

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with **BEMIS - empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities**. It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.*

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

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

The UK Parliament is in recess until 3 June 2014.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Debate

Immigration Policy (Higher Education)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9210&mode=html#iob_83067

Scottish Parliament Motions

S4M-10147 Humza Yousaf: The Impact of Immigration Policy on Higher Education in Scotland—That the Parliament is proud that Scotland is an attractive destination for international students; recognises that a culturally diverse student and teaching body in Scottish higher education institutions enriches intellectual, social and cultural life; welcomes the valuable contribution that international students make to the Scottish economy; shares the serious concerns raised by university principals and vice-chancellors that current UK immigration policy is damaging to the higher education sector

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Motions (continued)

and to Scotland's international reputation; believes that Scotland must distance itself from the negative rhetoric of the UK Government and its restrictive immigration policies, and further believes that an immigration policy designed to meet Scotland's needs, including a post-study work visa scheme, is needed to meet Scotland's educational, social and economic ambitions.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-10147&ResultsPerPage=10>

S4M-10147.1 Liz Smith: The Impact of Immigration Policy on Higher Education in Scotland—As an amendment to motion S4M-10147 in the name of Humza Yousaf (The Impact of Immigration Policy on Higher Education in Scotland), leave out from "shares" to end and insert "sympathises with the concerns expressed by university principals and vice-chancellors regarding the lack of sufficient flexibility in the student visa system, but believes that UK immigration policy must be placed in context; recognises that, under the previous Labour administration, the student visa system was routinely abused and that measures had to be taken to address this; understands that a balance needs to be struck between welcoming international students and maintaining public confidence in the immigration system, and calls on the UK Government to continue to engage with Scottish universities so that their concerns are addressed as quickly as possible."

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-10147.1&ResultsPerPage=10>

S4M-10147.2 Liam McArthur: The Impact of Immigration Policy on Higher Education in Scotland—As an amendment to motion S4M-10147 in the name of Humza Yousaf (The Impact of Immigration Policy on Higher Education in Scotland), leave out from "shares" to end and insert "notes the comments of the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, who has made the case for international students studying in the UK; notes in particular his view that declining international student numbers being seen as a triumph for immigration control is 'absurd' and 'seriously distorting the debate on sensible university policy'; recognises that there is no cap on the number of overseas students able to study in the UK and that the UK Government has no intention of introducing one; welcomes the concessions secured by the Liberal Democrats to the UK Immigration Bill to ensure that the UK still attracts skilled and talented people who want to study or work hard and contribute to economic growth and wider society, and welcomes the positive statements that have been made by the UK Government about the value of international students."

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-10147.2&ResultsPerPage=10>

S4M-10147.3 Neil Bibby: The Impact of Immigration Policy on Higher Education in Scotland—As an amendment to motion S4M-10147 in the name of Humza Yousaf (The Impact of Immigration Policy on Higher Education in Scotland), leave out from second "that Scotland" to end and insert "in a modern, welcoming and inclusive Scotland where the diversity of its many cultures is celebrated; recognises the success of Labour's Fresh Talent initiative, which encouraged foreign nationals to work, study and thereafter stay in Scotland; believes that independence would threaten higher education in Scotland through its impact on research council funding and the ability to promote Scotland's universities on a global stage through the UK's network of embassies and consulates, and also believes that there would be significant legal and financial consequences of the Scottish Government's intention to discriminate against students from the rest of the UK in the event of independence."

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-10147.3&ResultsPerPage=10>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **Press Release**

Call for post-study work visa

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Call-for-post-study-work-visa-cf5.aspx>

News

May says Coalition rows stop cuts to net migration

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/wider-political-news/may-says-coalition-rows-stop-cuts-to-net-migration.24313257>

Sharp rise in illegal immigrant employees

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/local/angus-the-mearns/sharp-rise-in-illegal-immigrant-employees-1.398126>

I am a British citizen – not a second-class citizen

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/may/26/british-citizen-passport-control>

Sajid Javid and Chuka Umunna unite over immigration concerns

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/may/31/sajid-javid-chuka-umunna-unite-over-immigration-concerns>

The UK must rethink its immigration detention centres

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/may/30/uk-rethink-immigration-detention-centres-cost-numbers>

Let's not pretend that people aren't worried about immigration

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/may/28/not-pretend-worried-immigration-ukip>

Deportation reprieve for Nigerians amid female genital mutilation fears

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/may/29/nigerians-given-last-minute-deportation-reprieve>

Immigration will push population up by 4m

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4103866.ece>

'We must close our borders to migrants who burden Britain': Senior Tory adds fuel to incendiary debate over immigration from EU that is dividing the Cabinet

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2644856/Dr-Liam-Fox-adds-fuel-incendiary-debate-immigration-EU-dividing-Cabinet.html>

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Community Relations

New Publication

How has ethnic diversity changed in Scotland?

<http://www.ethnicity.ac.uk/medialibrary/briefings/dynamicsofdiversity/code-census-briefing-scotland.pdf>

Community Relations (continued)

News

Scotland 'becoming more ethnically diverse'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-27580594>

Ethnic diversity is on the increase

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/ethnic-diversity-is-on-the-increase.24329979>

Ethnic diversity rising, poll says

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/ethnic-diversity-rising-poll-says-1.389778>

One in six Scottish households 'mixed ethnicity'

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/one-in-six-scottish-households-mixed-ethnicity-1-3423548>

First-time voters far happier with UK's ethnic mix than over-60s

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/firsttime-voters-far-happier-with-uks-ethnic-mix-than-over60s-9456674.html>

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Equality

New Publication

The economic and social mobility of ethnic minority communities in Northern Ireland

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/ethnic-minorities-northern-ireland-full.pdf>

News

Could Oxford University do more to encourage black students?

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/may/26/could-oxford-university-do-more-encourage-black-students>

Why aren't there more non-white people in children's books?

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-politics/10862790/Why-arent-there-more-black-people-in-childrens-books.html>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

New Publication

30 years of British Social Attitudes self-reported racial prejudice data

<http://www.natcen.ac.uk/media/338770/selfreported-racial-prejudice-datafinal.pdf>

News

Racism on the rise in Britain

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/may/27/-sp-racism-on-rise-in-britain>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

British attitudes: race against time

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/may/27/british-attitudes-race-against-time>

Racism in the UK: can we really measure racial prejudice?

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/may/27/racism-in-uk-can-we-measure-racial-prejudice>

The fight against racial prejudice is far from won. But look how far we've come

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/may/29/fight-against-prejudice-far-from-won-but-how-far-weve-come>

Racism is still with us – let's stop lying to ourselves

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/may/28/racism-is-still-with-us-lying-britain-survey-racial>

Everyone's a little bit racist, sometimes

<http://www.theguardian.com/science/brain-flapping/2014/may/29/racist-racism-study-uk>

Racism 'on the rise' in UK with 1 in 3 people admitting prejudice

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/racism-on-the-rise-in-uk-with-1-in-3-people-admitting-prejudice-9443555.html>

Welsh youngsters learn to rethink racism

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/may/27/welsh-youngsters-rethink-racism-think-project>

My mixed-race daughter has been called the P-word for the first time

<http://www.theguardian.com/theobserver/she-said/2014/may/29/my-mixed-race-daughter-has-been-called-the-p-word-for-the-first-time>

Battle against racism hindered as fans and clubs deny its existence

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/battle-against-racism-hindered-as-fans-and-clubs-deny-its-existence.24326151>

Racial prejudice is rising, by our own admission

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4101866.ece>

9/11 'fuelled racial prejudice'

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/9-11-fuelled-racial-prejudice-1.392326>

Rise in Scots who admit to being racist

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/rise-in-scots-who-admit-to-being-racist-1.392069>

Racist tweets land Celtic fan in prison

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/racist-tweets-land-celtic-fan-in-prison.24366738>

Northern Ireland's first minister called on to apologise publicly to Muslims

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/may/31/peter-robinson-called-to-issue-public-apology-for-insulting-muslims>

Only Chinese-born parliamentarian in UK to quit politics over racist abuse

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/may/29/northern-ireland-chinese-mp-might-leave-province-racist-abuse>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

'I didn't mean to insult Muslim community': Northern Ireland First Minister Peter Robinson claims Islam comments 'were misinterpreted'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/i-didnt-mean-to-insult-muslim-community-northern-irelands-peter-robinson-claims-islam-comments-were-misinterpreted-9455207.html>

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Scottish Independence Referendum

Other Publication

Referend-erm: website for young people about the independence referendum

<http://referend-erm.com/>

News

Scottish independence: Academic praises 'Referend-erm?' project

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-27620517>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Motion

S4M-10173 Sandra White: Congratulations to Roshni on its £246,948 Grant—That the Parliament congratulates Roshni on being awarded what it considers an extremely generous £246,948 from the Big Lottery Fund's Investing in Communities: Supporting 21st Century Life programme; recognises that Roshni works extensively with minority ethnic communities and partners across Scotland to address issues that affect many of these communities in order to improve the lives of and support for the people in them; understands that the grant will be used to continue Roshni's wide range of services and research projects as well as to implement a new project that will deliver intensive, tailored family support to 35 disadvantaged minority ethnic families in their own homes, as well as a further 543 families through information and network sessions, and wishes Roshni every continued success.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-10173&ResultsPerPage=10>

New Publication

European Parliament Election 2014

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_14-38.pdf

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Other News

Muslim groups join in 'jihad' to outlaw female mutilation
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/health/news/article4100044.ece>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Assisted Suicide Bill

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

Criminal Justice Bill

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

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Consultations ** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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>

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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/>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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/>

**** this week!**

Language of Home in Scotland

3 June 2014 in Glasgow (3.00 – 5.00)

The first of three seminars offered by BEMIS, in partnership with GRAMNet (Glasgow Refugee, Asylum & Migration Network) and the University of Glasgow reflecting on the historic structure of diversity in Scotland (Intangible Cultural Heritage, Citizenship and Home). For information contact seminars@bemis.org.uk

**** this week!**

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.

**** this week!**

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

**** National Youth Independence Referendum**

15 June 2014 in Stirling (9.00 – 12.30)

Partnership event between BEMIS Scotland, Youth Scotland, and A&M Training, to provide an opportunity for young people aged 14-25 to put their questions to a panel of representatives from both sides of the independence debate. For information and to book a place, contact events@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

** Ethnic Minority 3rd Sector Network

22 July 2014 in Edinburgh (7.00 – 9.00)

BEMIS event in partnership with CEMVO Scotland to discuss the Independence Referendum with representatives of the Yes ,and Better Together campaigns. For information and book a place, contact Danny Boyle danny.boyle@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047 or Fiaz Khan fiaz.khan@cemvoscotland.org.uk / 0141 248 4830.

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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/>

Useful Links (continued)

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/>