

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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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debate

UK Visa Applications (Malawi)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141028/halltext/141028h0002.htm#141028100000004>

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement and Questions

Refugees and Migrants (Search and Rescue Operation)

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on why the Government have decided not to support search and rescue operations for refugees and migrants in the Mediterranean.

Reply from the Minister for Security and Immigration (James Brokenshire):

The United Kingdom has a long and proud tradition of providing sanctuary to those who genuinely need it. We work closely with our European neighbours to

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement and Questions (continued)

provide assistance to those fleeing from fear or persecution and to deter those whose criminal actions stand in the way of providing effective help.

The scenes we have witnessed in the Mediterranean in recent months, with people risking their lives to reach Europe, are hugely distressing. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that over 3,000 people have already died attempting to cross the Mediterranean this year, compared with some 700 deaths in the whole of last year. When people are risking life and limb—not just their own, but those of their loved ones too—it is clear that they are caught in a desperate situation. Nobody underestimates the sincerity of their plight. It demands an equally sincere approach from the governments of European nations, and that is what it has been getting. ...

We have made clear our view that the only sustainable answer to the current situation in the Mediterranean is to enhance operational co-operation within the EU; work with the countries of origin and transit to tackle the causes of illegal immigration and the organised gangs that facilitate it; and enhance support for protection in north and east Africa for those in need.

We have agreed to a request from Frontex—the EU's border management agency—to deploy a debriefing expert in support of the new Frontex Operation Triton off the southern Italian coast. This operation is not designed to replace Mare Nostrum, but will instead patrol closer to EU borders. We stand ready to consider any further request for UK support for the new Frontex operation.

The UK is also among those member states offering substantial numbers of resettlement places for refugees from outside the EU—more than 4,000 between 2008 and 2013—working closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In close partnership with other member states, we are developing a strong programme of work to tackle the causes of migration from the horn of Africa, including through investment in regional protection programmes.

It is not in the interests of anyone—most especially those who are genuinely fleeing persecution—if European countries have an uncontrolled and ineffective approach to immigration and asylum. It is not in the interests of anyone if the criminal gangs that exploit the fear and suffering of vulnerable people—endangering human lives for cold, hard cash—are allowed to continue their despicable work unimpeded. It is not in the interests of anyone if we fail to adapt to a situation which encourages more and more people to make that dangerous journey across the seas. That is why member states across the EU have unanimously agreed to act—to defend our borders, crack down on crime and protect those who so desperately need our protection.

To read the subsequent House of Commons question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141030/debtext/141030-0001.htm#14103037000003>

The same statement was read in the House of Lords. To read the subsequent question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141030-0001.htm#14103047000356>

UK Parliament Questions

Free Movement of People

William McCrea [210822] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to bring forward proposals to limit the free movement of people into the UK from other EU countries.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from James Brokenshire: We have been clear that free movement is an important principle of the EU but it cannot be unqualified. Freedom of movement is not, and cannot be, a freedom to claim benefits. Across Government we have introduced a series of tough domestic reforms to tackle the abuse of free movement rights and to ensure that our controls on accessing benefits and services are amongst the tightest in Europe.

The Prime Minister has made clear that further steps are needed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-15/210822/>

Immigration Controls

David Hanson [210776] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many flights into private airfields were unchecked by immigration officers in each year since 2010.

Reply from James Brokenshire: In each year since 2010, checks have been carried out on all flights into private airfields that were notified to Border Force.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-15/210776/>

Immigration Act 2014

Baroness Lister of Burtersett [HL2214] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to set a commencement date for section 65 of the Immigration Act 2014.

Reply from Lord Bates: Section 65 of the 2014 Act will insert new registration provisions into the British Nationality Act 1981 for people born to British fathers before 1 July 2006. The 2014 Act is being implemented in phases to ensure the provisions are brought into force in an orderly and effective manner. We have not yet set a commencement date for Section 65

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-20/HL2214/>

Immigration

Joan Walley [211715] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent representations she has received on lowering the minimum income threshold limit required by those wishing to bring family members to the UK.

Reply from James Brokenshire: We keep the family Immigration Rules under regular review in light of all feedback on their operation. However, we have no plans to lower the minimum income threshold required to bring family members to the UK under those rules. In its 11 July 2014 judgment in *MM and Others* the Court of Appeal upheld the lawfulness of the requirement and found that it strikes a fair balance between the interests of those affected and the community in general.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-23/211715/>

Immigration

Lord Taylor of Warwick [HL2163] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the report by the Legal Action Group, *Chasing Status*, on the experience of legal long-term resident migrants under new immigration laws.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Home Office is aware of this report and will consider its contents. It is the responsibility of individuals to ensure that they have a proper basis of stay in the UK and to regularise their position if it is uncertain. The Government has required individuals to demonstrate their entitlement to work,

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

benefits and public services for many years so the number of individuals who only now find they are unable to do so should be small.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-16/HL2163/>

Asylum

Ian Swales [211425] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to make it possible for asylum seekers to make a complaint without it costing them money to call from their mobile phones.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Complaints regarding the operation of the Asylum system can be made by email or in writing to UK Visas and Immigration. Information regarding the UK Visas and Immigration complaints procedure and how to contact the Complaints Allocation Hub is available to the public at the following website link: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration/about/complaints-procedure

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-22/211425/>

Asylum

Ian Swales [211426] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to ensure complaints submitted by asylum seekers to G4S sub-contractors have been passed on to G4S by those sub-contractors.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The COMPASS contract lays down requirements for accommodation standards and for the receipt of enquiries and complaints from service users. The providers are contractually required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation to comply with relevant mandatory and statutory requirements in relation to housing, including the Housing Act 2004 and the Decent Home standards.

G4S provide a 24-hour helpline which provides support, advice and opportunity to raise complaints for service users. In addition, G4S and the Home Office conduct regular accommodation inspections across G4S' property portfolio which presents the opportunity to ensure appropriate accommodation standards are being met and that service users are getting the right level of service.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-22/211426/>

Asylum

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2079] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance is offered to failed asylum seekers in order to help them return to their country of origin.

Reply from Lord Bates The Home Office operates two Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) schemes for those without permanent immigration status in the UK and for which failed asylum seekers are eligible. These are:

Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP) for those who have sought asylum and those with discretionary leave in the UK. Returnees receive support in acquiring travel documentation, flight to the country of return and onward domestic transport, airport assistance at departure and arrival airports and up to £1500 worth of reintegration assistance per person.

Assisted Voluntary Return for Families and Children (AVRFC) is for families comprising of a maximum of 2 adult parents or legal guardians and at least 1 child (under 18), and also unaccompanied children (under 18) who have either sought asylum or who are in the UK illegally and wish to return home. Returnees receive

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

support in acquiring travel documentation, flight to the country of return and onward domestic transport, airport assistance at departure and arrival airports and up to £2000 worth of reintegration assistance per person.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-14/HL2079/>

Asylum

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2078] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers have had their application refused but could not be returned to their country of origin in each of the last five years.

Reply from Lord Bates: The information requested in the noble Lord's question could only be obtained through a manual search of individual case files, which would incur a disproportionate cost. However, we do publish information on the outcome of asylum applications which may assist the noble Lord. This can be found at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/345774/asylum2-q2-2014-tabs.ods

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-14/HL2078/>

Asylum

Paul Blomfield [211420] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 1 September 2014 to Question 203287, on asylum, if she will make it her policy to apply the six-month service standard to all claims received before April 2014; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The UK has a proud history of granting asylum to those who need it, and the Government is committed to effectively managing its asylum caseload.

It remains our aim to decide straightforward claims made before April 2014 by 31 March 2015. There will always be some cases where further information is required or that are too complex to decide within defined timescales.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-22/211420/>

Asylum: English Language

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2080] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance is given to successful asylum seekers who wish to learn English.

Reply from Baroness Neville-Rolfe: Refugees recognised by the UK Government, along with their husband, wife, civil partner and children, are eligible for funding to attend an English for Speakers of Other Languages course. The level of funding is determined by existing eligibility rules, which are set out in the Skills Funding Agency's rules at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/287917/Funding_rules_2014_15.pdf. Education and skills funding is devolved and the eligibility criteria apply to England.

Those isolated by their lack of English can also access pre-entry level English training through the Department for Communities and Local Government's £6million Community-Based English Language programme, which offers tuition to 24,000 adults most isolated by their lack of English in 29 target areas.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-14/HL2080/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Housing

Lord Beecham [HL2004] To ask Her Majesty's Government what response they have made to the conclusions and recommendations of the 54th report of 2013–14 of the Public Accounts Committee: *COMPASS: Provision of asylum accommodation*.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Government has responded to the 54th report of 2013-14 of the Public Accounts Committee: COMPASS: Provision of Asylum Accommodation by way of a Treasury Minute published on 19 June 2014. The response was published by Command under number: 8871. The responses to the six recommendations are shown on pages one to three of the attached document. The response is also available on the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/treasury-minutes-june-2014>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-13/HL2004/>

Asylum: Health Services

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2228] To ask Her Majesty's Government what access young asylum seekers have to health

Reply from Lord Bates: They have access to NHS services free of charge while their asylum claims are under consideration.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-20/HL2228/>

Asylum: Finance

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2223] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to review the azure payment card for asylum seekers as a result of the new report by the British Red Cross on the humanitarian cost of the card.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Azure card is issued to destitute failed asylum seekers who require support because they are temporarily unable to leave the United Kingdom and can be used at most of the main supermarket chains to purchase food and other essential items. The performance of the card is kept under regular review and the views of reputable partners such as the Red Cross are carefully considered but the Government is satisfied that it is an effective way of ensuring the individuals are able to meet their essential living needs and not left destitute.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-20/HL2223/>

Asylum: Finance

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2227] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum claimants are left without any state support, on reaching the age of 18.

Reply from Lord Bates: There is no reason why any asylum seekers should be left without support on reaching the age of 18. Unaccompanied asylum seeking children are looked after by local authorities and most will continue to be supported in this way after the age of 18 under leaving care legislation while they remain in the UK.

Any asylum seeker that does not have an entitlement to leaving care support would be eligible to support from the Home Office under the provisions of section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 if they were destitute.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-20/HL2227/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Finance

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2077] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the current rate of support provided to asylum seekers; and how many of those who receive such support they estimate to live below the poverty line.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Government ensures that asylum seekers are not left destitute by providing accommodation and a cash allowance to cover their essential living needs.

The table below sets out the current weekly allowances provided to asylum seekers and various categories of dependants that may also be supported.

LEVELS OF CASH SUPPORT FROM 18 APRIL 2011	
	£
SINGLE PERSON	
Aged 18 or over (excluding lone parent)	36.62
Aged 25 years or over (excluding lone parent), where the decision to provide cash support was made before 5 October 2009 and the person reached age 25 prior to that date.	42.62
QUALIFYING COUPLES	
Both 18 years or over	72.52
LONE PARENT AGE 18 OR OVER	
Age 18 or over	43.94
PERSONAL ALLOWANCE FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN	
Person aged under 16	52.96
Person aged 16 but under 18 (except where the person is a member of a Qualifying Couple)	39.80

The Government has reviewed the allowances and concluded that the allowances are sufficient to cover the essential needs of asylum seekers and their families.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-14/HL2077/>

Asylum: Finance

The following five questions received the same answer.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2277] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have assessed the effectiveness of the combination of the Azure payment card and support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 in enabling refused asylum seekers to meet their basic needs.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2278] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to abolish the Azure payment card and amend legislation to enable the provision of cash support for all refused asylum seekers until they are either given status in the United Kingdom or return to their country of origin.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2279] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much they have spent on administering the Azure card system since its inception.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2280] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their forecast annual cost for administering the Azure card payment scheme in the coming year.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2281] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the conclusion of the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee that "section 4 is not the solution for people who have been refused but cannot be returned" as stated in their report *Asylum* (7th Report of session 2013–14, HC 71).

Reply from Lord Bates: The Azure card is issued to destitute failed asylum

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

seekers accommodated under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 because they are temporarily unable to leave the United Kingdom. The card can be used at most of the main supermarket chains to purchase food and other essential items. The performance of the card is kept under regular review but the Government is satisfied that it is an effective way of ensuring that recipients are able to meet their essential living needs and are not left destitute.

The Government therefore has no plans to abolish the card or change legislation to allow people supported under section 4 to receive cash instead.

The total administrative costs of the card scheme since it was introduced in 2009 are approximately £1,515,000. Estimated administrative costs for the current financial year are £200,000.

The Government published its response to the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee report about asylum procedures in December 2013. A response to the Committee's views on section 4 support was set out on page 18-19.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-21/HL2277/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-21/HL2278/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-21/HL2279/>

Illegal Immigrants: Ports

Jackie Doyle-Price [211063] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many clandestine migrants have been identified at (a) the UK's seaport and (b) the Port of Tilbury in each year since 2000.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The following detections of clandestine migrants have been made across all UK sea ports since 2011 (to obtain data pre-2011 would be at disproportionate cost): 692 detections in 2011, 568 in 2012 and 678 in 2013. In order to ensure the integrity and security of the UK border, Her Majesty's Government does not comment on port specific statistics.

The figures quoted are management information, subject to internal quality checks and may be subject to change. The figures include those detected at a sea port and on ferries.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-20/211063/>

Human Trafficking

Emily Thornberry [210496] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many confiscation orders were imposed by the CPS on individuals convicted of offences related to human trafficking in each of the last five years; what the size of these orders was; and how much has been recovered under such orders.

Reply from Karen Bradley: The Government is committed to fighting human trafficking. Over £5.5 million has been recovered from those convicted of human trafficking offences in the last five years. ... A human trafficker may, as an alternative, be charged and prosecuted for a different offence, such as prostitution or money laundering, which could incur a confiscation order. But this would not be recorded as a trafficking offence.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-14/210496/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking

Graham Evans [210551] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 13 January 2014 to Question 181067, how many identified victims of trafficking who (a) participated and (b) did not participate in criminal proceedings were granted discretionary leave to remain on the grounds of personal circumstances in 2013; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from James Brokenshire: In 2013, 52 people who had been granted discretionary leave due to being recognised as victims of trafficking participated in criminal proceedings by assisting the police with their investigations into human trafficking. A further 35 individuals were granted discretionary leave but did not participate in criminal proceedings.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-14/210551/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Jeremy Corbyn (400) Deaths of migrants in the Mediterranean – That this House is appalled at the loss of 2,500 migrants in the Mediterranean since January 2014; commends all those who have tried to rescue these desperate people, many of whom are victims of war, environmental disaster and civil unrest; is shocked that from 1 November 2014 the Italian sea rescue operation Mare Nostrum will cease and only be replaced by border patrols within 30 miles of the coast; and accordingly calls on the Government to support a proper humanitarian protection operation to help save the lives of these desperate victims of human-created disasters.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2014-15/400>

Press Release

Europe/Migrants: “Let them die, this is a good deterrence” – UN human rights expert

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Media.aspx?IsMediaPage=true&LangID=E>

New Publications

Reforming the UK border and immigration system

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmpubacc/584/584.pdf>

Draft Code of Practice for Landlords Avoiding unlawful discrimination when conducting ‘right to rent’ checks in the private rented residential sector

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/368619/draft_code_of_practice_for_landlords.pdf

Monthly asylum application tables

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/367042/asylum-aug2014.ods

Children entering detention under Immigration Act powers

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/367036/children-detention-sep2014.ods

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **News**

Towns 'feel under siege' from migrants, minister warns

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-29776970>

I misspoke over immigrants, says Michael Fallon

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-29784486>

Michael Fallon withdraws 'careless' immigration remark

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/oct/27/michael-fallon-withdraws-careless-immigration-remark-swamped>

Tory MP Michael Fallon says claims immigrants are 'swamping' towns were 'a little careless'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/tory-mp-michael-fallon-says-claims-immigrants-are-swamping-towns-were-a-little-careless-9820768.html>

Claims of immigrants swamping towns were careless Michael Fallon admits

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11189526/Claims-immigrants-are-swamping-British-towns-were-careless-Michael-Fallon-admits.html>

Fallon admits he was 'careless' in migrant remarks

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4249126.ece>

Blunkett backs Fallon on migrants

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/blunkett-backs-fallon-on-migrants-1.650662>

David Blunkett praises Michael Fallon for 'swamped by migrants' comments

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/oct/28/david-blunkett-praises-michael-fallon-swamped-migrants>

Immigration needed in UK, Archbishop of Canterbury says

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-29791963>

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby: There is no immigrant 'menace'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/archbishop-of-canterbury-justin-welby-there-is-no-immigrant-menace-9821978.html?origin=internalSearch>

Archbishop takes swipe at politicians over immigration

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/wider-political-news/archbishop-takes-swipe-at-politicians-over-immigration.25708508>

Archbishop of Canterbury: 'don't demonise immigrants'

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/oct/27/archbishop-canterbury-justin-welby-warns-not-demonise-immigrants-michael-fallon-swamped>

Archbishop of Canterbury condemns politicians who view immigration as a "deep menace"

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11190730/Archbishop-of-Canterbury-condemns-politicians-who-view-immigration-as-a-deep-menace.html>

Government criticised over visa regime for Malawi visitors to UK

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/scottish-politics/government-criticised-over-visa-regime-for-malawi-visitors-to-uk.25716249>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

UK benefits a magnet to migrants, says Calais mayor

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-29799733>

Migrants who risk everything to reach Europe

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29694066>

Migrants 'ready to die to reach UK'

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/migrants-ready-to-die-to-reach-uk-1.651998>

Immigrants and asylum seekers 'prepared to die' to get to UK

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/wider-political-news/immigrants-and-asylum-seekers-prepared-to-die-to-get-to-uk.25716971>

Calais migrants 'willing to die' to come to Britain, says French port's mayor

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/oct/28/calais-migrants-willing-to-die-britain-french-mayor-natacha-bouchart-uk-benefits-france>

Calais goes to war over 'soft touch' UK benefits

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4250978.ece>

UK ready to help migrant operation

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/uk-ready-to-help-migrant-operation-1.655319>

Church condemns Government as un-Christian over stance on drowning migrants

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11198140/Church-condemns-Government-as-un-Christian-over-stance-on-drowning-migrants.html>

Home Office defends decision for UK to halt migrant rescues

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/28/home-office-defends-uk-migrant-pull-factor>

UK axes support for Mediterranean migrant rescue operation

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/oct/27/uk-mediterranean-migrant-rescue-plan>

Migrant rescue operations must be stopped at earliest opportunity – minister

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/oct/30/home-office-minister-rescue-migrants-must-be-stopped-mediterranean>

Amnesty bemoans 'dark day for UK's moral standing' over Med refugees

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/amnesty-bemoans-dark-day-for-uks-moral-standing-over-med-refugees-9832117.html>

UK government criticised over 'barbaric' plans to stop rescuing drowning African migrants

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/uk-government-criticised-over-barbaric-plans-to-stop-rescuing-drowning-african-migrants-9828789.html>

Asylum-seekers 'wait seven years'

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/asylum-seekers-wait-seven-years-1.652316>

Asylum-seekers 'wait seven years'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2810292/Migrants-really-swamping-parts-UK-says-Blunkett-Ex-Home-Secretary-backs-minister-rebuked-No-10-TV-comments.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Asylum: 30,000 cases still unresolved from 2007, say MPs

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-29805830>

Asylum queue hits 45,000 as failed IT projects cost £1bn

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4250695.ece>

More than 10,000 asylum-seekers 'left in limbo'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/mps-criticise-home-office-delays-as-10000-asylumseekers-are-left-in-limbo-9824344.html>

Asylum backlog soars by 70pc despite Home Office shake-up, warn MPs

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11192729/Asylum-backlog-soars-by-70pc-despite-Home-Office-shake-up-warn-MPs.html>

Britain's immigration system in chaos, MPs' report reveals

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/oct/29/britain-immigration-system-in-chaos-report-reveals>

Home Office in dock as immigration fiascos mount: Theresa May under fire for 'unbelievable' failures over sham marriages

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2813365/Home-Office-dock-immigration-fiascos-mount-Theresa-fire-collapsed-sham-marriage-trials.html>

Home Office minister defends asylum policy from attack

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-29830609>

Visa system threatens Scotland's links with Malawi

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/columnists/inside-track-visa-system-threatens-scotlands-links-with-malawi.25731563>

Schools need help to cope with migrants, Ofsted says

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article4252344.ece>

Teachers are struggling to cope with 'influx' of migrant children, warns Chief Inspector of Schools Sir Michael Wilshaw

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2813035/British-schools-need-help-cope-influx-immigrant-children-says-Ofsted-chief-Sir-Michael-Wilshaw.html>

Britain's schools lack capacity to deal with 'influx' of migrant children says Ofsted chief inspector of schools

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/britains-schools-lack-capacity-to-deal-with-influx-of-migrant-children-says-ofsted-chief-inspector-of-schools-9827455.html?origin=internalSearch>

Students aim to raise £6m to buy a castle for asylum seekers

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/weird-news/students-aim-to-raise-6m-to-buy-a-castle-for-asylum-seekers-9832094.html>

This politics of denial over immigration is feeding a growing inhumanity

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/oct/29/politics-denial-immigration-inhumanity>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Our immigration problems are a result of Britain's success

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11195645/Our-immigration-problems-are-a-result-of-Britains-success.html>

Border agency blamed over work permit scam

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4249923.ece>

Cheap immigrant labour has cost blue-collar Britain dear

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11202976/Cheap-immigrant-labour-has-cost-blue-collar-Britain-dear.html>

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Community Relations

New Publication

Gypsy, Traveller, and Roma: Experts by Experience

http://www.anglia.ac.uk/ruskin/en/home/news/roma_report.Maincontent.0007.file.tmp/Experts%20by%20Experience.pdf

News

I'm Bengali and I'm black – in the same way that my parents were

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/oct/30/bengali-black-ethnic-minorities-racism>

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Equality

Scottish Parliament Parliamentary Motion

S4M-11330 Bob Doris: Gathered Together—That the Parliament welcomes the recently launched project, Gathered Together, which encourages parents from ethnic minorities to be more actively involved in their children's school; notes that the project is a joint venture between BEMIS Scotland and the Scottish Parent Teacher Council and is funded by the Big Lottery's Third Sector Early Intervention Fund; believes that parental participation in their children's schooling has significant benefits not only for pupils but also for communities; further understands that parents from ethnic minorities can face particular barriers in getting involved, and welcomes what it sees as the success that the project has already achieved in harnessing and enhancing the diverse skills of parent councils, community groups, ethnic minority parents and educators.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-11330&ResultsPerPage=10>

Equality (continued) New Publications

Education: the situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States. Roma survey

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014_roma-survey_education_tk0113748enc.pdf

Poverty and employment: the situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-roma-survey-employment_en.pdf

News

PFA: Just 4% of backroom jobs in football go to ethnic minorities

<http://www.theguardian.com/football/2014/nov/01/pfa-backroom-jobs-football-ethnic-minorities>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions

Religious Hatred

Gareth Thomas [211508] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of trends in the level of (a) anti-semitism and (b) Islamophobia in the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Norman Baker: The UK Government takes all forms of hate crime very seriously. We deplore all religious and racially-motivated attacks.

Between 2012-13 and 2013-14 recorded race hate crime increased by 4% (an increase of 1,595 offences), and religious hate crime by 45% (an increase of 700 offences). The increase in recorded hate crime shows that more victims are coming forward and that the police are improving the way they identify hate crimes, and we welcome this.

While religious hate crime data is not broken down by type, monthly police recorded crime data for racially or religiously aggravated offences show an increase following the murder of Lee Rigby in May 2013.

The Community Safety Trust monitors levels of antisemitism. Their most recent report, published at the end of July covering the period of January to June 2014, highlights that there has been a 36% increase in the number of antisemitic incidents recorded compared to the same period in 2013 (304 incidents in 2014, compared to 223 in 2013).

When these events occur it is vital that the police take action to engage effectively with communities. Police forces in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland have recently been issued with new guidance for dealing with hate crimes, which includes advice on dealing with incidents and how to monitor and deal with community tensions.

We have established working groups to tackle antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred which bring together community representatives and experts from across government to help explore issues affecting these communities.

Our cross-government action plan brings together the work of a wide range of departments and agencies under three core principles: to prevent hate crimes happening in the first place; to increase reporting and victims' access to support; and to improve the operational response to hate crimes.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-22/211508/>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Antisemitism

Gareth Thomas [211509] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of trends in the level of anti-semitism in Europe; what recent discussions he has had on anti-semitism with his European counterparts; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from David Lidington: The British Government is committed to combating anti-Semitism wherever it is found and supports the efforts of EU partners to tackle racism in all its forms.

The November 2013 report of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), indicated that two-thirds of people identifying themselves as Jewish across eight EU Member States considered anti-Semitism to be a problem in their country. As current Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), the UK will be discussing this issue at the IHRA's Plenary Meetings in Manchester in December.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office also works very closely with the UK Member of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), which provides expert advice on tackling anti-Semitism to other EU Member States.

The British Government will be represented at a senior level at the tenth anniversary of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Conference and Declaration on Anti-Semitism, being held in Berlin on 13 November.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-22/211509/>

Press Releases

Racist abuser at Glasgow supermarket sentenced

<http://www.copfs.gov.uk/media-site/media-releases/894-man-sentenced-for-assault-and-racist-abuse-at-denistoun-supermarket>

Antisemitism? not on my internet

<http://www.nohatespeechmovement.org/hate-speech-watch/focus/antisemitism-not-on-my-internet>

New Publication

Discrimination against and living conditions of Roma women in 11 EU Member States

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-roma-survey-gender_en.pdf

News

Racist ripped off Muslim's veil

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/racist-ripped-off-muslims-veil.25746585>

Woman who had her veil ripped off her face hits out after sheriff allows racist attacker to dodge jail

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/woman-who-veil-ripped-face-4546086>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination News (continued)

Twitter comes under fire over antisemitic abuse

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4252201.ece>

Man on trial over Celtic-Juventus racism claims

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/man-on-trial-over-celtic-juventus-racism-claims-1-3585364>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Debate

Smith Commission

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9585&i=87088>

Parliamentary Motion

S4M-11308 Jim Eadie: Imam Hussain Blood Donation Campaign 2014—That the Parliament congratulates the Edinburgh Ahlul Bayt Society on the launch of the Imam Hussain Blood Donation Campaign 2014 in cooperation with the Islamic Unity Society and the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service; notes that the campaign will be launched with blood donation sessions in Edinburgh on 6 and 8 November 2014, and acknowledges what it sees as a constructive effort to encourage Muslim residents of Edinburgh and the Lothian region to become more active in donating blood to help save lives, while also marking the near-at-hand Islamic New Year, which is known as Muharram.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-11308&ResultsPerPage=10>

New Publications

Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing: Proposals to the Smith Commission on Further Powers in EU and International Affairs

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_14-76_.pdf

Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing: Key issues in relation to the devolution of additional tax powers

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_14-74.pdf

Forced Marriage: Supplementary Guidance Document 2014

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0046/00462181.pdf>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Debate

Scotland: Devolution

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141029-0001.htm#14102972000416>

Parliamentary Questions

Financial Services: Islam

Chuka Umunna [211993] To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate his Department has made on the benefit to UK companies of an increase in the capacity of the UK's Islamic finance market.

Reply from David Gauke: Islamic finance is the one of the world's fastest growing sectors - according to estimates from TheCityUK, at the current rate of growth, the market will exceed US\$2 trillion in assets by the end of this year.[1] The Government has not estimated the benefits to UK companies of the expansion of the UK's Islamic finance market, although we recognise the significant opportunity it represents UK firms.

The Government is committed to ensuring that the UK remains the global partner and destination of choice for Islamic finance. In June this year the Government was the first western country to issue a sovereign sukuk, an Islamic bond, worth £200 million. This cemented the UK's position as the western hub for Islamic finance and demonstrates that the UK has created a level playing field which puts Islamic finance on par with conventional forms of finance.

The UK has a high concentration of Islamic finance and related professional services firms: 6 full Islamic banks, over 20 banks offering Islamic finance products and services, and over 25 UK law firms have Islamic finance units. As the Government continues its efforts to develop the UK's Islamic finance market, we expect further opportunities and benefits to arise for UK companies although these have not been estimated.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-27/211993/>

Armed Forces: Meat

Both of the following questions received the same answer.

Lord Blencathra [HL2119] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much meat from animals killed by the halal method was purchased for the United Kingdom military whilst serving in the United Kingdom in each of the last five years.

Lord Blencathra [HL2120] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether United Kingdom military ration packs contain meat from animals killed by the halal method.

Lord Astor of Hever: Ministry of Defence (MOD) personnel in the UK and permanent bases overseas are served through a number of catering, retail, leisure and other multi-activity contracts. Halal meat is purchased under these arrangements but information on the volume procured is not held by the MOD.

Armed Forces personnel serving on operations, exercises and HM ships and submarines, are catered for under a single food supply contract with Purple Foodservice Solutions Ltd (PFS). The PFS contract includes the provision of Operational Ration Packs (ORPs). Individual 24 hour ORPs are available in 60 different menus, of which 10 are halal.

All food procured for MOD personnel must comply with MOD food quality standards. These standards comply with all UK and EU production standards,

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Farm Assurance or equivalent. This includes the Animal Welfare Act 2006 which covers Halal slaughter.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-15/HL2119/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-15/HL2120/>

Press Release

Armed Forces Hindu network launched at Diwali celebration

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/armed-forces-hindu-network-launched-at-diwali-celebration>

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New Publications

Scottish Human Rights Commission: Annual Report 2013-14

http://scottishhumanrights.com/application/resources/documents/SHRC_Annual_Report_2014_Final.pdf

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Other News

Comprehensive action needed to tackle forced marriage

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2014/comprehensive-action-needed-tackle-forced-marriage>

'Poppy hijab' to mark Muslim soldier's Victoria Cross 100 years on

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-29833296>

'Cursed' Asian women secretly abort girls

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/National/article1478542.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>

Analysis of submissions of evidence

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_HealthandSportCommittee/Reports/HS_Assisted_Suicide_Report.pdf

Bills in Progress Scottish Parliament (continued)

Justice Committee: evidence from the Law Society of Scotland, the Faculty of Advocates, and the Scottish Human Rights Commission
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9588&i=87122>

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/2014-2015/0096/amend/pbc0962810a.665-666.html>

UK Borders Control Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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>

Inquiry into the devolution of further fiscal powers (closing date 14 November 2014)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/82244.aspx>

Planning and travellers (closing date 23 November 2014)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/354061/consultation_doc_140903.pdf

Consultations (continued)

**** Draft guidance relating to equality and human rights implications for the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014** (closing date 28 November 2014)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/devolved-authorities/commission-scotland/consultation-draft-guidance-relating-equality-and-human-rights-implications-marriage-and-civil>

Review of the shortage occupation lists for the UK and Scotland (closing date 5 December 2014)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/359315/Call_for_evidence_FINAL.pdf

Equality and Human Rights Commission Litigation strategy survey (closing date 12 December 2014)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/our-work/ehrc-consultations/litigation-strategy-survey?wssl=1>

Community Empowerment Bill (no closing date given)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVglCS_Rgro&feature=youtu.be

Experiences of Race and Religion-Related Hate Speech in the UK (no closing date given)

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HR7RBZ3>

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

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

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

**** Scottish Government Equality Fund**

Closing date 5 December 2014

Open to applications from voluntary organisations who are registered with OSCR or organisations who are working towards becoming an incorporated body, and who work across the protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion, sex and sexual orientation. The Fund is worth up to £3 million and there is no upper limit on the amount that can be applied for.

<http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/equality-fund/2015-16>

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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!**

Supporting Refugee Women

4 November 2014 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

4 February 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

28 April 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an understanding of the issues and legal systems impact specifically on refugee women. This includes discussing issues of FGM and sexual violence. For information contact Martha Harding martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

**** this week!**

Domestic Abuse and Minority Ethnic Women, Children and Young People

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

16th (9.30-4.30pm) & 17th (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

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.

Introduction to Discrimination Law

12 November 2014 in Greenock (12.45 – 4.30)

Equality and Human Rights Commission training session giving a basic introduction to discrimination law. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/ltd7yvk> or contact Lindsey Reynolds Lindsey.Reynolds@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5967.

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>.

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

19 November 2014 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

13 January 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

18 February 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

25 February 2015 in Glasgow (volunteers only) (9.30 – 4.00)

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

3 March 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

15 April 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

20 May 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

28 May 2015 in Glasgow (volunteers only) (9.30 – 4.00)

2 June 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an introduction to the issues and legal systems affecting people seeking safety in Scotland. For information contact Martha Harding martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

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 Interpreters

3 December 2014 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

18 March 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

14 May 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an understanding of how to communicate clearly and effectively with people when working with interpreters. For information contact Martha Harding martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

Essentials of Asylum

9 December 2014 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

28 January 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

6 May 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide information about the UK asylum process, including the difference between an asylum seeker and a refugee, asylum support, and rights and entitlements. For information contact Martha Harding martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

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>

Useful Links (continued)

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

One Scotland <http://onescotland.org/>

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://onescotland.org/>

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