

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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Useful Links

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

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The 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 Ministerial Statement

Immigration Act 2014 (Implementation)

The Minister for Security and Immigration (James Brokenshire): I am announcing today the location in which the measures relating to landlords as prescribed by sections 20-37 of the Immigration Act 2014 will first be implemented.

The Immigration Act 2014 contains a range of measures to reform and streamline the immigration system and address illegal immigration. It introduces restrictions on illegal immigrants accessing rented housing. When these provisions come into force, landlords will be prohibited from letting residential accommodation to people who have been disqualified by virtue of their immigration status.

The Government have committed to a phased implementation of these provisions with the measures initially coming into force in one location, followed by an evaluation to

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement (continued)

inform decisions on further roll-out. I wish to inform the House that after careful consideration, the scheme is to be implemented first in Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Walsall and Sandwell. The new measures will commence in this area from 1 December.

To assist and advise the implementation and evaluation of the measures, the Government are convening a consultative panel. The panel consists of bodies that represent landlords, letting agents, housing and homeless charities and others with an informed interest in the matter, and will also include representatives from the local authorities in these areas. This will ensure that the first phase can be thoroughly evaluated and considered as part of the decision-making process on further roll-out.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140903/wmstext/140903m0001.htm#14090346000006>

UK Parliament Questions

EU Migrants (Benefits)

Stephen Metcalfe: What steps [the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions] is taking to limit the availability of benefits to migrants from other EU member states. [905105]

Reply from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Iain Duncan Smith): Since January, EU jobseekers have not been able to claim jobseeker's allowance until they have been in the country for at least three months and can then claim for only a maximum of six months. Shortly, we will further limit the claim time from six months to three months. In addition, EU jobseekers cannot now claim housing benefit.

Stephen Metcalfe: Will my right hon. Friend join me in welcoming the recent fall in non-UK nationals claiming working age benefits, and will he do all he can to ensure that that trend continues?

Reply from Duncan Smith: My hon. Friend raises an interesting point. Overall the total number of national insurance number registrations to adult overseas nationals is down by more than 7,000 on the year, or 1%. NINo registrations from outside the EU are down by 30,000 on the year, or 17%, and outside the EU annual registrations to all world areas have fallen to the lowest level since records began in 2002. ...

[905120] **Tim Loughton:** I congratulate the Secretary of State on the introduction of a much more robust test before people qualify for benefit, but what discussions has he had with his European partners on further steps to prevent benefit tourism and to get the message across that the UK is a place where people come to work, not to claim?

Reply from Duncan Smith: I have visited and talked to a number of my colleagues across Europe—in Germany, Holland, Spain and France—and I have also talked to the Danish Minister. Everyone to whom I have spoken so far and many more—I see that the Poles have also come to the same conclusion—have decided that there is something fundamentally wrong with the European Commission interpretation of people's right to access benefits in a country where they do not have residency. Recently, the Germans have tightened up in almost exactly the same way as we have done. We had all those people saying that what we were doing was terrible, but now that the Germans are doing it, those people have gone quite quiet.

John Redwood: Is not the question of who gets a benefit from this country, or who comes to stay in this country, a matter for this Parliament, not for the EU?

Reply from Duncan Smith: That is exactly the point that I have been making from the beginning. We have always said to the European Commission that this

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

matter lay outside the treaties. It is a national Government responsibility, and it is national Governments who should take that responsibility. The Opposition did very little about organising this so that they would be able to stand against the EU Commission on that basis.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140901/debtext/140901-0001.htm#1409014000016>

British Nationality

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigrants to the UK have received full UK citizenship in each year since 2010. [206951]

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

<i>Grants of British Citizenship 2010 to 2013</i>	
	<i>Grants</i>
2010	195,046
2011	177,785
2012	194,209
2013	207,989
<i>Source: Table cz_02 (Citizenship tables), Immigration Statistics January to March 2014</i>	

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/cm140902/text/140902w0002.htm#14090266000091>

Entry Clearances

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications are presently deferred or on hold awaiting the outcome of the legal action in respect of the financial requirement that is presently before the courts. [205896]

Reply from James Brokenshire: According to Home Office management information, as at 31 March 2014, 3,134 family visa applications were on hold following the July 2013 High Court judgment in MM & Others. Following the Court of Appeal ruling in favour of the Home Secretary which confirmed the lawfulness of the income threshold policy, as a rational and reasonable means of achieving the legitimate aims of reducing taxpayer burdens and promoting integration, from 28 July, the individuals whose applications were on hold, pending this judgment, will now receive a decision. Decisions will take account of all the information presented. Any application which met all the requirements apart from the minimum income threshold now stands to be refused. The applications which have been subject to the hold will be decided as soon as possible. It is likely to take several weeks to complete this work. Overseas our regions are rebalancing resources to ensure decisions are made as quickly as they reasonably can be, allowing full consideration of the facts of the cases. This is with the aim of resolving all applications within three months in line with service standards for settlement applications.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent by her Department on legal representation and court costs in respect of action over the financial requirement. [205900]

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from James Brokenshire: In the case of MM & Others concerning the minimum income threshold under the family Immigration Rules, the costs incurred by the Home Office as at 3 July 2014 were approximately £163,000.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to introduce service standards and set processing time limits for visa applications made at overseas posts. [205901]

Reply from James Brokenshire: Service Standards are in place for the processing of visa applications submitted overseas.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140901/text/140901w0005.htm#14090213000075>

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

David Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the reasons for the reduction in businesses fined for employing illegal immigrants since 2010. [199441]

Reply from James Brokenshire: Since 2010 there has been a 13% increase in the number of civil penalties issued to businesses employing illegal migrant workers with 2,149 penalties issued in 2013-14 compared with 1,899 in 2010-11. An assessment of enforcement activity and operating procedures in relation to illegal working visits led to increased deployment and a renewed focus on illegal working in 2013. This resulted in 8,573 illegal working visits in 2013-14 compared with 5,441 in 2012-13. Additionally the target of issuing 2,500 Notices of Potential Liability (NOPL) for a civil penalty was exceeded with 3,562 NOPLs being issued in 2013-14 compared with 1,659 in 2012-13 equating to a 70% increase. We are committed to tackling illegal working and we are increasing our multi-agency operations to step up enforcement action against businesses. Through the Immigration Act and secondary legislations, we are getting tougher with non-compliant employers by increasing the maximum financial penalty from £10,000 to £20,000 per illegal worker; making it easier to enforce payment in the civil courts; and simplifying right-to-work checks for legitimate employers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140901/text/140901w0005.htm#14090213000083>

Asylum

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers had been waiting for an initial decision on their asylum application for more than one year at the end of (a) 2011, (b) 2012 and (c) 2013. [203287]

Reply from James Brokenshire: At the end of December 2011, 1,897 asylum applications from main applicants were pending an initial decision after 12 months, 2,561 at the end of December 2012 and 3,773 at the end of December 2013.

The figures provided are a subset of latest published statistics for applications received for asylum since April 2006 which are published by the Home Office on a monthly and quarterly basis.

The latest release Immigration Statistics January to March 2014 is available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-january-to-march-2014>

and from the Library of the House. Asylum data tables (volume 1) are available from:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/311790/asylum1-q1-2014-tabs.ods

Our aim this year is to ensure all claims made before April 2014 have an asylum

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

decision by 31 March 2015. Furthermore, we are endeavouring to ensure all new claims received since 1 April 2014 get a decision within the six months service standard.

We are raising our decision-maker productivity targets in order to deal with rising intake, and we are continually recruiting new caseworkers to maintain appropriate staffing levels and to support our aim to get within service standards by the end of the 2014-15 period.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who used the Assisted Voluntary Returns scheme (a) submitted their first asylum claim after being detained in an immigration removal and (b) had their asylum case decided within the Detained Fast Track in each of the last five years for which records are available. [205783]

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

The figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols; as such it should be treated as provisional and subject to change.

<i>Number</i>		
	<i>People who have claimed asylum after detention in an Immigration Removal Centre and subsequently exited using the Assisted Voluntary Return scheme</i>	<i>Claimants that have used the Assisted Voluntary Return scheme, while in the Detained Fast Track process</i>
2009	3	37
2010	19	230
2011	39	534
2012	74	569
2013	39	1,234
2014 ¹	5	350
Total	179	2,954

¹ 2014 is up to and including 31 March 2014.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140901/text/140901w0005.htm#14090213000059>

Asylum: Detainees

David Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the outcomes of detention by length of detention for women asylum seekers detained by her Department were in each of the last three years. [205112]

Reply from James Brokenshire: Published figures on people detained in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers include those held in short term holding facilities, pre-departure accommodation and immigration removal centres. Figures exclude those held in police cells, Prison Service establishments, short term holding rooms at ports and airports (for less than 24 hours), and those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants. The following table shows the number of female detainees who had claimed asylum at some point, by reason for leaving detention and by length of detention for each of the last three years.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of people detained in the United Kingdom for immigration purposes, within Immigration Statistics: January to March 2014, from the GOV.UK website:

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140901/text/140901w0005.htm#14090213000060>

Asylum: Housing

David Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the (a) budgeted and (b) actual per place unit cost estimated by her Department is for the COMPASS asylum housing contracts allocated to (i) G4S and (ii) Serco for the period of the contract. [205544]

Reply from James Brokenshire: The budgeted cost of COMPASS contracts was determined using actual per place unit costs derived through the competitive procurement process. The actual per place unit rates are commercially sensitive. Disclosure will prejudice the commercial interests of the Department and its suppliers.

David Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from local authorities within Compass asylum contract areas on the (a) suitability of accommodation for asylum seekers provided by Compass, (b) overcrowding in that accommodation, (c) the need for local authorities to be notified when asylum seekers became resident there and (d) additional services required from local authorities when large numbers of asylum seekers move to an area. [206305]

Reply from James Brokenshire: COMPASS accommodation providers must abide by specific standards, including rules on shared dwellings. The Home Office monitors the performance of the providers against quality and safety standards to ensure the suitability of accommodation provided for asylum seekers and works with providers to improve these where necessary. Poor performance by the providers can also have financial ramifications if they are found to be non-compliant. The Home Office has established working arrangements with all local authorities to consider the placement of asylum seekers in each area to ensure minimal impact on services and community cohesion. Local authorities are notified of all asylum seekers moving into their area, and they have an obligation to perform a duty of care for all their residents regarding health, social services and schooling for minors. In addition Home Office has appointed three service delivery managers (SDM) to work in partnership with the COMPASS providers and external stakeholders, principally local authorities. The role of the SDM is to arbitrate in difficulties between providers and local authorities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140901/text/140901w0005.htm#14090213000061>

Immigrants: Detainees

Andy Sawford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of detainees who have escaped from detention or from escort in each of the last four years have been returned to detention. [202823]

Reply from James Brokenshire: The proportion of detainees who have escaped from detention or from escort in each of the last four years who have been returned to detention is 37% (7) of 19 detainees. One detainee was not returned to detention but located overseas. Major changes to the estate since 2010 have included the closure of the lower security site at Oakington Reception Centre in November 2010 and increased capacity at the higher security centre at Harmondsworth in July 2010. The management information above has been reached by the examination of individual records. It does not form part of

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

published statistics and is not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. It is provisional and subject to change.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many places are currently available for immigration detainees; how many such places are currently occupied; what assessment she has made of the effect of fraud in English language tests on the number of immigration detainee places needed; and if she will make a statement. [204643]

Reply from James Brokenshire: As of August 2014, the Home Office has the capacity to detain 3690 immigration detainees in the immigration detention estate. On 18 August 2014, 2941 of the 3690 spaces were occupied.

In addition to this Home Office Immigration Enforcement and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) have a Service Level Agreement (SLA) which provides for immigration detainees to be held in prisons. As of the week beginning 18 August 2014 794 immigration detainees were held in prison, of which 214 were held in HMP Verne.

Capacity and use of the detention estate is reviewed regularly at a strategic level to allow Immigration Enforcement to plan operational activity. The Educational Testing Services operations followed this process, which included the use of detention alongside other activity to address any abuse or criminality.

As stated to the House on 24 June, the Home Office will provide regular updates to the House on the ETS-related activity. These updates will be provided as part of the regular publication of data on the department's work on borders and immigration.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140901/text/140901w0005.htm#14090213000084>

News

Syrian refugees 'left to starve' in Scotland by benefits move

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/syrian-refugees-left-to-starve-in-scotland-by-benefits-move.25189434>

UK must offer asylum to terror refugees - Archbishop of York

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-29001944>

Margaret Hodge warns over 'vanishing migrants'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-29049104>

Why are Afghan Sikhs desperate to flee to the UK?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-29062770>

Officials lost track of 50,000 illegal immigrants

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11073679/Officials-have-lost-track-of-50000-illegal-immigrants.html>

'Complacent' Home Office loses 175,000 illegal immigrants: Fresh humiliation as officials admit how many went missing after they were refused permission to

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2742786/Complacent-Home-Office-loses-175-000-illegal-immigrants-Fresh-humiliation-officials-admit-went-missing-refused-permission-stay.html>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Investigation underway after immigration removal centre death

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/sep/06/immigration-removal-centre-death-investigation-uk-swinderby>

Landlord migrant check scheme to be rolled out in West Midlands

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/sep/03/landlord-migrant-check-tenants-west-midlands>

One man's hellish journey from Eritrea terror to UK sanctuary

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/sep/06/eritrea-dangerous-trek-to-britain-slavery-trafficking>

Dozens of detainees stage disturbance at immigration centre

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4199114.ece>

Morton Hall Immigration Centre disorder investigated

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-lincolnshire-29094137>

'Disturbance' at immigration removal centre Morton Hall after death of inmate

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/disturbance-at-immigration-removal-centre-morton-hall-after-death-of-inmate-9716493.html>

Detainee 'suicide' sparks protest by more than 200 inmates at detention centre

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2746547/Detainee-suicide-sparks-protest-200-inmates-detention-centre.html>

UK offers Nato security fence to help Calais tackle migrants

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-29098641>

Migrant anarchy at Calais hurts everyone

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11077990/Migrant-anarchy-at-Calais-hurts-everyone.html>

Calais crisis: 'Britain is no soft touch when it comes to illegal immigration'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/france/11079107/Calais-crisis-Britain-is-no-soft-touch-when-it-comes-to-illegal-immigration.html>

Calais crisis: 'If I go back, I will be killed', says migrant caught in back of a lorry

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/france/11079504/Calais-crisis-If-I-go-back-I-will-be-killed-says-migrant-caught-in-back-of-a-lorry.html>

UK to send Nato summit fences to Calais to deter illegal immigrants

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/sep/07/nato-fences-summit-calais-illegal-immigrants>

Calais threatens to shut down port over British immigration policy

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/sep/03/calais-threatens-shutdown-port-immigration>

France should get its 'act together and deal with problem' of Calais migrants, former Home Secretary says

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/france-should-get-its-act-together-and-deal-with-problem-of-calais-migrants-former-home-secretary-says-9716288.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Calais heading for crisis: Migrant problem threatens to escalate, and neither France nor Britain seem able – or willing – to sort it out

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/calais-heading-for-crisis-migrant-problem-threatens-to-escalate-and-neither-france-nor-britain-seem-able--or-willing-to-sort-it-out-9712772.html>

Calais to be offered 9ft-high Nato Summit steel security fence to deter migrants

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/calais-to-be-offered-9ft-high-nato-summit-steel-security-fence-to-deter-migrants-9716768.html>

'Nato' fences to be sent to Calais

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2746603/Nato-fences-sent-Calais.html>

Ukip councillor calls for end to translation services to make people 'learn our language'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/ukip-councillor-calls-for-end-to-translation-services-to-make-people-learn-our-language-9709374.html>

French plot to unleash flood of 5,000 immigrants on the UK

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/505590/French-to-unleash-immigrant-flood-from-Calais-on-UK>

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Community Relations

News

As leaders of UK Jews and Muslims we say: we are two faiths with one message

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/sep/01/leaders-uk-jews-muslims-two-faiths-one-message>

A very British bubble of global tensions and local solutions

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/sep/01/british-bubble-global-tension-local-solutions-antisemitism-islamophobia>

Archbishop Of Canterbury Joins Jewish And Muslim Faith Leaders To Declare #WeAreAllHuman

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/09/03/archbishop-of-canterbury-joins-jewish-and-muslim-faith-leaders-to-declare-weareallhuman_n_5758568.html

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Equality

UK Parliament Question

Pay: Ethnic Groups

David Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to increase the number of workers from ethnic minority backgrounds who are paid the living wage as defined by the Living Wage Foundation. [206515]

Equality

UK Parliament Question (continued)

Reply from Jo Swinson: The Government encourages employers to pay the Living Wage when it is affordable and not at the expense of jobs. However our primary policy for supporting the low paid is the National Minimum Wage (NMW) which is carefully set by the independent Low Pay Commission at a level that maximises their wages without damaging employment by setting it too high.

The NWW has benefitted all low paid workers across the UK, not just those from ethnic minority backgrounds. Since its introduction in 1999 it has increased faster than average earnings and inflation without an adverse impact on employment.

In addition to the NMW we are increasing the personal allowance for income tax, allowing workers to take home more of what they earn. From April 2015 changes to income tax will provide the average worker with an additional £800 to their pay packet and by then will have taken 3.2 million people out of tax altogether.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140901/text/140901w0003.htm#14090212000017>

News

Development: not for people from different work and ethnic backgrounds?

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2014/sep/01/diversity-international-development-ngos>

Racial inequality in employment worsened in recessions

<http://blog.policy.manchester.ac.uk/featured/2014/09/racial-inequality-in-employment-worsened-in-recessions/>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

Summer Recess (DCLG Work)

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Eric Pickles): ... [col 6WS] on 13 August, Ministers met the Jewish organisation, Community Security Trust, to hear about the rise in anti-Semitism as a consequence of recent events in the middle east, and to listen to the concerns of the British Jewish community. The group recorded more than 200 incidents in July, the second highest monthly total since the organisation started recording incidents in 1984. Britain has a long standing reputation for freedom of speech and freedom of religion, within the law. Whatever one's views about the politics of Israel and Gaza, there is absolutely no place in our country for anti-Semitic attacks. Those who commit hate crimes should expect to be punished with the full force of the law. Everyone who believes in British liberties should condemn anti-Semitism and stand up for the Jewish community's right to practice their faith without fear or intimidation. ...

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140901/wmstext/140901m0001.htm#14090121000002>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination (continued) News

Racist letter bomb plot prisoners sentenced
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-29066437>

Longer sentences for race hate pair
<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk/longer-sentences-for-race-hate-pair-1.559225>

UK anti-semitic incidents peaked in July, Jewish charity says
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-29057121>

It is time to say with one voice: this anti-Semitism is not acceptable
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11067645/It-is-time-to-say-with-one-voice-this-anti-Semitism-is-not-acceptable.html>

I received an antisemitic leaflet in my letterbox – and yet I cherish free speech
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/sep/02/i-received-an-antisemitic-leaflet-in-my-letterbox-and-yet-i-cherish-free-speech>

'Anti-Semitism is poisonous': hundreds gather for rally against anti-Jewish
<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/505431/More-than-1-000-campaigners-gather-to-rally-against-anti-Semitism-in-Britain>

Levels of Antisemitism Are a Weather Vane On Hate Crimes Against Faith & Race Groups
<http://tellmamauk.org/levels-of-antisemitism-are-a-weather-vane-on-hate-crimes-against-other-c/>

Charity says jail is not the answer for internet trolls
<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/charity-says-jail-is-not-the-answer-for-internet-trolls.25192240>

Met Police discrimination: Scotland Yard 'deflected' bad press in 'dirty trick'
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-29031611>

Met discriminated against black female police officer, tribunal finds
<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/sep/02/metropolitan-discriminated-female-black-police-officer-tribunal>

How the Met shot down their own poster woman: Bullied, demeaned and smeared, trailblazing PC tells the full horror of the Scotland Yard campaign that destroyed her
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-2746290/How-Met-shot-poster-woman-Bullied-demeaned-smeared-trailblazing-PC-tells-horror-Scotland-Yard-campaign-destroyed-life.html>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Female Genital Mutilation

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many cases of female genital mutilation have been reported by teachers and staff in school in the latest period for which figures are available; [207194]

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

(2) whether her Department offers guidance to teachers and staff on addressing cases of female genital mutilation amongst female students. [207195]

Reply from Edward Timpson: In April 2014, the Department for Education published the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' guidance that provided schools with updated information regarding the safeguarding of pupils. The guidance contains information about female genital mutilation as well as a link to other, more detailed multi-agency guidelines. The Secretary of State for Education wrote to all schools in April to draw their attention to the guidance. In addition, the summer term e-mail to all schools reminded them of the need to be particularly vigilant because of the heightened risk during the summer holiday. Schools will be reminded of the guidance again in our 'Need to Know' e-mail early in the autumn term.

The Department commissioned the Personal Social Health and Economic Association to produce briefing for schools on FGM and this was published over the summer¹.

¹ https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/resources_search_details.aspx?ResourceId=536&Keyword=&SubjectID=0&LevelID=0&ResourceTypeID=3&SuggestedUseID=0

Information on the number of cases of female genital mutilation reported by teachers and staff in schools is not collected by the Department. Any reports would be collated by individual local authorities under local safeguarding children arrangements.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140904/text/140904w0001.htm#14090443000013>

Legal Systems: Islam

Charles Walker: To ask the Ministers for Women and Equalities what discussions she has had with (a) the Secretary of State for Justice and (b) other interlocutors about the Law Society's inclusion of Sharia succession rules in its guidance and its compatibility with existing equalities legislation; and if she will make a statement. [206704]

Reply from Jo Swinson: The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, the right hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) and I have not had any such discussions.

This Government is committed to the protection and promotion of women's rights. Sharia law has no jurisdiction in England and Wales and the Government has no intention of changing this position. Everyone, male or female, is equal before the law in this country.

The practice note issued by The Law Society on 13 March 2014 gives guidance to solicitors preparing wills under the law of England and Wales. It is a fundamental principle of this law that testators are, by making a valid will, able to leave their property to whomsoever they wish, subject only to the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975. The practice note does not and cannot change the law. The courts will continue to apply the law of England and Wales relating to the making of wills in exactly the same way as they did before the practice note was issued.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140902/text/140902w0001.htm#14090260000006>

Islam: Marriage

Sharon Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with (a) ministerial colleagues in the Ministry of Justice, (b) the Muslim Institute, (c) the Muslim Council of Great Britain and (d) the Muslim Parliament of

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Great Britain on the legal status of Islamic marriages in England and Wales. [201472]

Reply from James Brokenshire: Home Office Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of international partners, as well as organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and operational delivery. Details of ministerial meetings with external organisations and individuals are passed to the Cabinet Office on a quarterly basis and are subsequently published on the Cabinet Office website, which is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/home-office-ministers-hospitality-data>

There are no plans to change the law to recognise in English law Muslim marriages and divorces which do not conform to the Marriage Act 1949.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140901/text/140901w0006.htm#14090213000088>

Clothing: Islam

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the wearing of (a) the niqab and (b) the burka by individuals during any official interaction with (i) police officers and (ii) immigration officers. [205063]

Reply from Mike Penning: The information is as follows:

(i) Police officers must observe the requirements of the Codes of Practice under the Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984 governing the removal of headgear. A copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library.

(ii) All passengers wearing a veil or face covering on arrival in the United Kingdom will be asked to remove their veil so that their appearance can be compared with the photograph in their passport, in order that the Border Force officer can be satisfied as to their identity and nationality.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140901/text/140901w0005.htm#14090213000066>

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New Publications

The New Alchemy: How volunteering turns donations of time and talent into human gold

http://www.scribd.com/doc/238308370/The-New-Alchemy-Part-1?secret_password=aLQxUK7fAQHwPd5FRtMQ

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Other News

Launch of My Volunteer Account

<http://www.volunteerscotland.net/about-us/news/my-volunteer-account/>

Asian women drug addicts face black market peril

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/asian-women-drug-addicts-face-black-market-peril-179364n.25241400>

'The shame is very much there'

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/the-shame-is-very-much-there-179373n.25243187>

Other News (continued)

Beyond Rotherham: Muslims are also silent victims of sexual abuse

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/sep/02/rotherham-muslims-victims-sexual-abuse-vulnerable-girls-muslim-communities>

Women-only clinics to boost blood donation

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Health/article1455973.ece

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Assisted Suicide Bill

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

Criminal Justice Bill

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

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>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0008/amend/pbc0080209m.33-39.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0008/amend/pbc0080209a.63-66.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0008/amend/pbc0080409a.101-107.html>

Committee Stage

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmpublic/modernslavery/140902/am/140902s01.htm>

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament (continued)

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmpublic/modernslavery/140902/pm/140902s01.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmpublic/modernslavery/140904/am/140904s01.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmpublic/modernslavery/140904/pm/140904s01.htm>

UK Borders Control Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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/>

Consultations (continued)

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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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Voluntary Action Fund Community Grant Programme

Groups with less than £25,000 income per annum can apply for a grant of up to £1,000 for a wide range of activities or operational costs. Priority will be given to groups that work:

- With health or disability issues;
- For the benefit of people protected under the 2010 Equality Act (Age; Disability; Race; Faith; Sex or Sexual orientation etc.)
- With families and young people; and
- With older people.

For information and an application form, see

<http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/community-grant-programme-2014-15/>

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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/>

**MULTICULTURAL
HOMECOMING 2014**

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

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.

**** this week!**

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/>

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.

**** From the Boardroom to the Decision Table: Training Diverse Leadership**

24 September 2014 – online webinar (3.00)

Cities of Migration webinar to discuss why, if visible minorities and immigrants make up a growing share of the urban population they are still largely absent from the city's boardrooms and corridors of power. For information see

http://citiesofmigration.ca/webinar/diverse-leadership/?utm_source=mailoutinteractive&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Webinar:%20From%20the%20Boardroom%20to%20the%20Decision%20Table:%20Training%20Diverse%20Leadership

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** 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 to support parents from ethnic minorities to become more involved with their children's education and school communities. This event will 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/>

**** Is Accessing Information A Human Right? Lessons for Scotland**

26 September 2014 in Glasgow (1.30 – 4.30)

Event marking International Right to Know Day and celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of the Campaign for Freedom of Information in Scotland. For information see <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/is-accessing-information-a-human-right-lessons-for-scotland-tickets-12969904333>

**** A level playing field? Discrimination Law in 2014**

23 October 2014 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.00)

Scottish Discrimination Law Association conference in partnership with the Equality and Human Rights Commission. For information contact Angela Barclay 0141 228 5951 / equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/14x_sdla.pdf

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

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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