: There is a lack of certainty on some intrinsic issues around caste, such as what it is and how it is manifested, partly because there had never been any form of public consultation on caste. It was accepted therefore by both Front Benches during the parliamentary debate on this issue last year that the whole process, up to and including the commencement of legislation, would take time and should include a consultation on the proposed legislation. The Government is currently considering two issues which have developed and which have potential implications for the consultation stage. We would expect the public consultation document, including our conclusions on these matters, to be issued in the autumn. We will then be in a position to consider plans to introduce regulations. You may also wish to note the answer given to Lord Avebury by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, on 6 May 2014, *Official Report*, columns 331-32.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140514/text/140514w001.htm#1405153000030>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Racial Discrimination

Philip Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much financial support his Department provided to Hope not Hate in each of the last three years; and what steps he takes to prevent the use of such monies for party political campaigning. [198044]

Reply from Stephen Williams: 'Hope Not Hate' has not received any financial support from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

This Department provided Searchlight Educational Trust, a registered charity, with a grant of £66,000 in the financial year 2012-13 to establish community partnerships to foster integration in four neighbourhoods.

Following completion of the project, Searchlight Educational Trust changed their name to Hope Not Hate Educational Ltd. We monitored progress with the project closely and are satisfied that the funding for Searchlight Educational Trust was used for purposes outlined in the funding agreement and that no funding was used for party political campaigning. Conditions in the funding agreement prevent funds being spent on political campaigning. Furthermore, an organisation that exists for political purposes would not meet the criteria for charitable status-so we would be unable to award them grant under the Charities Act 2006.

I am aware that it has been claimed that the Department has funded campaigning by Hope not Hate against a certain political party. This is completely untrue.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140512/text/140512w001.htm#1405131000071>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination (continued) **New Publication**

Global 100 survey of antisemitic attitudes

<http://global100.adl.org/>

News

Racist attack on 12-year-old boy in Glasgow investigated

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-27395892>

Boy, 12, racially abused in street

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/boy-12-racially-abused-in-street-1.367613>

Boy, 12, punched in racist attack in Glasgow

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/boy-12-punched-in-racist-attack-in-glasgow-1-3409626>

Man fears for family after gang yells racist abuse

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/man-fears-for-family-after-gang-yells-racist-abuse-1-3409451>

One in four people 'hold anti-Semitic views', survey claims

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/one-in-four-people-hold-antisemitic-views-survey-claims-9370763.html?origin=internalSearch>

One in four people around the world are anti-Semitic and only half are aware of the Holocaust, warns survey

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2627382/Intl-survey-says-anti-Semitic-attitudes-pervasive.html>

19 million Germans have anti-Semitic views, finds survey which shames it as one of the worst countries in western Europe

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2630435/19-MILLION-Germans-anti-Semitic-views-finds-survey-shames-one-worst-countries-western-Europe.html>

Government criticised as anti-racism funding reduced by two-thirds

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/government-criticised-as-anti-racism-funding-reduced-by-two-thirds.24251085>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

New Publication

Marriage of same sex couples across the UK: What's the same and what's different?

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_14-33.pdf

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Question

Female Genital Mutilation

Baroness Valentine: To ask Her Majesty's Government what training is available for general practitioners in identifying cases of female genital mutilation.[HL6866]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The Government published the guidance, *Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines: Female Genital Mutilation* in 2011, which provides advice to health professionals and the steps to be taken when dealing with suspected or actual female genital mutilation (FGM).

The Department is working with NHS England, Health Education England and the Royal Colleges to develop materials and training to support National Health Service staff including general practitioners to better identify and support girls at risk of FGM. Further announcements on this work will be made in due course.

An FGM NHS Choices page (www.nhs.uk/fgm) was recently launched containing information and support for frontline professionals who are concerned about the practice and are seeking advice.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140514w0001.htm#14051464000629>

Press Releases

Census 2011: Detailed characteristics on Population and Households in Scotland

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Census-2011-Detailed-characteristics-on-Population-and-Households-in-Scotland-c82.aspx>

Justice Secretary welcomes launch of info pack on elder abuse

<http://housingnews.co.uk/index.asp?portalid=8&cat=news&period=thisweek#457278>

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Other News

A Meltdown of African Traditions and Cultures in Scotland

Research into the traditions and cultures of African origin families who have immigrated to Scotland or have been born to African immigrants, exploring changes and transformations in the ways of lives of African people who have settled in Scotland. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/14vi_african_traditions.pdf and to take part contact Joseph Lumbasi josephlumbasi@aol.com by Wednesday 4th June.

Halal meat labelling plan rejected by MPs

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-27402428>

Halal meat row: Ministers will consider labelling if there is 'widespread demand'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/agriculture/food/10828907/Halal-meat-row-Ministers-will-consider-labelling-if-there-is-widespread-demand.html>

UK blocked labels on halal meat

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4087163.ece>

Other News (continued)

Top British universities including Oxford and Manchester secretly serve Halal meat to unknowing students

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2630421/Top-British-universities-including-Oxford-Manchester-secretly-serve-Halal-meat-unknowing-students.html>

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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

Prorogation, the formal end of the UK parliamentary year, took place on 14 May. As a result, all Bills that have not been passed and obtained royal assent are set aside. If the government or member sponsoring the bill would like to carry on with the Bill it has to be reintroduced in the next session unless a carry over motion has been passed.

**** Asylum Seekers (Return to Nearest Safe Country) Bill**

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

This Bill was withdrawn and will not progress any further.

**** Asylum (Time Limit) Bill**

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** Charitable Status for Religious Institutions Bill**

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

This Bill was withdrawn and will not progress any further.

**** Collection of Nationality Data Bill**

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** Face Coverings (Prohibition) Bill**

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament (continued)

**** Foreign Nationals (Access to Public Services) Bill**

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill**

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

This Bill was withdrawn and will not progress any further.

**** Immigration Bill**

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

Ping Pong: House of Lords consideration of House of Commons amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140512-0001.htm#14051211000467>

Royal Assent

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140514/debtext/140514-0004.htm#14051476000010>

**** 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>

This Bill was withdrawn and will not progress any further.

**** Romanian and Bulgarian Accession (Labour Restriction) Bill**

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

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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>

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)

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>

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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 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!**

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-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>

**** this week!**

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>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Race Equality and the Referendum**

26 May 2014 in Aberdeen (5.30 – 8.00)

Ethnic Minority Forum in partnership with BEMIS discussion about race equality issues in relation to the Independence Referendum. For information contact Faiza 01224 523183.

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

**** Participation, electoral registration and the independence referendum**

31 May 2014 in Glasgow (10.30 – 12.30)

STUC event to discuss key issues affecting minority ethnic communities, and how best to increase participation in the independence referendum. For information contact Helen Martin 0141 337 8103 / hmartin@stuc.org

**** Equality and Diversity training workshop**

4 June 2014 in Glasgow (9.30 – 12.30)

Positive Action in Housing event providing an opportunity to find out about equality legislation and its practical implications for your organisation. For information contact 0141 353 2220 / training@paih.org

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children and Young People:

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

7 (9.30am-4.30pm) & 8 (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

**** Substance Abuse**

12 June 2014 in Glasgow (10.30 – 1.00)

Bemis in association with Fast Forward workshop to enable minority ethnic community organisations to provide information and run information sessions about substance abuse. For information contact Kayleigh Thorpe Kayleigh.thorpe@bemis.org.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://tinyurl.com/kk9q5b7>

GRAMNet Film Series

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

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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/>

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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