

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.

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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Questions

Entry Clearances

David Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the change in waiting times for an initial decision for Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) visa applications in the last year; what the average waiting time is for an initial decision for a Tier 1 application; and what assessment she has made of the economic effect of the time taken for such decisions on economic growth. [199152]

Reply from James Brokenshire: The average waiting time for a Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) customer in the financial year 2013-14 was 125 calendar days. The number of days taken to process applications dropped by 50 days over the course of the financial year and processing times continue to decrease.

A record number of applications were decided in the financial year 2013-14, and there is nothing to suggest that processing times are deterring entrepreneurs from applying.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

<i>Month despatched</i>	<i>Average calendar days between application raised date and despatch date</i>
April 2013	131
May 2013	148
June 2013	142
July 2013	129
August 2013	134
September 2013	126
October 2013	96
November 2013	108
December 2013	114
January 2014	141
February 2014	97
March 2014	81
Overall Average/Total Cases	125

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140612/text/140612w0001.htm#1406133000014>

Entry Clearances: Commonwealth

Mark Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work visas were issued to people from Commonwealth countries in (a) 2010, (b) 2011, (c) 2012 and (d) 2013. [199737]

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

<i>Work-related UK entry clearance visas issued 2010 to 2013: current Commonwealth member state nationalities</i>	
	<i>Number</i>
2010	105,146
2011	95,625
2012	90,567
2013	96,593

Note: Includes dependants. Data are based on nationalities granted work-related visas corresponding to the current Commonwealth Members listed at: <http://thecommonwealth.org/member-countries> Source: Table be06_q_w (Before Entry tables volume 3), Immigration Statistics January to March 2014

The latest Home Office immigration statistics on entry clearance visas granted (by category and by individual nationality) are published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics release, which is available from the Library of the House and on the Department's website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140612/text/140612w0001.htm#1406133000015>

Asylum: Housing

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers were accommodated in (a) hotels and (b) bed and breakfasts, hostels and other establishments that provide lodging paid on a short-term basis in (i) Barnsley, (ii) Yorkshire and Humberside and (iii) the UK in each year since May 2010. [199171]

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from James Brokenshire: The department does not collect specific data on asylum applicants accommodated in contingency accommodation. COMPASS providers have a responsibility to provide suitable accommodation to asylum applicants. The COMPASS contracts allow providers to use alternative or temporary initial accommodation (IA) as contingency in exceptional circumstances, for example when the existing nominated IA is full. This may include the use of hotels for a short term period until such time as the asylum seeker is accommodated in the IA or provided with dispersal accommodation.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure oversight and scrutiny of private contractors responsible for the accommodation of asylum seekers. [199173]

Reply from James Brokenshire: The providers are contractually required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation to comply with the Housing Act 2004 and the Decent Homes Standard. The COMPASS contracts contain high standards and requirements to be met by providers in the services they provide to asylum applicants. The contracts also contain robust monitoring mechanism including regular meetings and inspection of services. Where standards are not met, providers reimburse the department in the form of service credits.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to ensure proper support and welfare is available to asylum seekers accommodated in hotels and other establishments that provide lodging paid on a short-term basis. [199174]

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office has a rigorous contract compliance regime in place including monthly meetings with providers, quarterly and biannual strategic meetings. These aim to ensure the required performance standards expected of all providers as defined in the contracts is met. In addition, the COMPASS contracts contain minimum standards of welfare that the provider must ensure is provided to asylum applicants, this includes briefing applicants on services to which they are entitled.

For example giving details of how to use facilities in the accommodation, access to essential services in the local area and contact details for the provider and department so any concerns can be addressed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140610/text/140610w0001.htm#14061079000042>

Human Trafficking

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of victims of human trafficking through the UK; and if she will make a statement. [198785]

Reply from Karen Bradley: In 2013 the UK National Referral Mechanism (NRM) received 1,746 referrals of potential victims of trafficking. However, trafficking is a covert crime and victims are often hidden, making it difficult to establish the true scale of the issue.

The National Crime Agency's UK Human Trafficking Centre publishes an annual assessment of the number of victims of human trafficking. The most recent assessment was published in August 2013 and can be found on the NCA website:

www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk

The Government is determined to lead the global fight against human trafficking (including modern slavery), and has introduced the Modern Slavery Bill. The Bill will give law enforcement the tools to stamp out modern slavery, and enhance protection for victims. To complement the Bill, the Government is also ramping up

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

non-legislative action to tackle this abhorrent crime.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140611/text/140611w0001.htm#14061165000087>

Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery

Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale: To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they intend to take to combat human trafficking and modern slavery.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): My Lords, this Government are taking a number of important steps to tackle human trafficking and modern slavery. The Modern Slavery Bill will strengthen protection of victims and bring perpetrators to justice. In addition, a comprehensive programme of activity is under way to improve the operational response, including better identification of and support for victims. The Home Secretary also launched the Santa Marta group, which brings together senior international law enforcement chiefs to tackle perpetrators.

Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale: My Lords, I warmly welcome the introduction of the Modern Slavery Bill earlier this week in the other place. I wish the Government well with its progress. However, it seems essential that the position of victims is at the centre of our discussions on this. In Scotland, there are more victims in jail than there are perpetrators. I mention that for two reasons. First, it seems that the independent legal advocacy required for victims is an essential part of the Government's trial of advocates later this year. I would welcome a commitment from the Minister on that. Secondly, coherence across the United Kingdom on this between legislation here and that in the Scottish Parliament is also vital. If the Minister would commit to working on that coherence, it would be very welcome indeed.

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: I am very happy to reassure the noble Lord on that point; the Government have worked and are working very closely with the Scottish Government on tackling modern slavery. The Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Justice is a member of the interdepartmental ministerial group on human trafficking. We continue to work with all the devolved Administrations to assess whether the provisions of the Bill are applicable and can be extended during its passage to include devolved authorities. The noble Lord will know that providing a defence for victims is part and parcel of the Modern Slavery Bill.

Lord McColl of Dulwich: Will the Minister join me in congratulating the Home Secretary on securing this Bill, which will do so much to eliminate this appalling, evil trade?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: I am delighted to do so. I also congratulate my noble friend on seeing some seven years' campaigning in this House brought to success in such a Bill. It is definitely a matter in which the Home Secretary herself is very much involved. I am sure that all noble Lords will welcome the Bill when it arrives here later in the year.

Baroness Butler-Sloss: My Lords, I, too, congratulate the Government on the Bill, but will they reconsider their omission of the supply chain from its contents?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: I do not want this to be a self-congratulatory Question, but the noble and learned Baroness has been instrumental through her leadership of the pre-legislative scrutiny in presenting the Government with opportunities to consider aspects of the Bill, many of which have of course been incorporated. Yesterday, the Home Secretary met representatives of the British retail industry. It was a very successful meeting. As the noble Baroness will know, we believe that the best way of tackling supply-chain abuse is through a code that all retailers will sign up to.

Baroness Doocey: My Lords, how can the Government justify their stated belief that new offences such as child trafficking and child exploitation should not be included in the

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Modern Slavery Bill on the basis that they will be less familiar to the judiciary than existing legislation?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: I know that the noble Baroness, who was also a member of the pre-legislative scrutiny committee on the Bill, has a particular point of view on this matter. It is the Government's view that modern slavery is about not just children but also adults, and that the law on modern slavery needs to be clearly applied to everybody who is a victim of this dreadful scourge.

Baroness Royall of Blaisdon: My Lords, as has been said, we welcome the Bill, but clearly we will give it very proper scrutiny in this House when it arrives, because there may well be things that we wish to add. Having said that, I am delighted that it focuses on victims and perpetrators, but looking at the situation at Iraq at the moment—we look with horror at what is happening in Mosul—what can be done on the ground to ensure that people are not exploited as they flee from these terrible conditions?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: Yes, I think that the whole House is concerned about developments in Mosul and Iraq in general. They are creating huge problems, which I know my noble friend Lady Warsi will be concerned about seeking to alleviate—to the extent of our ability to do so. Of course, the Bill concentrates on a problem that is clearly within our control and up to us to deal with here, within the United Kingdom. That is the right place to start. I would not deny that modern slavery is an international problem that needs tackling on an international scale.

Lord Hylton: My Lords, the effect that the new Bill will have is at present quite uncertain. However, can the noble Lord give the House any figures for prosecutions of people either for trafficking or keeping others in sexual or domestic slavery?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: The latest figures that I have show that the number involved is not large. There were 34 people charged with human trafficking offences in 2012, while 148 cases were recorded by the Crown Prosecution Service as being linked to human trafficking although another offence was charged. The whole point of the Bill is that we recognise that the piecemeal legislation by which we have tried to deal with this business is not adequate. That is why the Bill is focused on this particular problem. I hope that it will strengthen the ability of prosecution authorities to make successful prosecutions.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140612-0001.htm#14061242000617>

Press Release

Modern Slavery Bill published

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/modern-slavery-bill-published>

New Publications

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children: funding instructions

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/319068/2014-15_UASC_Funding.doc

Migrants Invisible in UK Media

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/229372612/Migrants-Invisible-in-UK-Media#>

Immigration and Asylum

New Publications (continued)

Poverty among refugees and asylum seekers in the UK

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/college-social-sciences/social-policy/iris/2014/working-paper-series/IRiS-WP-1-2014.pdf>

United Nations Human Rights Council: Summary of the consultations held on the draft basic principles on the right to effective remedy for victims of trafficking in persons

http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session26/Documents/A_HRC_26_18_ENG.DOC

News

Police officer tells how he helped bring asylum seekers and locals together in troubled Scots housing schemes

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/police-officer-tells-how-helped-3677500>

British police being taught to speak Roma after series of violent clashes between Eastern European migrants and locals

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2656163/Police-taught-speak-Roma-series-violent-clashes-Eastern-European-migrants-locals.html>

First-time voters want Britain to remain a haven for refugees

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/jun/14/yougov-first-time-voters-refugees>

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Community Relations

Press Releases

Pupils look to Polish-Scottish festival

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Pupils-look-to-Polish-Scottish-festival-db2.aspx>

British values: article by David Cameron

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-values-article-by-david-cameron>

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Equality

UK Parliament Question

Travellers: Education

Baroness Whitaker: To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish their report on pilots of a virtual head teacher system expressly aimed at redressing the inequalities in education experienced by Gypsies and Travellers.[HL22]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Nash): Two local authorities, Kent and Cambridgeshire, have been involved in

piloting the role of a virtual head teacher who helped schools to engage with

Equality

UK Parliament Question (continued)

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) pupils to improve their school attendance and attainment.

These local authorities are currently finalising their summaries of the projects. The Department for Education will work with these authorities and the GRT education stakeholder group, chaired by the noble Lady, to determine the most appropriate way to disseminate the outcomes of this work.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140612w0001.htm#14061247000140>

Northern Ireland Assembly Questions

Q5: Racial Equality Strategy

Mr McCarthy asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the development of a racial equality strategy. (AQO 6276/11-15) ...

Reply from Ms J McCann: The deputy First Minister has already outlined in an earlier answer that we hope that it will be in only a matter of days. A number of events will be held in areas where there is a high proportion of minority ethnic people, and events will be facilitated in different languages, where relevant. We hope that that will be very soon.

Mr McCarthy: Given the hugely detrimental publicity around the world for Northern Ireland as a result of the disgraceful diatribe and venom coming from a Belfast pulpit recently, the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister must be hugely embarrassed and, indeed, ashamed that, in seven years, a strategy to tackle racial inequality has not been produced. Will the junior Minister tell the Assembly what specific issues have held up the strategy for seven years, and, if and when the strategy comes, will there be sufficient resources available to see it implemented without further delay?

Reply from Ms J McCann: Yes, I agree with the Member that it is unacceptable that it has taken so long. There have been issues on which we have needed political agreement, but those have hopefully been resolved, and we want to see the strategy published as soon as possible.

We believe that the strategy will be adequately resourced, and we will also set out in the strategy a number of points that we are specifically looking at to take it forward. The points include the elimination of racial inequality; combating racism and hate crime; the equality of service provision; participation; social cohesion; and capacity building for groups. Alongside the strategy, there will be a separate fund of £1.1 million from the minority ethnic development fund, which will also go some way.

However, I totally agree with you. The length of time that this has taken is totally unacceptable.

Ms McGahan: ... we understand the importance of the publication of the racial equality strategy, but what is OFMDFM doing to address the increase in racial attacks?

Reply from Ms J McCann: As I said last week when I spoke in the Assembly's debate on racist attacks, the strategy will in some part help, but much more needs to be done. One of the best things that we can do, as the deputy First Minister outlined in answer to a previous question, is stand together and show our support for those people who feel vulnerable and under threat. That goes right across society, for political, Church and community leaders.

We are also going to be taking a number of initiatives in the short term. For instance, we will look at having a leaflet campaign to try to send a visual message to our ethnic minority people. We will look to try to develop a multi-agency approach like there is, for instance, in south Belfast through the Round Table. We

Equality

Northern Ireland Assembly Questions (continued)

are going to try to put that in place in east, north and west Belfast and we are going to take the Unite Against Hate initiative forward again. So, there are a number of proposals and interventions that we are making, as well as putting out the strategy. Some are short term and immediate, some are medium term, and others will be more long term. However, I think that, at the minute, the important thing is to show support and solidarity to people out there.

The following link is to the beginning of questions to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister. There is no direct link to the above questions

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Assembly-Business/Official-Report/Reports-13-14/09-June-2014/#5>

News

Ethnic minorities face barriers to social mobility and job opportunities

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/jun/12/ethnic-minorities-social-mobility-employment>

Ethnic minorities, employment and social mobility: see the research findings

<http://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2014/jun/12/ethnic-minorities-employment-and-social-mobility-see-the-research-findings>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Question

Racial Abuse in Schools

John Wilson: To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to eradicate racial abuse in schools. (S4W-21667)

Reply from Alasdair Allan: All children and young people should be able to learn in schools free from discrimination to enable them to make the most of their learning. We want every child and young person in Scotland to grow up free from bullying and we want them to develop mutually respectful, responsible and confident relationships with other children, young people and adults.

Curriculum for Excellence aims to provide the right environment to enable young people to develop as informed and responsible global citizens with a knowledge of Scotland and its place in the world and an understanding of different beliefs and cultures. Racism can be addressed across the curriculum for example in expressive arts, health and wellbeing, literacy and English, religious and moral education and social studies.

Citizenship education is embedded throughout Curriculum for Excellence. The aim is to develop Scotland's children and young people into responsible global citizens with an understanding of Scotland and its place in the world. It addresses the exercising of rights and responsibilities within communities at local, national and global levels, encompassing the development of informed decision making and the ability to take thoughtful and responsible action, locally and globally.

We are clear that bullying of any kind is unacceptable, regardless of the motivation, and should be tackled quickly.

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Question (continued)

The Equality Act 2010 places duties on local authorities to actively deal with inequality, this may include, harassment or victimisation of pupils on the basis, or a perceived basis, of their race. We continue to support the national anti-bullying service, respectme, which works with schools, authorities and communities in preventing and tackling bullying effectively. The service provides advice, information and training to those who work directly with children and young people to support improvement in preventing and tackling bullying of any kind. The service works to raise awareness of all types of bullying, including a section on its website covering prejudice bullying.

Education Scotland is the Scottish Government's executive agency responsible for the national development and improvement of education. It is charged with providing support and challenge to the education system, from early years to adult learning. Education Scotland has a number of useful resources available on their website to practitioners on tackling the issue of racism in schools in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-21667&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Question

Racial Discrimination

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the factors contributing to the increased level of racial prejudice in Britain, as reported in the British Social Attitudes 31st report by NatCen; and what advice has been provided or is expected to be provided by the Equality and Human Rights Commission on the matter in accordance with its statutory duties.[HL38]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Stowell of Beeston) (Con):

The figures from the British Social Attitudes survey do not show an increased level of prejudice, but are actually more complex. The figures fluctuate from year to year, but the long-term trends are a decline in self-reported prejudice. Causal factors are likely to include the aftermath of the 9/11 and 7/7 attacks, different attitudes to changing immigration and (in a positive way) the 2012 Olympics. The dataset can be viewed online at:

<http://www.natcen.ac.uk/media/338779/selfreported-racial-prejudice-datafinal.pdf>

The Government has a comprehensive programme of activities to build strong and more united communities, tackle hate crime, harness the work of faith groups and commemorate our common heritage. I have placed in the Library illustrations which summarise our work, which also can be found online at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/communitiesuk/sets/72157644380501531/>

The Commission's next periodic report on progress on its statutory duties, including tackling unlawful discrimination and harassment, is due to be published in 2015.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140612w0001.htm#14061247000135>

Northern Ireland Assembly Questions

Q2: Muslim Community

Mr McKay asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how they are tackling prejudice and prejudicial views towards the Muslim community. (AQO 6273/11-15)

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination Northern Ireland Assembly Questions (continued)

Reply from Mr M McGuinness: The Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister is committed to racial, ethnic and religious equality. We support the good relations work of the Belfast Islamic Centre through our minority ethnic development fund, and we will soon launch a revised racial equality strategy entitled, 'A Sense of Belonging'. As part of the consultation process, we will run public events to allow all people to contribute to the document. I encourage everyone to get involved in the process. The strategy must be fresh, informed and focused on the needs of the individuals and families that it represents. We can do that only if there is full participation not just from the minority ethnic sector but from everyone who wants to see all forms of prejudice and religious intolerance challenged and defeated.

Mr McKay: ... There is no doubt that recent comments about the Muslim community have been hurtful primarily to many in our community; however, they also undermine your work in trying to attract foreign direct investment to our shores. ...

Reply from Mr M McGuinness: Obviously, I agree with the Member that the events of the last couple of weeks have been shameful, and the comments of Pastor McConnell were very unfortunate. He has apologised for those comments, but their dramatic effect on the Muslim community in Belfast was evidenced by the conversations that we have had with the Muslim community at the Islamic Centre in south Belfast. Clearly, people were placed in an atmosphere of fear to such a point where one young woman who is a teacher in some of the schools said that she was afraid to go to her work. That is absolutely unacceptable. The steps that have been taken in the last short while to correct the situation were much needed. This will impact, if not handled correctly by us, on our prospects of attracting foreign direct investment. The story travelled all round the world, and I think that it was very damaging.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see the following link – but please note that this goes to the beginning of questions to the the First Minister and Deputy First Minister; there is no direct link to individual questions

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Assembly-Business/Official-Report/Reports-13-14/09-June-2014/#5>

Press Releases

Hate crime statistics

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Hate-crime-statistics-d98.aspx>

Lord Advocate speaks on Hate Crime in Scotland

<http://www.copfs.gov.uk/media-site/media-releases/774-lord-advocate-speaks-on-hate-crime-in-scotland>

Hate Crime in Scotland, 2013-14

<http://www.copfs.gov.uk/media-site/latest-news-from-copfs/773-hate-crime-in-scotland-2013-14>

New Publications

Hate Crime in Scotland 2013-14

http://www.copfs.gov.uk/images/Documents/Equality_Diversity/Hate%20Crime%20in%20Scotland%202013-14.pdf

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

New Publications (continued)

Religiously Aggravated Offending in Scotland 2013-14

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0045/00452559.pdf>

Charges Reported under the Offensive Behaviour at Football & Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0045/00452585.pdf>

News

Hate crimes fall at Scottish football matches

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-27831673>

Reports of hate crimes against gay people rise

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/reports-of-hate-crimes-against-gay-people-rise.24484578>

A growing intolerance of intolerance itself

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-view/a-growing-intolerance-of-intolerance-itself.24466451>

Scotland sees 22% rise in sexuality hate crimes

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/scotland-sees-22-rise-in-sexuality-hate-crimes-1-3443435>

Religious hate crimes down by a quarter

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/religious-hate-crimes-down-by-a-quarter-167344n.24484658>

22% rise in sexuality hate crimes

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/u/22-rise-in-sexuality-hate-crimes.1402667305>

Racism in Northern Ireland: 'They called our children monkeys'

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/jun/12/racism-northern-ireland-couple-tell-abuse-belfast>

New figures reveal dramatic increase in hate crimes against Polish people

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/jun/11/polish-people-rise-in-attacks-blame-recession-politicians-media>

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Scottish Independence Referendum

UK Government Publication

What staying in the United Kingdom means for Scotland

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/319120/FI_NAL_door_drop_leaflet.PDF

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Halal and Kosher Meat

Philip Davies: ... will [the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs] ensure that all halal and kosher meat is labelled at point of sale. [904168]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (George Eustice): In the first instance, the Government believe that it is for retailers and food outlets to provide their customers with such information. However, the European Commission is currently producing a study on options for compulsory method of slaughter labelling, and we will review the options when the report is published later this year.

Philip Davies: The Minister is a good man, and I am sure he must understand the strength of feeling among the public about this issue. Surely it is in the best interests of everyone that halal and kosher meat be properly labelled, for the benefit of those who particularly want to buy it and those who particularly do not. Which consumers do the Government think will be disadvantaged by having meat fully and properly labelled at the point of sale?

Reply from George Eustice: I am aware of the strength of feeling on the issue, and my hon. Friend has been a long-standing campaigner on it, ever since his ten-minute rule Bill two years ago. There are two difficulties with the approach he suggests. In the case of halal meat, we must remember that about 80% is stunned anyway, so “halal” does not distinguish between stunned and unstunned meat. When it comes to kosher meat, we should recall that the hind quarters of the carcass are not deemed kosher anyway, so an approach along the lines he suggests would not help consumers who want to avoid unstunned meat.

However, we will examine method of slaughter labelling when the European Commission produces its report, which is expected in the autumn.

Albert Owen: Farmers and food producers raise the issue of labelling often with me and other Members. Can the Minister assure the House that his Department is doing everything it can to have clear labelling on all packaging, particularly after the horsemeat crisis and various other issues, so that we can have country of origin and even region of origin labelling on our packaging?

Reply from George Eustice: Some new labelling requirements from the European Union have just been put in place, to distinguish between animals that are born, reared and slaughtered in a particular country, reared and slaughtered there or simply slaughtered there. That is a major improvement. We have stopped short of having compulsory country of origin labelling on processed foods, because the European Commission report suggested that it would be incredibly expensive to implement. However, we do encourage voluntary labelling on such products, and there has been widespread uptake of that.

Philip Hollobone: I am sure my constituents in Kettering would want to see halal and kosher meat labelled as such. Although the Minister is a good man, the response drafted for him by his Department was weak and pathetic. If we wait for the European Commission to rule, we will have to wait for ever. If his objection is that there is no distinction between stunned and non-stunned meat, why not label meat as such? Why cannot the UK do that ahead of the European Commission?

Reply from George Eustice: The advice we have received is that it would be better to introduce such regulation at European level. A number of other countries have considered it, including Spain and France, and have run into difficulties. However, my hon. Friend makes a good point—if one were to introduce compulsory method of slaughter labelling, I think one would go not for labelling as

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

halal or kosher, for the reasons I gave earlier, but for labelling as stunned or unstunned.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140612/debtext/140612-0001.htm#14061240000021>

New Publications

Ofsted advice note provided on academies and maintained schools in Birmingham to the Secretary of State for Education

<http://tinyurl.com/n2zyfj4>

Individual inspection reports for the 21 schools can be read at

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/advice-note-provided-academies-and-maintained-schools-birmingham-secretary-of-state-for-education-rt>

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Other News

Forced marriage: Families hire bounty hunters to find fleeing victims

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-27811245>

Forced marriage calls to ChildLine rise, says the NSPCC

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-27830806>

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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

**** Arbitration and Mediation Services (Equality) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/arbitrationandmediationservicesequality.html>

Bill as introduced

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2014-2015/0021/15021.pdf>

First Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140611-0001.htm#14061158000366>

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament (continued)

**** Modern Slavery Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/modernslavery.html>

Bill as introduced

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0008/15008.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0008/en/15008en.pdf>

Delegated Powers Memorandum

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/318619/DP_memoModernSlavery.pdf

European Convention on Human Rights, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: Memorandum by the Home Office

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/318618/EC_HRmemoModernSlavery.pdf

Government response to the report from the Joint Committee on the Draft Modern Slavery Bill

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/318771/C_M8889DraftModernSlaveryBill.pdf

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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>

**** Advancing Migrant Access to health Services in Europe** (no closing date given)

<http://www.amase.eu/wp/be-part-of-amase/>

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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!**

Ethnic Minority 3rd Sector Network

16 June 2014 in Inverness (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.

**** this week!**

Refugee Week

16 to 22 June 2014 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>

**** this week!**

Has EU Immigration and Asylum Policy Failed? Can It Ever Succeed?

17 Jun 2014 online webinar (1.30 – 2.30)

Webinar to examine the realities of European policy on immigration and asylum thus far, the challenges that policymakers face in the coming months and years, and what possibilities exist for future reform and development of EU immigration policy. For information and to register see <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/events/has-eu-immigration-and-asylum-policy-failed-can-it-ever-succeed>

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

Celebrating Africa 2014

21 June 2014 in Edinburgh (11.00 – 4.00)

Event showcasing African heritage and culture in the areas of heritage, culture and sports, including live African music, dance, cultural performances, stalls, workshops and children activities. For information see <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/celebrating-africa-event-2014-tickets-11462130541>

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children and Young People:

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

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.

**** Ethnic Minority 3rd Sector Network**

1 September 2014 in Glasgow (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/>

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

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

Useful Links (continued)

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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