





Supported by



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.

Contents

Immigration and Asylum Community Relations Equality

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination Other Scottish Parliament and Government Other UK Parliament and Government Bills in Progress
Consultations
Job Opportunities
Funding Opportunities
Events/Conferences/Training

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.

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

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Questions

Human Trafficking

Patrick Harvie: To ask the Scottish Government whether its proposed human trafficking bill will ensure a legal right to assistance for people who have been trafficked. (S4W-22906)

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: The Scottish Government commitment, given on 17 March 2014, to bring forward a human trafficking bill confirmed that specific provisions would be included within the bill to enhance the rights of victims to access support and assistance.

This will build on the current arrangement under which the Scottish Government provides grant funding of £723K to those agencies that provide direct support to potential and confirmed victims of human trafficking.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-22906&ResultsPerPage=10

Human Trafficking

Patrick Harvie: To ask the Scottish Government whether its proposed human trafficking bill will provide independent and statutory arrangements for decisions on (a) the formal identification of, (b) assistance for and (c) monitoring of outcomes in relation to people who have been trafficked. (S4W-22907)

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: The competent authority for decisions on the identification of individuals as potential victims of trafficking is through the UK wide National Referral Mechanism. Identification through this process affords victims access to support services which is provided on a needs assessment basis.

The National Referral Mechanism process is under review by the UK Government. The Scottish Government has participated actively in the review and will consider carefully the conclusions from the review and in particular the implications for potential and confirmed victims of trafficking recovered in Scotland.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-22907&ResultsPerPage=10

Human Trafficking

Patrick Harvie: To ask the Scottish Government whether there will be opportunities for people who have been trafficked to be involved in the development, implementation and review of its proposed anti-trafficking strategy. (S4W-22908)

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: It is the intention that Scottish Ministers will work with all relevant agencies to prepare, implement and review an anti-trafficking strategy. As part of this process we will engage closely with those organisations who provide assistance and support to potential and confirmed victims of trafficking. In developing, implementing and reviewing the strategy we will seek the views of these organisations about how best to take account of the experiences of those potential and confirmed victims of trafficking.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-22908&ResultsPerPage=10

UK Parliament Questions

Immigration: Poland

Lord Patten [HL2694] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the employment rate of Polish immigrants in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord Wallace of Saltaire: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply. Glen Watson, Director General for ONS: ... Estimates of the employment rate for immigrants are not available directly. As a proxy, estimates of employment by nationality are available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The convention for Labour Market statistics is to express the employment rate in terms of the population aged 16 to 64. For the three month period April to June 2014 there were an estimated 564,000 Polish nationals aged 16 to 64 in employment. This represented 84% of the Polish nationals present in the UK. These estimates are not seasonally adjusted. It should be noted that a person's nationality can change over time. Also the identification of foreign nationals takes no account of how long they have been in the UK. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Also the LFS is a survey of private households only; people living in communal establishments, such as hotels are excluded.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-05/HL2694/

Schools: Immigrants

Lord Quirk [HL2621] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to address the concerns of HM Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills, Sir Michael Wilshaw, that schools "faced with an influx of children from other countries" need to be given "the resources and capacity to deal with it".

Reply from Lord Nash: As part of our plan for education the Government is ensuring that local authorities have the resources and flexibility to provide the school places needed by their communities.

We are giving councils £5 billion to spend on new school places over the course of this parliament and have announced a further £2.35 billion to create the places needed by September 2017. This has already enabled local authorities to create 260,000 additional pupil places between May 2010 and May 2013, with many more in the pipeline for September 2015. Funding for the day-to-day running of a school is based primarily on the number of pupils in the school. Local authorities are able to allocate additional funding for pupils with particular needs – including pupils for whom English is not their first language.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-04/HL2621/

Immigration: Appeals

The Earl of Sandwich [HL2488] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the deployment of expert non-legal members in the Immigration and Asylum Chamber has been reduced; and, if so, whether they have any plans to recommend a review of the situation following the recent consultations within the judiciary.

Reply from Lord Faulks: In 2014/15 non-legal members have sat for 419 days within the Immigration and Asylum Chambers between 1 April 2014 and 30 June 2014, the most recent reporting period. This is a reduction of 35 sitting days from the same period in 2013/14 when non-legal members sat for 454 days.

The First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal (Composition of Tribunal) Order 2008 provides that composition of Tribunal panels is a matter for the Senior President of Tribunals and that this power may be delegated to Chamber Presidents. The Immigration and Asylum Chambers make available sufficient sitting days for non-legal members required for the panel compositions requested under the Senior President's delegated powers and there are no plans to recommend a review at this time.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-28/HL2488/

Asylum Seekers: Mental Health

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the mental health of asylum seekers who have had to wait 12 months or longer before being allowed to apply for work.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Bates): My Lords, asylum seekers may apply for permission to work if their claim has been outstanding for 12 months. The Government have had no cause to assess the impact of this policy on the mental health of asylum seekers. However, we are always open to discussing any welfare concerns with voluntary sector and refugee groups.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: ... However, does he not agree that we are all very much aware of the stress and tension that are caused when someone cannot find a job, which sometimes lead to suicide? Will he consider that asylum seekers, who are not allowed

even to apply for a job for 12 months, face stress even worse than that faced by others? We know that there have been cases of suicide because of the prohibition against allowing them to work for that first 12 months. Would it not be a humanitarian gesture for us to reduce that 12 months to six months, so that asylum seekers have less time to wait until they can apply for work?

Reply from Lord Bates: It is a very difficult situation. Of course, we have every sympathy with the people who come here. However, the reality is that, if they are allowed to work while they are not here legally, we are saying that they are able to compete in the labour market with people who are here legally. That would be unfair. It is not the case that they cannot work; they are able to volunteer in the community and they are getting support, with all their accommodation covered and access to education and health care, including mental health care if they need it.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett: My Lords, the denial of the right to paid work, as well as the inadequate asylum support system, can lead to severe poverty or even destitution. Last week, the Joint Committee on Human Rights heard evidence that women, many of whom have fled violence, are thereby made vulnerable to further violence and sexual exploitation. What steps are the Government taking to prevent this as part of their strategy to end violence against women and girls?

Reply from Lord Bates: I accept the point that the noble Baroness is making about the importance of providing that protection. Of course, asylum seekers have accommodation with all utility bills and council tax paid, access to legal aid, safety and protection and a liaison officer allocated to them. However, in providing the care, we need to reach a decision on their asylum claims as quickly as possible so that they can get on and rebuild their lives.

Lord Dubs: My Lords, of course one wants quick decisions because it is not fair to keep people hanging on month after month after month. However, does the Minister accept that it is humiliating and frustrating to want to work and not to be allowed to? Would it save the country money if these people were allowed to work and contribute more to our society?

Reply from Lord Bates: The six-month period applies broadly across Europe. We have arrived at the figure of 12 months but the key is to speed up the decision-making process. However, during that time we encourage people to undertake volunteering, learn the English language and take IT courses. They can get support with those types of initiative.

Baroness Hamwee: My Lords, I have heard concerns expressed by the BMA and others about the desperate need to train doctors and other workers who deal with people in immigration detention, including, particularly, to train them in awareness of post-traumatic stress disorder and other conditions from which asylum seekers and some other immigrants are likely to suffer. Is there better training provision outside detention?

Reply from Lord Bates: The numbers going into detention on what is called a fast-track process are relatively small—about 15% of the total. We contract with Migrant Help, which does excellent work in providing advice to asylum seekers during their application process—for example, helping them register with a GP or getting their children enrolled in school. Progress is being made but I accept that we are talking about very vulnerable people.

Baroness Hussein-Ece: My Lords, will my noble friend clarify what he said in reply to my noble friend Lord Roberts? I thought I heard him refer to people who are here illegally. However, the Question is about asylum seekers who are here perfectly legally, waiting for their case to be heard and a decision to be made, which, as he will know, sometimes takes years. In the mean time, they are not allowed to work. Will he clarify what he said earlier about illegality?

Reply from Lord Bates: Absolutely; I am happy to clarify that. I was talking about people who had a legal right to seek employment in this country. They should be protected and be able to apply for jobs in the first instance.

Baroness Finlay of Llandaff: The Government have to date not allowed retired NHS doctors who volunteer to work with asylum seekers to set against tax the cost of their General Medical Council and defence union payments. Will the Government undertake to look at this again? These doctors are acting as volunteers to meet the health needs of this group but are incurring huge expense in so doing.

Reply from Lord Bates: I am very happy to look at this but doctors are in one of the shortage occupations and would be eligible to apply for work after the 12-month period.

Baroness Smith of Basildon: My Lords, it is very hard for any of us to imagine the tragedy and fear that drive somebody to leave their home and travel many miles—thousands of miles in many cases—to seek sanctuary and asylum. They have often suffered considerably. The Minister said that he is concerned about mental health issues. May I ask him two questions? What measures do the Government take to assess someone's mental health while they are seeking asylum? He also said that it is important to speed up the asylum application process. What evidence does he have that the Government have speeded up that process?

Reply from Lord Bates: The process is genuinely speeding up. We have given a commitment that everybody who applied before 2012 will have their case decided by the end of this calendar year. Seventy per cent of applications are decided within six months, and 35% of those people are given the right to stay, so there is speed in the system. We have recruited extra people to help. As for mental health needs, that is clearly a clinical decision. When someone is registered with a GP and in contact with the NHS, their condition can be assessed.

Lord Morris of Aberavon: My Lords, will the Minister answer the noble Baroness who raised a question a few minutes ago?

Reply from Lord Bates: Judging by the general murmurings, I think that I may have misheard the noble Baroness. I thought the question was about whether asylum seekers would be able to work if they were doctors, but I gather that it must have been about something else—in which case I apologise, and I will be happy to write and clarify the matter.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141110-0001.htm#1411109000470

Asylum: Finance

The following four questions all received the same answer

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2454] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many retailers are part of the Azure Card programme; and what is the total amount spent with each retailer since the card's inception.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2455] To ask Her Majesty's Government why an Azure Card user does not qualify for emergency food vouchers when a technical problem occurs with the card.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2456] To ask Her Majesty's Government what efforts have been made to ensure that staff at retailers who accept the Azure Card are educated about the card's rules and do not deny card users purchases which they are entitled to make.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2458] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the statement by Refugee Action that more than 90 per cent of those on support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 regularly missed a meal.

Reply from Lord Bates" The Azure card is issued to destitute failed asylum seekers accommodated under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 because they are temporarily unable to leave the United Kingdom.

The card is updated each week with credit to the value of £35.39 for each person in the household to enable them to buy enough food and other essential items.

The table below lists the retailers that accept the Azure card and the total amounts spent at each of them since it was introduced. The table includes Peacocks, which no longer participates in the card scheme.

Retailer Name	Value (£)
Tesco	20,660,480.59
Asda	11,373,929.59
Sainsbury's	5,935,535.81
Morrisons	2,528,626.86
Boots	2,478,849.23
Peacock Group	333,709.46
Co-operative Group Food	250,074.03
Food City Halal Market	202,813.59
Mothercare	39,947.70
Iceland Foods	38,311.88
Midlands Co-operative	22,172.05
Salvation Army	3,544.40
British Red Cross	3,380.32
Masala Bazaar	330.55
Holland and Barrett	326.68

Information and training materials are provided to the retailers about the terms and conditions attached to the card, which are reviewed and updated regularly.

We are aware of some isolated instances where people have been denied purchases, but in the great majority of cases this is because they had insufficient funds on the card to buy the particular items.

If there is a defect in the card that means it cannot be used, for example because it has been damaged, arrangements are made to issue vouchers.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-27/HL2454/

and

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-27/HL2455/

and

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-27/HL2456/

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-27/HL2458/

Asylum: Finance

The following two questions received the same answer

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2490] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consider those on support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to be able to meet their basic needs from that support alone.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2491] To ask Her Majesty's Government why individuals on support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 are prohibited from accessing any kind of transportation with the Azure Card.

Reply from Lord Bates: Failed asylum seekers supported under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 are provided with accommodation, utilities, household equipment and free healthcare. A weekly allowance to the value of £35.39 is also provided for each person in the household. The Government is satisfied that this package of support is sufficient to meet their essential needs. It is not currently possible to purchase travel tickets with the Azure card for practical reasons. Accommodation is provided within walking distance of shops and other services and tickets are provided for essential medical appointments.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-28/HL2490/

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-28/HL2491/

Asylum: Finance

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2502] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consider that Azure Card users are able to meet their essential living needs; and on what grounds they base their assessment.

Reply from Lord Bates: Failed asylum seekers supported under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 are provided with accommodation; utilities, household equipment and healthcare are provided free. The Azure Card is provided to enable them to buy food and other items and is uploaded each week to the value of £35.39 for each person in the household. Extra assistance is also provided where necessary, for example by arranging travel to medical appointments and by providing maternity grants for pregnant women.

The Government keeps this package of assistance under review but is satisfied that it meets the essential living needs of recipients of section 4 support.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-29/HL2502/

Human Trafficking: Children

The following two questions received the same answer

Steve McCabe [212426] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 16 October 2014 to question 209897, how many of the 88 minors who are non-UK nationals and were recorded as victims of sexual trafficking in the most recent figures still reside in the UK.

Steve McCabe [212441] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has in place to assist non-UK minors who are trafficked into the UK for sex.

Reply from Karen Bradley: The Government acknowledge that where children are found to be trafficked, their safety and welfare needs must be addressed as a priority and that child victims require tailored support which addresses their specific needs and vulnerabilities.

All local agencies have statutory duties to safeguard children as part of their local responsibilities regardless of nationality or immigration status. A child's welfare is always the overriding consideration.

Responsibility for the care, protection and accommodation of all child trafficking victims rests with local authorities that have well-established child support arrangements and a statutory duty under the Children Act 2004 to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in need of protection, including trafficked children regardless of their nationality or immigration status. Under these arrangements, looked after children are provided with access to services to meet

all their needs be they in relation to education, accommodation, psychological or health.

Information as to the location of victims of trafficking, including children, is not held centrally once their status as a victim has been confirmed.

This is because the National Crime Agency's UK Human Trafficking Centre has no further role in the process and support is provided by other partners, most notably local authorities in relation to children. The Review of the National Referral Mechanism recommends that the Government introduces improved arrangements for tracking victims following an NRM decision and the Government is currently considering its response to the review.

In January 2014 the Government announced proposals to trial specialist independent advocates for trafficked children. The trial, which began on 8 September 2014, will last for a period of 12 months across 23 local authorities in England.

The Modern Slavery Bill gives these advocates a statutory basis and the status they need to effectively support and represent the child. The Bill commits the Government to lay a report before Parliament setting out the steps the Government will take in relation to advocates for victims of child trafficking under these powers. Lessons learned from the trials will be detailed in the report, at which point we will be in a better position to assess what works best in supporting and protecting these vulnerable children.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-29/212426/and

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-29/212441/

Human Trafficking

Steve McCabe [213215] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what mechanisms her Department has put in place to assist non-UK minors who are trafficked for sex.

Reply from Karen Bradley: The Government is clear that where children are found to have been trafficked, regardless of exploitation type, their safety and welfare needs must be addressed as a priority and that child victims require tailored support which addresses their specific needs and vulnerabilities.

All local agencies including local authorities, police and Border Forcehave statutory duties to safeguard children as part of their local responsibilities, regardless of nationality or immigration status. A child's welfare is always the overriding consideration.

Responsibility for the care, protection and accommodation of all child trafficking victims rests with local authorities. local authorities have well-established child support arrangements and a statutory duty under the Children Act 2004 to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in need of protection, including trafficked children regardless of their nationality or immigration status. Under these arrangements, looked after children are provided with access to all their needs be they in relation to education, accommodation, psychological or health needs. Local authorities co-ordinate the arrangements for each looked after childto ensure they are safeguarded and have their welfare promoted.

In January 2014 the Government announced proposals to trial specialist independent advocates for trafficked children. The trial, which began on 8 September 2014, will last for a period of 12 months across 23 local authorities in England.

The Modern Slavery Bill gives these advocates a statutory basis and the status they need to effectively support and represent the child. The Bill commits the Government to lay a report before Parliament setting out the steps the Government will take in relation to advocates for victims of child trafficking under these powers. Lessons learned from the trials will be detailed in the report, at which point we will be in a better position to assess what works best in supporting and protecting these vulnerable children.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-04/213215/

Human Trafficking

Paul Blomfield [213779] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 5 November 2014 to Question 212705, what specialist needs of male victims have been identified by her Department through the National Referral Mechanism; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Karen Bradley: Support for male potential victims of human trafficking is offered through the victim care contract run by The Salvation Army, in England and Wales. Support is tailored for each potential victim through a detailed needs based assessment. Specific care available to male potential victims includes:

male-only accommodation; access to psychological support; access to legal advice and assistance; counselling, including trauma counselling where relevant; emergency medical treatment and assistance with male-related health issues; translation and interpretation services where appropriate; and transition support to either return home, or where they have leave to remain, to help settle in the UK.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-06/213779/

Human Trafficking

Jim Sheridan [212657] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what training is being offered to local authorities on making referrals to the National Referral Mechanism for victims of human trafficking; and how many local authorities have undertaken such training to date.

Reply from Karen Bradley: In 2013, three Non-Government Organisations were awarded total grant funding of approximately £75,000 by the Home Office to provide training to a range of local professionals, including those working in local authorities. In January 2013 the Home Office also published guidance for frontline staff on responding to victims of trafficking, which includes guidance on making referrals to the National Referral Mechanism.

Home Office funding of £420,000 is being provided to Barnardo's to fund independent child advocacy service trials for a period of twelve months,

September 2014 to September 2015, in 23 local authorities.

The Review of the National Referral Mechanism has considered training and will make recommendations when it reports shortly.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-30/212657/

Human Trafficking

Jim Sheridan [212703] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information is provided to trafficking victims on their rights to compensation; and how many victims of trafficking have had applications for compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority rejected in each of the last three years.

Reply from Karen Bradley: Potential victims of trafficking are provided support and assistance by the Salvation Army during their recovery and reflection period, including advice on their rights to compensation. This includes providing the information leaflet developed specifically for victims of trafficking by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA). The Modern Slavery Bill will also introduce reparation orders, specifically for victims of modern slavery crimes, recognising the particular harm and psychological abuse they suffer. This will ensure that where a convicted slave master has benefitted financially from the abuse of others they will be required to provide reparation to their victims.

With reference to the number of compensation applications rejected by CICA, the Government does not hold the information requested. Compensation for victims of violent crime is based on the injuries people sustain not the particular crimes of which they were a victim. The injuries for which CICA can compensate, and therefore provide reliable figures for, are set out in the Tariff of Injuries in the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2012, but the Tariff does not contain any injuries specific to human trafficking. The injuries are also only recorded once CICA have assessed someone as eligible to receive the compensation payable for that injury.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-30/212703/

Human Trafficking

Jim Sheridan [212704] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many National Referral Mechanism decisions made by (a) the Human Trafficking Centre and (b) UK Visas and Immigration were subject to judicial review proceedings in (i) 2012 and (ii) 2013; and how many such decisions were changed as a result of successful judicial review proceedings.

Reply from Karen Bradley: UK Visas and Immigration received 11 judicial review proceedings in 2012, and 7 in 2013. We have not validated how many decisions were changed as a result of successful judicial review proceedings, as the cost for finding out this information would be disproportionate.

Both UKHTC and UKVI apply the same civil standard of proof in making their decisions, but the types of cases dealt with by UKHTC and UKVI are very different. UKHTC often deals with EEA nationals encountered in their place of exploitation with substantial contemporary evidence to support their decision making. UKVI often deals with non-EEA nationals where the alleged trafficking and exploitation took place some time ago, sometimes in another country.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-30/212704/

Human Trafficking

Paul Blomfield [213233] To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many cases of human trafficking were uncovered by HM Revenue and Customs as part of its minimum wage enforcement activity in (a) 2010, (b) 2011, (c) 2012, (d) 2013 and (e) 2014 to date.

Reply from Andrea Leadsom: The Government takes the enforcement of the National Minimum Wage very seriously. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) review every complaint that is referred to them by the Pay and Work Rights Helpline. In addition, HMRC undertake targeted enforcement on employers across the United Kingdom who are more likely to be not paying National Minimum Wage.

HMRC also undertake joint working with the police, Home Office and local authorities across the country in cases that may involve slavery and servitude, but

do not keep statistics relating to any trafficking offences which may be taken forward by the relevant authorities.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-04/213233/

Press Release

Non-combat military personnel may claim asylum if they consider themselves to be at risk of prosecution or punishment for refusal to perform military service where so doing might involve commission of war crimes

http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2014-11/cp140147en.pdf

New Publication

A Place of Sanctuary: Creating a fair and efficient asylum system http://www.centreforum.org/assets/pubs/a-place-of-sanctuary.pdf

News

Theresa May downgrades Cameron pledge to reduce net migration

http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/nov/10/theresa-may-downgrades-cameron-pledge-reduce-net-migration

Romania and Bulgaria migrants reach record high

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11225190/Romania-and-Bulgaria-migrants-reach-record-high.html

UK's booming economy lures migrants from ailing Europe

http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4265437.ece

Police head to Poland in drive to hire new officers

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/police-head-to-poland-in-drive-to-hire-new-officers.25814975

EU court ruling backs curbs on 'benefit tourism'

http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-30011512

EU court moves against 'benefits tourism' in landmark ruling

http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/eu-court-moves-against-benefits-tourism-in-landmark-ruling-9853673.html

EU court rules benefit tourists can be excluded from welfare schemes

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/11222702/EU-court-rules-benefit-tourists-can-be-excluded-from-welfare-schemes.html

European court's benefit ruling helps Cameron's cause

http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/europe/article4264275.ece

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

EU 'benefit tourism' court ruling is common sense, says Cameron http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-30002138

Cameron hails European benefits ruling as 'common sense'

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/wider-political-news/cameron-hails-european-benefits-ruling-as-common-sense.25845624

Landmark ECJ ruling boosts David Cameron's bid to clamp down on EU benefit migrants http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/landmark-ecj-ruling-boosts-david-camerons-bid-to-clamp-down-on-eu-benefit-migrants-9854712.html

Blow for David Cameron as Ireland admits strong opposition to plans to curb EU migration

http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/blow-for-david-cameron-as-ireland-admits-strong-opposition-to-plans-to-curb-eu-migration-9862074.html

Britain must now curb migrant tax credits, Iain Duncan Smith says

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11227304/Britain-must-now-curb-migrant-tax-credits-lain-Duncan-Smith-says.html

Diversity 'key to London GCSE success'

http://www.bbc.com/news/education-30002991

Hard-working ethnic minority pupils lifting schools' results as 'London effect' takes hold http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/hardworking-ethnic-minority-pupils-lifting-schools-results-as-london-effect-takes-hold-9854789.html

A good mix: why ethnic minority pupils boost school achievement

http://www.theguardian.com/education/shortcuts/2014/nov/12/why-ethnic-minority-pupils-are-good-for-schools

Migrants giving London the edge in school grades

http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article4265011.ece

Want to know why London's schools perform better? Immigration

http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/nov/14/london-schools-immigration-children-education

White pupils fail to make grade for grammar school

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk news/Education/article1484362.ece

Home Office quietly ditches Swedish firm contracted to process asylum-seekers http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/home-office-quietly-ditches-swedish-firm-contracted-to-process-asylumseekers-9862182.html

So who gives us our daily bread? Not British workers, according to a story making the headlines this week

http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/analysis-and-features/so-who-gives-us-our-daily-bread-not-british-workers-according-to-a-story-making-the-headlines-this-week-9854958.html?origin=internalSearch

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

13 arrested over trafficking ring

http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk/13-arrested-over-trafficking-ring-1.680482

UK gets first anti-slavery chief

http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/uk-gets-first-anti-slavery-chief-1.681807

Anti-slavery commissioner appointed

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/scottish-politics/anti-slavery-commissioner-appointed.25871629

Lidl performs U-turn over Polish language ban

http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/lidl-performs-u-turn-over-polish-language-ban-1-3604492

Oxford University dons in immigration removal centre plea

http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-30056279

Church of England urges end of 'legal limbo' for asylum seekers

http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/nov/15/anglican-bishops-attack-asylum-seekers-detention

Hundreds of asylum-seekers 'wrongly deported' on drug smuggler's evidence http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/hundreds-of-asylumseekers-wrongly-deported-on-drug-smugglers-evidence-9859903.html

Illegal immigrant who has 'cost the taxpayer hundreds of thousands since arriving in the UK' is given £600 compensation for 'unlawful detention' despite clocking up 35 convictions

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2833409/Illegal-immigrant-cost-taxpayer-1million-arriving-UK-given-600-compensation-unlawful-detention-despite-clocking-35-convictions.html

Romanian scrap worker pledges to bring his wife and five children to join him in UK 'because it's my right to £25,000 benefits and a four bedroom house'

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2835646/Romanian-scrap-worker-pledges-bring-wife-five-children-join-UK-s-right-25-000-benefits-four-bedroom-house.html

<u> TOP</u>

Community Relations

News

Christianity and Islam go head to head

http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4268176.ece

British Muslim woman: why can't I make any white friends?

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/11227004/British-Muslim-woman-whycant-l-make-any-white-friends.html

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament Question

Travellers

Lord Avebury [HL2504] To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions have been taken in pursuance of the commitments undertaken by the Ministerial Working Group on tacking inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers in their progress report of April 2012; and what further meetings have taken place, with what outcomes, since that date.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Ministerial Working Group on Gypsies and Travellers was convened as an ad hoc meeting to discuss inequalities experienced by the Gypsy and Traveller community. This working group resulted in the publication of a progress report which included 28 commitments made by the Departments represented on it, with the aim of helping mainstream services work more effectively with Gypsies and Travellers.

Since the report, Ministers have not needed to meet to implement the agreed policy, as this has been delegated to the Civil Service. There have been regular meetings between Gypsy and Traveller organisations and officials across Whitehall to discuss the progress made against the Government's commitments, and wider action to improve the social outcomes of Gypsies and Travellers. We intend to publish a follow up report in due course.

I have deposited in the Library of the House a document with a summary of progress so far against each of the 28 commitments with links to where further information can be found.

The summary of progress can be read at

http://gna.files.parliament.uk/gna-

<u>attachments/101682/original/Gypsies%20and%20Travellers%20commitments%20-DEPOSITEDPAPER-455504%20(HL2504).doc</u>

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-29/HL2504/

New Publications

Ethnicity and the Labour Market, 2011 Census, England and Wales http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171776_384463.pdf

What does the 2011 Census tell us about ethnicity in the labour market in England and Wales?

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/census/2011-census-analysis/ethnicity-and-the-labour-market/info-ethnicity-in-the-labour-market.html

News

Players call for one in five coaches to be from ethnic minorities by 2020 http://www.theguardian.com/football/2014/nov/10/players-call-one-five-coaches-ethnic-minorities-2020

Black managers: the game must take it upon itself to set an example http://www.theguardian.com/football/blog/2014/nov/12/black-managers-football-example

<u>TOP</u>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Press Releases

Importance of removing, reporting and recording 'pernicious' anti-semitic graffiti https://www.gov.uk/government/news/importance-of-removing-reporting-and-recording-pernicious-anti-semitic-graffiti

Governments need to step up their efforts to address anti-Semitism, say participants at OSCE Civil Society Forum

http://www.osce.org/odihr/126603

OSCE/ODIHR hate crime data for 2013 now available

http://www.osce.org/odihr/126737

New Publications

Hate crime reporting in 2013

http://hatecrime.osce.org/what-do-we-know

Infographic Showing the Peaks and Troughs on Anti-Muslim Hate Crimes

http://tellmamauk.org/infographic-showing-the-peaks-and-troughs-on-anti-muslim-hate-crimes/

News

In-your-face racism has returned and few are fighting against it

http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/inyourface-racism-has-returned-and-few-are-fighting-against-it-9850050.html?origin=internalSearch

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Debate

Human Rights

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9616&i=87353

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Question

Forced Marriage Protection Orders

Lord Lester of Herne Hill [HL2469] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Forced Marriage Protection Orders have been issued since the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 came into force.

Reply from Lord Faulks: Forced marriage is an appalling crime and should not be tolerated.

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Question (continued)

Since the 2007 Act came into force on 25 November 2008 and up to the end of June 2014, 719 Forced Marriage Protection Orders have been made.

We have also created a new criminal offence that will enable faster and more effective action to be taken against those who breach forced marriage protection orders by forcing someone to get married against their will. This offence is designed to prosecute individuals who force somene to get married against their will; the person who has been forced to get married will not be prosecuted.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answersstatements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-28/HL2469/

Early Day Motion

Philip Davies (495) Muslim support for the Poppy Appeal 2014 - That this House recognises the contribution of many Muslim soldiers to victories in both world wars: welcomes the efforts being made in the Muslim community to encourage the wearing of poppies in remembrance of all those who paid the ultimate price for freedom; notes the design and launch of a new poppy headscarf for Muslim women to wear in support of this cause; appreciates that these efforts will undoubtedly enhance community relations; and believes they will also help to counter the deplorable actions of a small number of extremists, who in no way represent the views of the overwhelming majority of Muslims, who have symbolically burned the poppy in the name of Islam in recent years.

http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2014-15/495

Press Release

Multi-faith groups remember the fallen of World War One

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/multi-faith-groups-remember-the-fallen-of-world-war-one

New Publication

Data on live animals exported for slaughter and animals slaughtered in the UK without stunning by Halal or Kosher method

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/375305/Re sponse to RFI 6854 Response Rd 2 Amended.pdf

Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Assisted Suicide Bill

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

** Community Empowerment Bill

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/77926.aspx

Local Government and Regeneration Committee: Stage 1 evidence session

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9627&i=87463

Bills in Progress Scottish Parliament (continued)

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

** Immigration Act 2014 (Bank Accounts) Regulations 2014

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2014/9780111119105

House of Lords, Grand Committee

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141110-gc0001.htm#1411106000168

** Immigration Act 2014 (Bank Accounts) (Amendment) Order 2014

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2014/9780111119129/impacts/2014/236

House of Lords Grand Committee

 $\frac{http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141110-gc0001.htm#1411106000169}{$

** Immigration Act 2014 (Bank Accounts) (Prohibition on Opening Current Accounts for Disqualified Persons) Order 2014

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2014/9780111119112/contents

House of Lords, Grand Committee

 $\frac{http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141110-gc0001.htm#1411106000170$

** Modern Slavery Bill

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

Scottish Parliament legislative consent memorandum

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/LegislativeConsentMemoranda/ModernSlaveryBillLCM.pdf

UK Borders Control Bill

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

<u>TOP</u>

Consultations

** new or updated this week

** closes this week!

Planning and travellers (closing date 23 November 2014)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/354061/consult ation_doc_140903.pdf

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

TOP

Job Opportunities

Click here to find out about job opportunities

<u>TOP</u>

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

Funding Opportunities (continued)

on the amount that can be applied for.

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

TOP

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

BEMIS, in partnership with Visit Scotland and the Scottish Government has launched HOMECOMING 2 14 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/multiculturalhomecoming-2014/

** this week!

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 experience violence and abuse. For information booking@scottishwomensaid.org.uk / 0131 226 6606 or see http://tinyurl.com/ocvuxva.

** this week!

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)

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

** this week!

Your Career, Your Parliament

21 November 2014 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (10.00 – 1.00)

Information day for people between 16-24 interested in taking up an apprenticeship at the Scottish Parliament to find out more about the jobs on offer, meet staff, and get hints and tips about the recruitment process. For information and to book a place see https://www.scottish.parliament.uk/abouttheparliament/83100.aspx

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

** this week!

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

Parliament Day

24 November 2014 in Fort William

The Presiding Officer and two Committees, the Local Government and Regeneration Committee and the Devolution (Further Powers) Committee, will undertake a series of meetings with local organisations and groups as well as speaking to 16 and 17 year olds who recently voted in the referendum. The Local Government and Regeneration Committee will also hold a formal evidence session where it will take evidence on the Community Empowerment Bill. For information see

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/83412.aspx

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

Domestic Abuse and Minority Ethnic Women, Children and Young People

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

** Discrimination Law in 2015

26 January 2015 in Glasgow

Equalities and Human Rights Commission conference to explore recent changes in employment law and equal opportunities, and their practical implications. For information see http://tinyurl.com/lm5cgyd

Supporting Refugee Women

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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

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 contact booking@scottishwomensaid.org.uk / 0131 226 6606 or see http://tinyurl.com/ovxofgs.

<u>TOP</u>

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/

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 <u>www.vds.org.uk</u>

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

<u> TOP</u>



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/

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.