

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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The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 21 September and the House of Lords until 13 October 2014. The House of Commons returns from recess today.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Questions

Asylum: Albania

Lord Storey: To ask Her Majesty's Government what information and personal data are provided to the Albanian authorities on unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from Albania making asylum claims in the United Kingdom; and whether such children are informed or asked to consent to the transfer of such information and personal data before they are transferred.[HL1515]

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in respect of how many Albanian asylum seekers claiming to be children, information was sought from the Albanian authorities leading to the identification of 23 individuals who were suspected of providing incorrect information about their age and the establishment of Operation Coldspell in December 2013.[HL1516]

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The Government has a legal duty to endeavour to trace the families of unaccompanied asylum seeking children and to take into account their best interests. In response to safeguarding concerns arising from reports that Albanian adults were falsely claiming to be children, and in order to facilitate the family tracing process, the Home Office piloted a process in late 2013 whereby information relevant to family tracing and confirming identity was obtained from the Albanian authorities in respect of 215 individuals. In all of these cases, the asylum claims had been refused and the Albanian authorities had not been the alleged actor of persecution. The piloted process became business as usual with effect from 29 January 2014. Checks are only conducted under this process if such a step will not jeopardise the safety of the child and their family. The Albanian authorities are provided with the names, dates of birth, identity numbers, places of birth, addresses and contact numbers for the child and their parents. Published Home Office guidance stipulates that the child should be informed shortly after point of claim for asylum that the Home Office will take appropriate steps to endeavour to trace their families.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldtoday/writtens/04082014.htm#hdg-AsylumAlbania>

Human Trafficking

The Lord Bishop of Derby: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many individuals on domestic worker visas have sought assistance as victims of human trafficking through the National Referral Mechanism.[HL1546]

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many individuals on domestic worker visas have been identified as victims of human trafficking offences in each year since 2010.[HL1547]

Reply from Baroness Northover: The Home Office does not collect the information that has been requested. However, domestic workers who are abused or exploited, regardless of their immigration status, can receive care and support in the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldtoday/writtens/18082014.htm#hdg-HumanTrafficking>

New Publications

Polish migrants in Scotland: voting behaviours and engagement in the Scottish independence referendum

http://www.cpc.ac.uk/publications/cpc_briefing_papers/pdf/BP20_Polish_migrants_in_Scotland.pdf

Engaging with immigration policy on the ground: A study of Local Authorities in Scotland

http://www.cpc.ac.uk/publications/cpc_briefing_papers/pdf/BP19_Engaging_with_immigration_policy.pdf

The Extent and Impact of Asylum Accommodation Problems in Scotland

<file:///Users/leahgranat/Downloads/The%20Extent%20and%20Impact%20of%20Asylum%20Accommodation%20Problems%20in%20Scotland%20%20%20Summary%20%20%20August%202014.pdf>

On speaking Terms: Making ESOL policy work better for migrants and wider society

http://www.demos.co.uk/files/On_speaking_termsweb.pdf?1408395571

Immigration and Asylum New Publications (continued)

Bulgarians & Romanians in the British National Press: 1 December 2012 - 1 December 2013

http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/migobs/Report-Bulgarians_Romanians_Press_0.pdf

The Move-On Period: an ordeal for new refugees

<http://www.redcross.org.uk/~media/BritishRedCross/Documents/About%20us/Research%20reports%20by%20advocacy%20dept/Move%20on%20period%20report.pdf>

Biased and Unjust: The Immigration Detention Complaints Process

<http://www.medicaljustice.org.uk/images/stories/reports/BiasedUnjustComplaintsProcess.pdf>

International students and the UK immigration debate

<http://www.britishfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/BRFJ2238-International-Students.WEB-FINAL.Embargo-25.8.14.pdf>

Immigration statistics, April to June 2014 second edition

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2014/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2014>

Immigration statistics, April to June 2014: data tables

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2014-data-tables>

Migration statistics, quarterly report: August 2014

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/migration-statistics-quarterly-report/august-2014/index.html>

Population by country of birth and nationality: 2013

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171776_375449.pdf

Monthly asylum application tables

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/347860/asylum-jun2014.ods

Children entering detention under Immigration Act powers

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/347859/children-detention-jul2014.ods

News

'Statistically significant' rise in net migration to UK

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-28964323>

Net migration to UK soars by 39% to 243,000

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/aug/28/uk-net-migration-soars-to-243000-theresa-may>

UK immigration numbers up by 68,000 in a year, despite David Cameron's pledge to cut migration levels by the next general election

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/uk-immigration-numbers-up-by-68000-in-a-year-despite-david-camerons-pledge-to-cut-migration-levels-by-the-next-general-election-9696156.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Statistically significant increase in net migration to the UK - key charts

<http://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2014/aug/28/statistically-significant-increase-net-migration-uk-key-charts>

Net migration to UK soars to 243,000

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4189519.ece>

Net migration jumps by nearly a quarter of a million

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/net-migration-jumps-by-nearly-a-quarter-of-a-million-9697728.html>

Net migration soars in new blow for Coalition pledge

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11060653/Net-migration-soars-in-new-blow-for-Coalition-pledge.html>

Cameron's pledge to slash net migration to below 100,000 left in tatters after 40% increase sees it surge to 243,000 in just 12 months

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2736558/Cameron-s-pledge-slash-immigration-left-tatters-560-000-migrants-Britain-just-12-months.html>

Immigration RISES despite government pledge to slash numbers

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/504234/Immigration-RISES-despite-government-pledge-to-slash-numbers>

David Cameron should do some homework before sounding off about immigration and jobs

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/comment/david-cameron-should-do-some-homework--before-sounding-off-about-immigration-and-jobs-9682213.html?origin=internalSearch>

Pressure on Cameron to make deal deterring EU immigrants

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4179283.ece>

Public “baffled” students included in government’s migration targets

<http://www.britishfuture.org/articles/public-baffled-students-included-governments-migration-targets/>

Exempt foreign students from immigration cuts - Heseltine

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-28922706>

Lord Heseltine: cut foreign students from figures to lower net migration

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/aug/25/heseltine-cut-foreign-students-figures-lower-net-migration-conservatives>

Foreign students should be disqualified from government targets cutting immigration

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/foreign-students-should-be-disqualified-from-government-targets-cutting-immigration-9689848.html?origin=internalSearch>

Backing for level of overseas students

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/backing-for-level-of-overseas-students.25140469>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Poll backs international students

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/poll-backs-international-students-1.540558>

'Stop counting foreign students as immigrants': Tory grandee Lord Heseltine calls for Government u-turn over international university places

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2733743/Stop-counting-foreign-students-immigrants-Tory-grandee-Lord-Heseltine-calls-Government-u-turn-international-university-places.html>

Heseltine in backlash over call for foreign students to be left out of immigration figures

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/503278/Heseltine-immigration-backlash-over-students>

Asylum seekers 'put at risk by poor housing'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/asylum-seekers-put-at-risk-by-poor-housing.25097077>

Serious failings in provision of asylum accommodation in Scotland

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/2493_serious_failings_in_provision_of_asylum_accommodation_in_scotland

Cutbacks mean migrants are unable to find English classes

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/cutbacks-mean-migrants-are-unable-to-find-english-classes-9677101.html>

700,000 migrants 'do not try to learn English': Huge number could not hold a conversation despite Government pledging language test as part of immigration system

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2728462/700-000-migrants-not-try-learn-English-Huge-number-not-hold-conversation-despite-Government-pledging-language-test-immigration-system.html>

City offering sanctuary to refugees from Syria

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/city-offering-sanctuary-to-refugees-from-syria-177643n.25140529>

Refugees flee from Syria to Glasgow

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/refugees-flee-from-syria-to-glasgow.25153680>

Opening our arms to Syrian refugees

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/2495_opening_our_arms_to_syrian_refugees

Human trafficking to Britain is rising

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4182456.ece>

Three cases of human trafficking discovered in Scotland every week amid concerns many more are going undetected

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/cases-human-trafficking-discovered-scotland-4079257>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Two brothers jailed for smuggling illegal immigrants OUT of Britain through their own 'bespoke travel service'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2728043/Two-brothers-jailed-providing-bespoke-travel-service-illegal-immigrants-wanting-OUT-Britain.html>

Thousands of immigrants travelling with fake passports failing to be stopped by authorities, as threat of extremists entering UK intensifies

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/thousands-of-immigrants-travelling-with-fake-passports-failing-to-be-stopped-by-authorities-as-threat-of-extremists-entering-uk-intensifies-9688145.html>

More than half of young people fail Britishness test

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/more-than-half-of-young-people-fail-britishness-test-9684445.html>

Private firms 'are using detained immigrants as cheap labour'

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/aug/22/immigrants-cheap-labour-detention-centres-g4s-serco>

Glasgow's refugee football team brings unity to a divided city

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/scotland-blog/2014/aug/20/glasgow-refugee-football-team-brings-unity-to-a-divided-city>

Work for detainees is essential to their mental and emotional wellbeing

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/aug/26/work-for-detainees-mental-emotional-wellbeing>

The readers' editor on... whether we should use the term 'illegal immigrant'

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/aug/24/open-door-should-we-use-term-illegal-immigrant>

UK is a migrant 'promised land': Farage on the two MILLION illegal migrants in Britain

<http://www.express.co.uk/comment/expresscomment/503871/Nigel-Farage-Ukip-South-Thames-illegal-immigration>

Fury over Britain's 2m illegal migrants

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/503680/Fury-over-Britain-s-2m-illegal-migrants>

Government needs to get tough on illegal immigrants

<http://www.express.co.uk/comment/expresscomment/503700/Government-needs-to-get-tough-on-illegal-immigrants>

Only 25 per cent of fugitive migrants on the run are captured

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/502930/Only-25-of-fugitive-migrants-on-the-run-are-captured>

Classes of 70, four-year-olds forced to commute for three hours and a roof turned into a playground: Why no one will admit immigration is the reason Britain's primary schools are bursting at the seams

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2738047/Truth-no-one-admit-Britain-s-primary-schools-bursting-seams.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Police round up dozens of homeless Eastern Europeans in central London immigration crackdown - but (surprise) just TWO end up being put on flights home

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2737535/Police-immigration-officers-round-dozens-rough-sleepers-central-London-crackdown-offensive-begging.html>

What do immigrants really think of Britain? Polish immigrant's Reddit post goes viral

<http://www.independent.co.uk/incoming/what-do-immigrants-really-think-of-britain-polish-immigrants-reddit-post-goes-viral-9699824.html?origin=internalSearch>

Deposit for a bride in Britain - £3,500: Some Romany Gypsies still arrange marriage for their young teenagers

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/deposit-for-a-bride-in-britain--3500-some-romany-gypsies-still-arrange-marriage-for-their-young-teenagers-9701793.html>

Tilbury container stowaways included 13 children

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-28827133>

Stowaway survivor 'feared death' during journey to UK

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-28880006>

Tilbury dock deaths: Survivors told translator they had been stowed away for 18 hours

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/tilbury-dock-deaths-survivors-told-translator-they-had-been-stowed-away-for-18-hours-9677453.html>

Tilbury Docks: Two charged over death of Sikh refugee from Afghanistan found in shipping container

<http://www.independent.co.uk/incoming/tilbury-docks-two-charged-over-death-of-sikh-refugee-from-afghanistan-found-in-shipping-container-9687130.html?origin=internalSearch>

Grant asylum to migrants who arrive close to death – but don't be surprised if it inspires more tragedies

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/grant-asylum-to-migrants-who-arrive-close-to-death--but-dont-be-surprised-if-it-inspires-more-tragedies-9686744.html?origin=internalSearch>

More stowaways found in refrigerated lorry

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4180964.ece>

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Community Relations

News

Multiculturalism has brought us honour killings and Sharia law, says Archbishop

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/syria/11053646/Multiculturalism-has-brought-us-honour-killings-and-Sharia-law-says-Archbishop.html>

Racist abuse will not stop me seeking more diversity in children's literature

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/aug/27/racist-abuse-diversity-in-childrens-literature>

Community Relations

News (continued)

'Don't be scared to recognise I'm brown - Britain desperately needs to be open about race'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/11064161/Rotherham-scandal-learnings-Dont-be-scared-to-recognise-Im-brown-we-need-to-be-open-about-race.html>

White British children set to be a minority in classroom

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Society/article1453109.ece

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Equality

Scottish Parliament Questions

Gypsy Travellers

John Finnie: To ask the Scottish Government what recent discussions it has had with (a) The Highland, (b) Argyll and Bute, (c) Moray and (d) Perth and Kinross Council about the needs of the Gypsy/Traveller community. (S4W-22272)

Reply from Shona Robison: We have not had any significant recent discussions about the needs of the Gypsy/Traveller community with the four councils mentioned. Officials have had some contact with Argyll and Bute Council, in relation to the Minister for Housing and Welfare's visit to the Gypsy/Traveller site at Lochgilphead in May 2014.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-22272&ResultsPerPage=10>

Gypsy Travellers

John Finnie: To ask the Scottish Government how it encourages collaborative working across local authorities regarding the facilities required to maintain the Gypsy/Traveller lifestyle. (S4W-22273)

Reply from Shona Robison: We are aware of some local authority collaboration on site provision. We are working with key stakeholders, including representatives of local authorities, to develop an overarching strategy and action plan for Gypsy/Travellers. Through this work, we will consider other areas where collaboration would be helpful.

We also engage regularly with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities on a range of race equality issues, including those relating to Gypsy/Travellers.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-22273&ResultsPerPage=10>

Gypsy Travellers

John Finnie: To ask the Scottish Government how it consults with the Gypsy/Traveller community. (S4W-22276)

Reply from Shona Robison: Our Gypsy/Traveller strategy development group includes members of the Gypsy/Traveller community. We also aim to engage more broadly with members of the community, with the help of organisations working directly with Gypsy/Travellers.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-22276&ResultsPerPage=10>

Equality

Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

Gypsy Travellers

John Finnie: To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with EU member states about supporting the Gypsy/Traveller lifestyle. (S4W-22277)

Reply from Shona Robison: We have not had discussions with EU member states about supporting the Gypsy/Traveller lifestyle.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-22277&ResultsPerPage=10>

Gypsy Travellers

John Finnie: To ask the Scottish Government how it ensures that the closure of a Gypsy/Traveller site by a local authority does not unduly impact on the way of life of the Gypsy/Traveller community. (S4W-22269)

Reply from Margaret Burgess: Local authorities are responsible for decisions regarding the provision of Gypsy/Traveller sites in their area, including any decision to close a Gypsy/Traveller site. The Scottish Government is not directly involved in assessing the impact of such a closure. However, a local authority has to consider the accommodation needs of Gypsy/Travellers as part of a Housing Need and Demand Assessment and when developing its local housing strategy and development plan. Each local housing strategy goes through a review process, with input from Scottish Government officials, and comments are provided as appropriate. These comments can cover Gypsy/Traveller site provision.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-22269&ResultsPerPage=10>

Gypsy Travellers

John Finnie: To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on introducing legislation that will require local authorities to advise it of any plans to close Gypsy/Traveller sites or facilities. (S4W-22270)

Reply from Margaret Burgess: The Scottish Government has no plans to introduce such legislation.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-22270&ResultsPerPage=10>

Gypsy Travellers

John Finnie: To ask the Scottish Government how it assesses the accommodation needs of the Gypsy/Traveller community. (S4W-22271)

Reply from Margaret Burgess: Accommodation needs for Gypsy/Travellers are assessed at a local level. A local authority has to consider the accommodation needs of Gypsy/Travellers as part of its Housing Need and Demand Assessment and when developing its local housing strategy and development plan. Each local housing strategy goes through a review process, with input from Scottish Government officials, and comments are provided. These comments would cover Gypsy/Traveller site provision, as necessary.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-22271&ResultsPerPage=10>

Gypsy Travellers

John Finnie: To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on introducing legislation that will allow amenity blocks on Gypsy/Traveller sites to be recorded in local authority housing revenue accounts. (S4W-22274)

Reply from Margaret Burgess: The Scottish Government has no plans to amend

Equality

Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

the rules governing housing revenue accounts to include the recording of amenity blocks on local authority owned Gypsy/Traveller sites.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-22274&ResultsPerPage=10>

Gypsy Travellers

John Finnie: To ask the Scottish Government what plans ministers have to visit Gypsy/Traveller sites in The Highland Council area. (S4W-22275)

Reply from Margaret Burgess: There are currently no plans for Scottish Government Ministers to visit Gypsy/Traveller sites in the Highland council area.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-22275&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Question

Higher Education: Ethnic Groups

Lord Storey: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support universities to address the problems highlighted in the recent report published by the Nuffield Foundation and the London School of Economics entitled Black and Minority Ethnic Access To Higher Education: A Reassessment.[HL1514]

Reply from Lord Wallace of Saltaire: The Government is committed to access to Higher Education (HE) based on talent and potential, irrespective of background. Promoting equal opportunities is taken very seriously and we have put in place a strong legal framework which protects the rights of people not to be discriminated against, through the Equality Act 2010.

Whilst universities are independent and autonomous organisations, responsible for their own admissions decisions, the Equality Act places clear duties and responsibilities on them to ensure that students with protected characteristics do not face discrimination or less favourable treatment whilst applying to, and studying in, higher education.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldtoday/writtens/11082014.htm#hdg-HigherEducationEthnicGroups>

New Publication

Tackling poverty across all ethnicities in the UK

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/Tackling-poverty-ethnicities-uk-summary.pdf>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Question

Tackling Sectarianism

Siobhan McMahon: To ask the Scottish Government what projects it has funded through its tackling sectarianism small grants programme since 1 November 2013, broken down by (a) group involved, (b) amount awarded and (c) local authority area. (S4W-22224)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government funds three

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Question (continued)

small grant programmes to support work to tackle sectarianism. Support for all three small grants schemes forms part of our commitment to invest £9 million over three years to build our understanding of and deliver work to tackle sectarianism. The programmes are run through Sense Over Sectarianism, Youth Scotland and the Voluntary Action Fund. Activity between the programmes is coordinated to ensure maximum coverage of Scotland.

The detailed breakdown requested for funded projects from 1 November 2013 for the three programmes is set out in the following table:

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-22224&ResultsPerPage=10>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-10819 Ken Macintosh: Spike in Antisemitic Incidents in Scotland—That the Parliament condemns the recent reported spike in antisemitic incidents in Scotland, many of them under the pretext of political protest against the conflict in Gaza; understands that the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) has received as many reports of antisemitic incidents in a single week as during the whole of 2013; is appalled to learn that many members of the Jewish community have said that they do not feel safe wearing a kippah or Star of David or speaking Hebrew in the street and that a number have said that they no longer feel welcome in Scotland and are actively considering moving elsewhere; is shocked that the participant in SCoJeC's Being Jewish in Scotland project who two years ago said "Scotland is a darn good place to be a Jew" now says that she "feels alienated and no longer Scottish first then Jewish. Feel Jewish only." and that she "has to be very guarded when speaking to people"; welcomes police assurances that they are taking the situation very seriously; urges all victims of hate crime always to report all incidents to the police, and calls on the Scottish Government, local authorities, trades unions and all other public bodies to condemn all forms of antisemitism in whatever guise it may appear.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-10819&ResultsPerPage=10>

News

Politicians step up fight over 'disgusting' anti-Semitic attacks in the UK

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/502086/Anti-Semitic-attacks-in-the-UK>

Chief Rabbi: rise in anti-Semitism fuelled by Gaza heralds threat to western democracy

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11060031/Chief-Rabbi-rise-in-anti-Semitism-fuelled-by-Gaza-heralds-threat-to-western-democracy.html>

Daniel Finkelstein: Anti-semitism hasn't been an issue for me. Now it is

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/life/article4182139.ece>

Police must do more to tackle the rise of anti-Semitism, campaigners say

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/504090/Rallying-call-to-halt-anti-Semitic-attacks>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

We're living in fear of attacks over Gaza, say Scottish Jews

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/scotland/article1453506.ece

Is there a 'rising tide' of anti-Semitism in the West?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-28853221>

A new strain of anti-Semitism is on the rise

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11059132/A-new-strain-of-anti-Semitism-is-on-the-rise.html>

The kosher controversy at Sainsbury's speaks to a profound problem: acquiescence to anti-Semitism

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/brendanoneill2/100283382/the-kosher-controversy-at-sainsburys-speaks-to-a-profound-problem-acquiescence-to-anti-semitism/?fb>

Sainsbury's condemned for taking kosher food off shelves during pro-Palestinian protest

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/sainsburys-condemned-for-taking-kosher-food-off-shelves-during-propalestinian-protest-9675242.html>

Removing kosher food from shelves is giving in to hatred

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/11041391/Removing-kosher-food-from-shelves-is-giving-in-to-hatred.html>

Protest forced store to hide kosher food

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4179551.ece>

Community leaders call for calm as Jewish charity targeted in wave of anti-Semitic attacks

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/501187/Anti-Semitic-attack-on-Jewish-charity-shop>

Racist council caretaker daubed swastika and 'Jews out' on elderly resident's flat because he wanted to scare her - and still lives just four doors down

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2735900/Racist-council-caretaker-daubed-swastika-Jews-elderly-resident-s-flat-wanted-scare-lives-just-four-doors-down.html>

Britain's Muslims and Jews beg: Don't blame us for world's crises

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/502681/Don-t-blame-Britain-s-Muslims-and-Jews>

Don't lump all Muslims in the extremist camp

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4184798.ece>

Ukip MEP 'sorry' over racial slur

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/ukip-mep-sorry-over-racial-slur.25080716>

'Outrage' over Ukip MEP remark

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/outrage-over-ukip-mep-remark-1.530022>

UKIP MEP Janice Atkinson sparks outrage after calling a Thai constituent 'Ting Tong'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2728125/UKIP-MEP-Janice-Atkinson-sparks-outrage-calling-Thai-constituent-Ting-Tong.html>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Ukip MEP Janice Atkinson apologises after calling Thai constituent a 'ting tong'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ukip-mep-janice-atkinson-apologises-after-calling-thai-constituent-a-ting-tong-9677503.html>

Ukip MEP 'sorry' for calling Thai party member a 'ting tong'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/ukip/11042218/Ukip-MEP-apologises-for-calling-Thai-party-member-a-ting-tong.html>

Hundreds of police officers investigated for racist or threatening social media posts

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/hundreds-of-police-officers-investigated-for-racist-or-threatening-social-media-posts-9677195.html?origin=internalSearch>

Young footballers agree to wear rival Old firm teams' strips to make point against bigotry

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/young-footballers-agree-wear-rival-4104857>

North Belfast: Sudanese families targeted in 'racially motivated' attacks

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-28972732>

Barbican accused of 'complicit racism' over installation with live black models

<http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2014/aug/28/exhibition-b-barbican-protest-petition>

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Scottish Independence Referendum

In order to vote in the Scottish Independence Referendum you must have registered by **Tuesday 2 September**. For information on how to register, see

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/the_independence_referendum/guide_to_voting.aspx

If you are worried about your address appearing on the electoral register (for example, because you have been a victim of domestic violence, and don't want your former partner to find out where you live), you can apply to be listed on the Anonymous Voters Register. For information see

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/faq/registering_to_vote/i_am_concerned_about_my_name_a.aspx

Scottish Government Publication

Restrictions on government activity in the 28 days before the independence referendum

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0045/00458330.pdf>

UK Government Publications

What staying in the United Kingdom means for Scotland

Also available in Gaelic, Bengali, Polish, Cantonese, Punjabi, French, Hindi, Chinese Mandarin, Spanish and Russian

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-staying-in-the-united-kingdom-means-for-scotland>

Scottish Independence Referendum UK Government Publications (continued)

Milestones in the Scottish independence referendum process

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scottish-independence-milestones-on-the-road-to-the-referendum/milestones-in-the-scottish-independence-referendum-process>

News

Scottish independence: Edinburgh University runs online referendum course

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-28917876>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Question

British Veterinary Association (Meetings)

Alex Johnstone: Has the cabinet secretary or his officials had specific talks regarding concerns about ritual slaughter? As a result, does he intend to bring forward any proposals to include labelling information on Scottish meat on whether stunning took place prior to slaughter?

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment (Richard Lochhead): We have been looking at the issue in recent weeks and months. The religious slaughter of animals for food is a difficult, sensitive and complex issue. We must be very careful with regard to any debate about labelling and take on board the view of Scotland's faith communities.

It is widely accepted that animals should be stunned before slaughter to properly safeguard their welfare, but we must recognise the importance that Jewish and Muslim communities in particular attach to being supplied with meat from animals that are slaughtered in accordance with their religious beliefs.

I understand that the European Union is contemplating looking at the issue, and I will ensure that Scotland has a voice in those discussions.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9496&mode=html#job_85314

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Female Genital Mutilation

Lord Taylor of Warwick: To ask Her Majesty's Government what are their long-term targets concerning the prevention and punishment of female genital mutilation (FGM), in the light of recent reforms and the creation of an FGM unit.[HL1382]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Our longer term focus has not changed. Prevention remains at the heart of our work to tackle and eradicate Female Genital Mutilation in the UK. The new FGM unit is being set up to drive a step change in nationwide

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

outreach on FGM with criminal justice partners, children's services, healthcare professionals and affected communities. The details of the new FGM unit are being developed across government and in consultation with interested parties.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldtoday/writtens/04082014.htm#hdg-FemaleGenitalMutilation>

Female Genital Mutilation

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to governments in countries where female genital mutilation (FGM) is practised; and what steps they have taken to verify reports that ISIS is introducing compulsory FGM in areas they control.[HL1581]

Reply from Lord Popat: The Government is playing a key role in supporting and strengthening the international movement to end female genital mutilation (FGM) worldwide, within a generation. Given that the vast majority of communities who practise FGM are found in 29 countries clustered in West Africa, Egypt, Sudan and the Horn of Africa and that change must come from within affected communities, we have sought to support the existing African-led movement to end FGM, and build upon the success of the Africa Group 2012 UN resolution that banned the practice.

It is in this spirit that the Prime Minister, my right honourable friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), convened the first global summit on ending FGM and child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) on 22 July 2014. The Girl Summit brought together 650 participants from 50 affected countries. It resulted in 32 countries signing the Summit Charter and private and public financial pledges of \$88 million to end CEFM and \$7million for FGM. Ministers and senior officials worked with all countries affected by FGM, including countries where it is practised by diaspora communities, in advance of the Summit to encourage them to develop new commitments to end FGM. This is in addition to the UK's flagship programme of £35 million over 5 years to support African countries to end FGM, and an additional £12 million commitment in Sudan.

Reports that the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) is introducing compulsory FGM in areas they control remain unconfirmed. Staff at our Embassy in Iraq have spoken to the Head of UN Human Rights Office, the Head of UN Women, and the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq, all of whom were unable to confirm the reports. We also remain in contact with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). On balance, we conclude that the threat, while a serious matter, is not new. We continue to follow developments as closely as possible.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldtoday/writtens/11082014.htm#hdg-FemaleGenitalMutilation>

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New Publication

Mapping victims' rights and support in the EU

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/comparative-data/victims-support-services>

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Other News

Africa in Motion

Volunteers wanted to help with the Africa in Motion film festival that will take place between 24 September and 9 November. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/14ix_africa_in_motion.pdf

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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>

Assisted Dying Bill (England and Wales only)

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

Asylum (Time Limit) Bill

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

Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill

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

Modern Slavery Bill

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

UK Borders Control Bill

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

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Consultations ** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Exploring the impact of Family Migration Rules on children and young people (closing date 1 September 2014)

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/force_download.php?fp=%2Fclient_assets%2Fcp%2Fpublication%2F856%2Fquestionnaire.doc

Consultations (continued)

(Guidance on submitting responses)

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/force_download.php?fp=%2Fclient_assets%2Fcp%2Fpublication%2F857%2FGuidance_occ.pdf

Proposed Organ and Tissue Donation Bill (closing date 25 September 2014)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_MembersBills/Organ_Donation_Consultation_Document.pdf

**** Equality and Human Rights Commission call for evidence on religion or belief issues**

(closing date 14 October 2014)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/commission-calls-evidence-religion-or-belief-issues>

Modern Slavery Bill (UK Parliament) (closing date 14 October 2014)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2014/july/have-your-say-on-the-modern-slavery-bill/>

Scottish Independence Bill: A consultation on an interim constitution for Scotland

(closing date 20 October 2014)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0045/00452762.pdf>

(summary: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0045/00452784.pdf>)

**** Targeted Regulation of Scottish Charities** (closing date 24 October 2014)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/targeted-regulation-consultation/>

**** Equality and Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan** (closing date 12 November 2014)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/our-work/ehrc-consultations/consulting-statutory-review-our-strategic-plan>

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/>

Our Borderlands - Our Future (no closing date given)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/scottish-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/our-borderlands-our-future/>

Migrants' Views on the Impact of the Migration Debate (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/L5JW3CP>

Inquiry into the recruitment and appointment practices on company boards

(no closing date given)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/our-legal-work/inquiries-and-assessments/inquiry-recruitment-and-appointment-practices-company-boards>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

Homecoming Scotland 2014

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



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

**** this week!**

Ethnic Minority 3rd Sector Network

4 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.

**** this week!**

Around the World in Eighty Faiths

5 September 2014 in Edinburgh (11.00 – 12.00)

Lecture to discuss connections between religion and medicine. For information see http://www.wccs2014.org/scientific_programme/Public_Lecture_Flyer_Peter_Owen-Jones_1.pdf

**** this week!**

Racism: From the Labour Movement to the Far-Right

5-6 September 2014 in Glasgow

Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity conference to consider the continuing mutation and expansion of racism into new 'cultural' forms and the electoral consolidation of parties of the far-right. For information see <http://racismconference14.wordpress.com/>

Domestic Abuse and Minority Ethnic Women, Children and Young People

10th (9.30-4.30pm) & 11th (9.30-12.30pm) September 2014

8th (9.30-4.30pm) & 9th (9.30-12.30pm) October 2014

6th (9.30-4.30pm) & 7th (9.30-12.30pm) November 2014

3rd (9.30-4.30pm) & 4th (9.30-12.30pm) December 2014

Shakti Women's Aid training to increase awareness and understanding of issues facing Minority Ethnic women, children and 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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Update on employment and equality rights

11 September 2014 in Glasgow (10.00 – 1.00)

Scottish Employment Rights Network and Equality and Human Rights Commission Conference to provide updates on the impact of significant recent changes to Employment Tribunals, key discrimination cases, and the important developments in equal pay law over the past year. For information contact Irene Herery equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5966.

Caring for Older People – Contribution of Faith Communities

19 September 2014 in Inverness (10.00 – 3.00)

Recent research has begun to quantify the largely unrecognized work done by faith groups in caring for older people. This workshop will provide information about how the government views this work and how they support organisations carrying it out. For information contact info@fiop.org.uk.

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Targeted Regulation

12 September 2014 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 12.15)

23 September 2014 in Stirling (1.30 – 4.15)

23 September 2014 in Perth 6.00 – 8.30)

29 September 2014 in Fort William (6.00 – 8.30)

15 October 2014 in Glasgow (9.30 – 12.15)

15 October 2014 in Hamilton (2.00 – 4.45)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator meetings to discuss key changes to the way charities are regulated, including changes to reporting mechanisms, publication of charity accounts on the Register, and the creation of a charity trustee database. For information see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/latest-events/>

**** How does diversity in parental involvement help develop successful learners?**

25 September 2014 in Glasgow (12.00 – 1.00)

Gathered Together – Cruinn Cómhla partnership project between BEMIS and the Scottish Parent Teacher Council event to share the research carried out by the project into barriers to involvement faced by ethnic minority parents. For information see <http://www.scottishlearningfestival.co.uk/events/a2h/>

Holocaust Memorial Day workshop

10 November 2014 in Edinburgh (1.15 – 4.00)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust workshop to explore the HMD 2015 theme “Keep the memory alive”, hear more about activity organising, and meet others who are planning to mark HMD in your area. Free but booking essential. For information contact 020 7785 7029 / enquiries@hmd.org.uk.

Domestic Abuse And Women Subject To Immigration Control: Where Human Rights Do Not Reach

18 November 2014 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 1.00)

Scottish Women’s Aid seminar to explore the impacts of insecure immigration status on women who experience violence and abuse. For information contact booking@scottishwomensaid.org.uk / 0131 226 6606 or see <http://tinyurl.com/ocvuxva>.

Promoting Good Relations: New Approaches, New Solutions

21 November 2014 in Glasgow

Commission for Racial Equality and Rights conference to consider one of the most challenging aspects of the Public Sector Equality Duty – the duty to foster good relations. For information contact Nadia Rafiq nadia@crer.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Working With People Affected By Forced Marriage

11 February 2015 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 4.00)

Scottish Women's Aid seminar to demystify forced marriage and help delegates to gain the knowledge they need to provide appropriate support to those affected. For information contact booking@scottishwomensaid.org.uk / 0131 226 6606 or see <http://tinyurl.com/ovxofgs>.

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com>

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

SCVO <http://www.scvo.org.uk/>

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <http://www.oscr.org.uk/>

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services

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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