

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	New Publications
Equality	Bills in Progress
Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination	Consultations
Scottish Independence Referendum	Job Opportunities
Other Scottish Parliament and Government	Events/Conferences/Training
	Useful Links

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

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

The UK Parliament is in recess until 3 June 2014.

Immigration and Asylum

New Publications

Monthly asylum application tables

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/312414/asylum-mar2014.ods

Children entering detention under Immigration Act powers

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/312413/children-detention-apr2014.ods

Tables for 'Immigration Statistics, January to March 2014'

Vol 1:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/311772/before-entry1-q1-2014-tabs.ods

Immigration and Asylum New Publications (continued)

Vol 2:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/311773/before-entry2-q1-2014-tabs.ods

Vol 3:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/311774/before-entry3-q1-2014-tabs.ods

Vol 4:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/311777/before-entry4-q1-2014-tabs.ods

Entry clearance visas by length

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/entry-clearance-visas-by-length/entry-clearance-visas-by-length>

Developments in the area of EU migration policy: an overview of three new reports

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/docs/20140522_developments_in_the_area_of_eu_migration_policy_en.pdf

European Commission 5th Annual Report on Immigration and Asylum

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/documents/policies/immigration/general/docs/5th_annual_report_on_immigration_and_asylum_en.pdf

European Commission report on the application of Directive 2009/52/EC of 18 June 2009 providing for minimum standards on sanctions and measures against employers of illegally staying third country nationals

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/documents/policies/immigration/irregular-immigration/docs/communication_on_employer_sanctions_en.pdf

Frequently Asked Questions: the Employer Sanctions Directive

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/docs/20140522_faq_employer_sanction_report_june_2014_final_en.pdf

European Commission report on the implementation of Directive 2009/50/EC on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of highly qualified employment

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/documents/policies/immigration/work/docs/communication_on_the_blue_card_directive_en.pdf

Frequently Asked Questions: the EU Blue Card Directive

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/docs/20140522_faq_blue_card_report_june_2014_final_en.pdf

News

Hundreds of asylum cases set for appeal

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/hundreds-of-asylum-cases-set-for-appeal.24293909>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

The language of asylum decisions

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-view/the-language-of-asylum-decisions.24274295>

Rise in EU immigration to the UK

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-27517379>

Visa for teenager ends a decade of asylum

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/visa-for-teenager-ends-a-decade-of-asylum.24294407>

ONS immigration figures: Surge in EU citizens moving to the UK

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/ons-immigration-figures-surge-in-eu-citizens-moving-to-the-uk-9415841.html>

Cameron urged to rethink vow to halve UK migration

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/cameron-urged-to-rethink-vow-to-halve-uk-migration-1-3420506>

David Cameron sticks to his guns on immigration reduction pledge even while numbers rise

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/david-cameron-sticks-to-his-guns-on-immigration-reduction-pledge-even-while-numbers-rise-9420749.html>

Romanian tales to set against Nigel Farage's fear-mongering

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/eu-and-local-elections-2014-romanian-tales-to-set-against-nigel-farages-fearmongering-9413636.html>

The TRUTH revealed about Romanian and Bulgarian migrants: Nearly 50,000 applied to work in Britain in first three months of year

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2636782/The-TRUTH-revealed-Romanian-Bulgarian-migrants-Nearly-50-000-signed-work-three-months-year.html>

Hundreds of asylum seekers 'wrongly deported' after 'inappropriate' advice from Swedish linguistics firm

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/hundreds-of-asylum-seekers-wrongly-deported-after-inappropriate-advice-from-swedish-linguistics-firm-9421187.html?origin=internalSearch>

Annual net migration to UK was 212,000 in final quarter of 2013

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/may/22/net-migration-uk-212000-final-quarter-2013>

Get the data: how UK migration patterns changed over the past year

<http://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2014/may/22/get-the-data-how-uk-migration-patterns-changed-over-the-past-year>

Rise in EU immigrants put target limit even further away

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4097041.ece>

Britons travelling or studying abroad refused benefits on return

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/may/21/britons-travelling-studying-abroad-forced-jobcentre-residency-test>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Home Office makes 'secret' payments to embassies for deportees' travel papers

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/may/21/home-office-secret-payments-embassies-deportees-travel-documents>

Immigration is on the up. Of course it is – desperate foreigners are bound to want a small share of what we've got

<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/may/19/immigration-desperate-foreigners-current-leaders-anti-foreigner-upstarts-hatred-generous-poor>

500,000 migrants needed: Treasury

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/500-000-migrants-needed-treasury-1.386206>

Independent Scotland 'will need ½m migrants'

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/independent-scotland-will-need-m-migrants-1-3421614>

Young interpreter scheme helps schools promote cultural diversity

<http://www.theguardian.com/public-leaders-network/2014/may/25/young-interpreter-scheme-schoolchildren>

[TOP](#)

Equality

New Publication

How place influences employment outcomes for ethnic minorities

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/ethnicity-employment-location-full.pdf>

News

Lack of ethnic minority headteachers is 'scandalous'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/lack-of-ethnic-minority-headteachers-is-scandalous-9431969.html>

[TOP](#)

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Questions

Racial Intolerance and Hate Crime

Graeme Pearson: To ask the First Minister what the Scottish Government is doing to tackle racial intolerance and hate crime. (S4F-02120)

Reply from the First Minister (Alex Salmond): Racist incidents are decreasing. In 2012-13, 4,628 such incidents were recorded, which is 13 per cent fewer than there were in 2006-07. The clear-up rate, which is crucial, is also improving—it is up 3 per cent.

However, there is much more to be done. In February, we launched the speak up

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

against hate crime awareness campaign to help victims of and witnesses to hate crime report all incidents to Police Scotland. We have provided £60 million of funding for a range of equality projects between 2012 and 2015, which is more than double the £28 million that the Labour-Liberal Democrat coalition provided between 2004 and 2007. The funding includes more than £8 million that we are using to support 40 local and national organisations in their work to break down barriers to racial equality.

Graeme Pearson: In that context, can the First Minister explain why the Scottish Government is cutting by more than two thirds the funding to the only national charity focused on anti-racism? The Show Racism the Red Card charity received funding of £70,000 in 2012-13, but the figure fell to £40,000 last year and the intention is that it will be £20,000 this year.

Reply from the First Minister: Perhaps that is not what Graeme Pearson meant to say, because I have a list here of 40 local and national organisations across Scotland that benefit from the budgets that I have just outlined, which are substantially more than the budgets that were allocated when his party was in office.

If the member would like, I will start reading them out. They include Access Apna Ghar, Amina, Article 12 in Scotland, BEMIS, the Bridges Programmes, Bridging the Gap, the Red Cross and the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights. I could go on right through the alphabet—[Interruption.] Graeme Pearson suggested, and it may have been a mistake, that only one national organisation was active in this field. Many, many organisations are being supported by the Scottish Government.

A funding package was signed up to and agreed with the particular organisation that Graeme Pearson mentioned. The other 40 all do valuable work across Scotland. Nothing should be said—even if it was a mistake or a misapprehension—that diminishes the work that is being done by those vital organisations.

It is vital that we acknowledge that work because, although we have made progress on the issues, a huge amount has still to be done. As Graeme Pearson and I both know, there are people in society who seek to take advantage of racial divisions. They must be combated in every possible sense in the chamber and at the ballot box.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9193&mode=html#job_82919

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-10093 Dave Thompson: Highlighting the Plight of Persecuted Christians— That the Parliament condemns the escalating persecution of Christians in certain countries; further condemns any form of religious persecution against all faiths and none; recognises that there is very little such persecution in Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch; supports those people and organisations that work toward removing religious intolerance from society; notes calls for the matter to be highlighted across Scotland and for concerns to be raised about the discrimination of minorities across the world, and understands that the Scottish Government will raise these issues wherever it can and that, as a good global citizen, Scotland will support the right to religious freedom and assist where possible in ending any oppression of religious minorities.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-10093&ResultsPerPage=10>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination (continued) **News**

Racism is far more than old white men using the N-word

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/may/18/racism-more-than-old-white-men-using-n-word>

[TOP](#)

Scottish Independence Referendum

Scottish Parliament Publication

Report on the Scottish Government's proposals for an independent Scotland: membership of the European Union

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/76844.aspx>

[TOP](#)

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Motion

S4M-10092 Bruce Crawford: Volunteers' Week—That the Parliament congratulates the national body for volunteering, Volunteer Scotland, on its 30th anniversary; believes that it promotes, develops and inspires volunteers in communities throughout Scotland; understands that the anniversary coincides with the 30th annual Volunteers' Week, which will take place in the first week of June 2014; recognises and celebrates what it sees as the value of volunteering across communities, and believes that, through the promotion of civic democracy based on the principles of freedom of expression and association, volunteering supports and enhances life in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-10092&ResultsPerPage=10>

[TOP](#)

New Publication

Balancing caring and earning for British Caribbean, Pakistani and Somali people

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/care-income-ethnicity-full.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Assisted Suicide Bill

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

Bills in Progress Scottish Parliament (continued)

Criminal Justice Bill

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

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes 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

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>

**** Light on: perceptions and interpretations of expressions** (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BPJCY6J>

[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/>

**MULTICULTURAL
HOMECOMING 2014**

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/>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

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.

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

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

**** Meet the Funder Workshop - Heritage Lottery Fund**

3 June 2014 in Glasgow (11.00 – 1.00)

The Heritage Lottery Fund are keen to fund projects with the diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities of Scotland. Heritage can be about your culture and traditions, your community's memories and stories, and your environment – whether it's the buildings around you or the natural spaces you visit. It's about you and what's important to your communities. For information contact Kayleigh Thorpe Kayleigh.thorpe@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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

** Scotland's Census Conference

25 June 2014 in Edinburgh (10.00–4.00)

National Records of Scotland / British Society for Population Studies conference to share information about current and planned census analyses and to discuss where collaboration could result in improved understanding and benefits to Scotland and its people. For information see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/scotlands-census-conference-tickets-11345184753> or contact 2011comms@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk

** Delivering Human Rights - A Constitution for Scotland

27 June 2014 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.15)

Human Rights Consortium Scotland conference to discuss how to raise awareness of human rights, and promote economic, social, cultural, civil, political and environmental rights. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/nbbvlxy> or contact hrcscotland@gmail.com

[TOP](#)

Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/home.htm>

Scottish Government <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Home>

UK Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>

GovUK (links to UK Government Departments) <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>

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

One Scotland Many Cultures <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

Scottish Refugee Council <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

Interfaith Scotland <http://www.interfaithscotland.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>

Useful Links (continued)

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.