

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Questions

Immigration (Economic Benefits)

John Mason: To ask the Scottish Government what the economic benefits of immigration from the European Union are to Scotland. (S4O-03753)

Reply from the Minister for Europe and International Development (Humza Yousaf): The Scottish Government recognises the importance of migration for healthy population growth and sustainable economic growth. European Union migrants play a valuable role in our economic prosperity and will always be welcome in Scotland. A University College London report that was published earlier this month made the value of EU migrants clear. It found that, between 2001 and 2011, recent European migrants made a net contribution of £20 billion to the United Kingdom economy.

John Mason: I thank the minister very much for that response. My understanding is that

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

certain sectors in our economy are very dependent on folk from overseas, including those from European Union countries. Will he join me in deploring the anti-immigration hysteria that has been encouraged by some political parties?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: John Mason makes a very valid point. Where concerns and tensions exist we have a duty to address them, but politicians must not be tempted to use inflammatory rhetoric in the pursuit of cheap political gain. I felt disheartened and angry when I read the comments from the UK Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Fallon, about towns and cities being “swamped” and “under siege” from immigrants. We must condemn such distasteful language, which is, frankly, straight out of the British National Party’s handbook. Immigrants contribute culturally, socially and even—thank god for it—through their cuisine, so EU migrants are very, very welcome in Scotland.

Jamie McGrigor: I fully recognise the many benefits that immigration, especially from Eastern Europe, has brought to Scotland and to the tourism industry in particular, not least in my region of the Highlands and Islands. However, does the minister agree that it is paramount that we ensure that we have a fair immigration system that favours those who want to come here to work hard and contribute to Scottish society rather than those who wish only to reap benefits?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: I do not see anybody advocating, and I have never come across a politician or political party that advocates, illegal immigration. We all want to clamp down on those who choose to abuse the system, and that is absolutely correct. However, we must understand that being part of the European Union means that, for every person who comes from Eastern Europe to work in Scotland, there is a Scot who has a retirement villa on the Costa del Sol. It is a two-way process, which we enjoy.

I agree with Jamie McGrigor that there are vital sectors that need immigration, and the UK Government’s immigration rules are completely counterproductive in filling those skills gaps. That is why the Institute of Directors, the Scottish Trades Union Congress and Universities Scotland have requested a measure of devolution on immigration.

We will chew over what the Smith commission has said on the matter as one of the issues for consideration. I am sure that Jamie McGrigor, given the geography that he represents, will wish to make further representation on the matter too.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9655&i=87669>

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

Immigration Act 2014: Marriage and Civil Partnership

The Minister for Security and Immigration (James Brokenshire): I am pleased to inform the House that, subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary secondary legislation, I plan to implement important new provisions under Part 4 of the Immigration Act 2014 to tackle sham marriages and civil partnerships on Monday 2 March 2015.

Part 4 of the Act will give us a much stronger platform for effective, systematic action to disrupt and deter sham marriages and civil partnerships and prevent them gaining an immigration advantage.

It will extend the marriage and civil partnership notice period from 15 days to 28 days for all couples in England and Wales marrying following civil preliminaries or forming a civil partnership.

Couples involving a non-European Economic Area (non-EEA) national who wish to marry in the Church of England or the Church in Wales will be required to complete civil preliminaries and give notice at a register office.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement (continued)

From 2 March 2015 I also plan to implement under Part 4 of the Act a new referral and investigation scheme for proposed marriages and civil partnerships across the UK involving a non-EEA national who could benefit in immigration terms. All proposed marriages and civil partnerships involving a non-EEA national with limited or no immigration status in the UK, or who does not provide specified evidence that they are exempt from the scheme, will be referred to the Home Office. Where we have reasonable grounds to suspect a sham, we will be able to extend the notice period in these referred cases to 70 days in order to investigate and take appropriate enforcement or casework action where we establish a sham. A couple will be unable to get married or enter into a civil partnership on the basis of that notice if they do not comply with an investigation under the scheme.

By extending the notice period and channelling to the Home Office all proposed marriages and civil partnerships which could bring an immigration benefit, the new system will give us much more time and information to identify and act against sham marriages and civil partnerships before they happen and, where they do go ahead, we will have the evidence we need on file to be able to refuse any subsequent immigration application in terms which will withstand appeal.

The referral and investigation scheme will be extended to Scotland and to Northern Ireland from 2 March 2015, subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary secondary legislation. Those who give notice of marriage or civil partnership before 2 March 2015 will not be affected by the changes.

Transitional arrangements will apply for couples where at least one party is resident overseas, who have made arrangements before 2 March 2015 for a marriage or civil partnership in England and Wales and who intend to give notice and get married or form a civil partnership in one visit on or after that date. Couples in this situation will be able to apply, at the time of giving their notice of marriage or civil partnership to the registration official, to have the notice period reduced to 15 days.

Transitional arrangements will also apply for couples involving a non-EEA national who before 2 March 2015 have been granted, or have applied for and are later granted, a common licence to marry in the Anglican Church in England and Wales. Couples in this situation will be able to marry on the basis of that licence and will not be required to complete civil preliminaries before marrying.

Further information about the Immigration Act 2014 can be found on gov.uk at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-bill>

Further information about the changes is available on gov.uk at: <https://www.gov.uk/marriages-civil-partnerships/giving-notice-at-your-local-register-office>.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141124/wmstext/141124m0001.htm#141124100004>

UK Parliament Questions

British Nationality: Assessments

Andrew Rosindell [215126] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the Life in the UK test reflects contemporary Britain.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Life in the UK test was significantly revised in March 2013 to place the emphasis on British history, culture and democracy. It is intended to help those seeking to live permanently in the UK to gain a basic understanding of the democratic principles underlying British society, and of aspects of British culture and traditions.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-19/215126/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Immigration Statistics

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims to make a statement on the latest immigration figures.

Reply from the Minister for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims (Mike Penning): ... Yesterday the Office for National Statistics published the latest quarterly figures on net migration. ...

Such mass immigration makes it very difficult to maintain social cohesion. The Government have set about reforming the immigration system and made it clear that it will be fairer for British citizens and legitimate migrants. These rules are tough. We would like to see net migration reduced to what it was in the 1990s, as the Prime Minister has set out. As successive net migration statistics have shown, where we can control net migration, our reforms are working. Net migration from outside the EU has dropped by 25%, but net migration from inside the EU has grown. It is a really difficult situation and we are trying desperately to control it.

Although net migration from outside the EU is down, net migration from within Europe is up by 75%. It is not just about the figures that were released yesterday—that is the indication in all the recent figures. That is why the Prime Minister is outlining today the action he will take when he becomes the next Prime Minister in his negotiations with the EU on the benefit system for migrants coming to this country.

We have already taken unprecedented action to control benefits for those from the EU and outside the EU. We are continuing to consider how this can be done and how we can control it even better. We have reformed benefits, health care and housing rules to make them among the tightest in Europe and we intend to go further. The reforms we have made, including cutting EU jobseeker entitlements, will save British taxpayers £500 million over the next five years. ...

Philip Davies: I am grateful to the Minister for that reply. These latest figures are not just disappointing, they are catastrophic. ...

We know that the EU is not going to budge on the principle of the free movement of people and therefore we need to leave. Will the Minister explain why the part of the immigration figures that the Government can control—non-EU immigration—also went up in the past year and what the Government are doing to bear down on that?

Do the Government agree that these levels of immigration are completely unsustainable?

Does the Minister accept that we cannot cope culturally with immigration at these levels?

Does he agree that the NHS cannot cope with immigration levels of this magnitude?

Does he accept that we cannot provide the school places fast enough and that we cannot build the houses needed for this level of immigration? We would have to build an entire Bradford district every two years to keep up and it is ridiculous to think that that is possible in any way. ...

Reply from Mike Penning: ... I agree with many of his views, but not with some of the views he has made public today. ...

Seema Malhotra: The truth is that this net migration target is the worst of all worlds. It does not include illegal immigration, where we know enforcement has worsened, yet it has encouraged the Government to target valuable university students. Their numbers have flatlined even though, as the Government know, they bring billions into Britain and build relationships that contribute to strong trade links in the future. And it is just wrong to include refugees in the target. ...

To read the lengthy question and answer session in full see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141128/debtext/141128-0001.htm#14112853000006>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

British Nationality

Andrew Turner [215213] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from which countries from outside the UK have been granted UK citizenship in the last five years.

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

| British citizenship grants by the top 20 previous countries of nationality, 2009 to 2013 | | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Country of previous nationality | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| India | 26,541 | 29,405 | 26,290 | 28,352 | 36,351 |
| Pakistan | 20,945 | 22,054 | 17,641 | 18,445 | 21,655 |
| Philippines | 11,751 | 9,429 | 7,133 | 8,122 | 10,374 |
| Nigeria | 6,953 | 7,873 | 7,932 | 8,881 | 9,275 |
| Bangladesh | 12,041 | 7,966 | 5,149 | 5,702 | 8,902 |
| South Africa | 8,367 | 7,446 | 6,351 | 6,924 | 6,448 |
| China | 6,041 | 7,581 | 6,966 | 7,198 | 7,289 |
| Somalia | 8,139 | 5,817 | 4,664 | 5,143 | 5,688 |
| Zimbabwe | 7,703 | 6,301 | 4,877 | 5,647 | 4,412 |
| Sri Lanka | 4,762 | 4,944 | 5,886 | 6,163 | 3,855 |
| Turkey | 7,207 | 4,630 | 3,627 | 4,726 | 4,184 |
| Ghana | 4,662 | 4,551 | 3,931 | 4,744 | 4,675 |
| Afghanistan | 5,012 | 5,281 | 3,951 | 4,600 | 3,627 |
| Iraq | 5,497 | 4,385 | 5,742 | 3,822 | 2,393 |
| Nepal | 1,551 | 2,118 | 3,468 | 4,282 | 7,447 |
| Iran | 2,876 | 2,587 | 5,540 | 4,135 | 2,391 |
| United States | 3,116 | 2,926 | 2,591 | 3,350 | 3,119 |
| Jamaica | 3,148 | 2,958 | 2,514 | 3,005 | 2,874 |
| Australia | 2,890 | 2,593 | 2,449 | 2,792 | 2,683 |
| Poland | 458 | 1,419 | 1,863 | 3,043 | 6,066 |
| Other previous nationality | 54,129 | 52,782 | 49,220 | 55,133 | 54,281 |
| Total grants | 203,789 | 195,046 | 177,785 | 194,209 | 207,989 |

Source: Migration Statistics, Home Office Statistics

Table cz 06 - Immigration Statistics April to June 2014

Top 20 previous countries of nationality based on total grants for the period 2009 to 2013

Data for every nationality is included in the regularly published table cz 06 - Immigration Statistics April to June 2014

The latest Home Office immigration statistics, including grants of British citizenship for all individual previous nationalities, 1990 to 2013, are published in the release Immigration Statistics April – June 2014, table cz_06

(Citizenship tables), which is available from the Library of the House and on the Department's website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-19/215213/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Overseas Students

Lord Ashcroft [HL2850] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any proposals to follow the Canadian example of allowing foreign students the opportunity to work in the United Kingdom for a limited period before they return home.

Reply from Lord Bates: The UK has an excellent offer for international students, which already includes a number of options for those who wish to stay to work or set up in business after their studies.

Students who get a graduate job paying an appropriate salary can stay after their studies by switching into the Tier 2 route. There is no limit on the number of these places, which are exempt from the cap on economic migrants.

Graduates who wish to undertake a period of professional training relating to their degrees before pursuing a career overseas may do so by switching into an appropriate Tier 5 scheme.

Those completing a PhD or other doctoral qualification can stay for a year under the Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme, which allows completing students to work, gain experience in their chosen field, or set up as an entrepreneur, again with no limit on numbers.

Those who wish to stay to develop a business idea can do so under the Graduate Entrepreneur scheme, the first in the world of its kind. All they need is an endorsement from their Higher Education Institution that they have a genuine and credible business idea, and to have enough funds to support themselves.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-17/HL2850/>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Paul Blomfeld [215097] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Tier (a) 1, (b) 2 and (c) 5 post-study work visas were issued in-country in (i) 2009, (ii) 2010, (iii) 2011, (iv) 2012 and (v) 2013.

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

| Total extensions of stay in the UK by Points Based System work categories, Main applicants | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Category | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| Tier 1 Total | 65,900 | 54,306 | 66,403 | 57,327 | 24,879 |
| of whom were previously students | .. | .. | 44,246 | 35,476 | 1,595 |
| of which: | | | | | |
| Tier 1 - Post Study | 34,181 | 33,973 | 43,719 | 35,245 | 572 |
| of whom were previously students | .. | .. | 43,319 | 34,895 | 557 |
| Tier 2 Total | 20,135 | 21,204 | 18,195 | 29,516 | 37,654 |
| of whom were previously students | .. | .. | 1,730 | 2,614 | 4,175 |
| Tier 5 Total | 76 | 395 | 627 | 789 | 1,074 |
| of whom were previously students | .. | .. | 0 | 134 | 210 |
| .. = not available | | | | | |
| Source: Immigration Statistics April - June 2014 Tables ex_02 and ex_pc_01_w | | | | | |

The Tier 1 Post-Study work route was closed to new applications on 6 April 2012 but existing applications continued to be processed after this date.

The Home Office publishes annual statistics on extensions of stay by category and previous category, in tables ex_01 to expc_01_o within the quarterly 'Immigration Statistics' release.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

A copy of the latest release, 'Immigration Statistics April - June 2014' is available from the Library of the House and from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-18/215097/>

Overseas Students

Lord Ashcroft [HL2848] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the export earnings which derive from foreign students attending United Kingdom universities.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In the Government's International Education Strategy, published in July 2013, the value of international higher education students to the UK was valued at £9.7bn. The international education strategy can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-education-strategy-global-growth-and-prosperity> More recent data for the 2012/13 academic year is now available. Based on this, BIS estimates that UK exports attributable to international higher education students were £10.4bn.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-17/HL2848/>

Immigration: Poland

Lord Patten [HL2990] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the contribution by resident Polish nationals to the cultural life of the United Kingdom.

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Polish community makes an important contribution to arts and culture within the United Kingdom. The successful Kinoteka film festival, now in its 12th year, the work of the Polish Cultural Institute and Polish artists such as the Turner Prize nominee Goshka Macuga, are examples of great Polish culture and artwork.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-19/HL2990/>

Asylum: Finance

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2951] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refused asylum seekers, who have been supported under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, have subsequently been granted leave to remain in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord Bates: This question has been interpreted as requesting the number of people who have received Section 4 support and have also, at some point, been granted leave to remain in the UK.

Since 2007 we have granted leave to remain to 1197 people who have also received Section 4 support.

The figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. This response was obtained by data matching a number of different databases. This is therefore likely to under-report the total figure as it will not capture data where individuals have variances in their personal details recorded on the different databases.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-19/HL2951/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Finance

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2950] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many, if any, refused asylum seekers have had support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 removed.

Reply from Lord Bates: This question has been interpreted as requesting information on the number of people who have received Section 4 support and been removed from the UK.

Since 2007 we have removed 2301 people who have received Section 4 support. The figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. This response was obtained by data matching a number of different databases. This is therefore likely to under-report the total figure as it will not capture data where individuals have variances in their personal details recorded on the different databases.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-19/HL2950/>

Asylum

The following two questions both received the same answer

Philip Davies [214621] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost was of legal representation in asylum claims in each of the last five years.

Philip Davies [214622] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost of asylum application appeals was in each of the last five years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: It is not possible to answer the questions without incurring disproportionate costs as the data relating to litigation expenditure is not held in a format that allows us to answer the question.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-17/214621/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-17/214622/>

Asylum

Philip Davies [214623] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of asylum application decisions were overturned on appeal in each of the last five years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The table below shows the number of asylum appeal applications and determinations in each of the last five years.

| Year | Appeals received | Total appeals determined | Appeals allowed | % appeals allowed | Appeals dismissed | Appeals withdrawn |
|------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2009 | 14,340 | 12,813 | 3,712 | 29% | 8,627 | 474 |
| 2010 | 13,928 | 14,723 | 4,029 | 27% | 10,061 | 633 |
| 2011 | 9,986 | 10,597 | 2,779 | 26% | 7,139 | 679 |
| 2012 | 8,197 | 8,285 | 2,208 | 27% | 5,472 | 605 |
| 2013 | 8,519 | 8,325 | 2,078 | 25% | 5,681 | 566 |

(1) Figures for 2013 are provisional.

(2) HM Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS) (formerly the Tribunals Service Immigration and Asylum (TSIA)), consists of the First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber (FTTIAC and UTIAC). This replaced the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) on 15 February 2010. All figures for appeals determined are cases dealt with by Immigration Judges at the AIT or FTTIAC.

(3) Withdrawn figures include cases withdrawn by the Home Office, as well as those withdrawn by the appellant.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-17/214623/>

These figures are regularly published in the quarterly and annual statistics on asylum appeal applications and determinations, within Immigration Statistics: April – June 2014, published by the Home Office on the GOV.UK website:

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

Asylum

Alex Cunningham [215259] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) target and (b) actual average waiting time for asylum seekers to receive an appointment for an initial screening interview is.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office has an internal target of 10 days from the initial point of contact to the point the applicant attends the unit.

This was introduced at the start of the current financial year.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-19/215259/>

Asylum: Middle East

Lord Alton of Liverpool [HL2748] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugees from the Christian communities of Iraq and Syria have been received into the United Kingdom in the last 12 months; and whether they intend to review immigration and asylum provisions for such Christian refugees in the light of the continuing attacks upon them in their home countries.

Reply from Lord Bates: All asylum claims are considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with our international obligations, taking full account of the conditions in the country concerned. The Home Office does not systematically record the basis of a person's asylum claim or the reason(s) why a person might be granted asylum, and therefore does not have accurate data on how many Christians from Iraq and Syria have claimed or been granted asylum in the UK.

In terms of reviewing our immigration and asylum provisions, the Home Office has recently updated its country information and guidance on Iraq and plans to do likewise on Syria shortly. The guidance to decision makers – as informed by the accompanying country information – recognises the precarious situation in parts of Iraq under the control of, or being contested by, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). It also recognises that particular groups, including Christians, are at heightened risk and are therefore likely to qualify for protection.

We continue to monitor the situation closely and, as the situation changes and more up-to-date information becomes available, we can and will update the country information and guidance to reflect this.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-10/HL2748/>

Asylum: Syria

Louise Ellman [214768] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have settled in the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Scheme to date.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of refugees that have been resettled in the UK within Immigration Statistics Release. The data on nationals of Syria that have been resettled under the VPR scheme are available in the Immigration Statistics: April – June 2014, table as.19 from GOV.UK on the statistics web pages at:

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

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

This showed that there were 50 people resettled during this period. Updated numbers for the period July- September 2014 will be published on 27 November.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-17/214768/>

Asylum: Syria

Caroline Lucas [214593] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions she has had on UNHCR's request for more resettlement places for Syrian Refugees in 2015-16; if she will make it her policy to expand the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme ahead of UNHCR's global pledging conference in December 2014; and whether she or another Minister will attend that conference.

Reply from James Brokenshire: With over 3.2 million Syrian refugees now in Syria's neighbouring countries, the Government believes that humanitarian aid and actively seeking to end the conflict are the most effective ways for the UK to help the majority of those displaced, rather than large scale resettlement. We have made our position on this clear in relevant discussions with international partners and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). We are aware that states have responded to the crisis in different ways; it is right that the international community should consider all available means to relieve the suffering of Syrians displaced by the conflict.

To complement our humanitarian aid, we operate the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme to relocate the most vulnerable displaced Syrians who cannot be supported effectively long term in the region to the UK. The scheme is based on need rather than fulfilling a quota; however, we expect it to help several hundred people over three years. This is in addition to our consideration of asylum claims lodged in the UK under our normal rules. However, we strongly believe that we should continue to focus on aid rather than resettlement as the best way for the UK to maximise our impact, and we therefore have no current plans to expand the scheme.

I am pleased to confirm that Karen Pierce, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, UK Mission to the UN and Other International Organisations, Geneva will represent the UK at the UNHCR Global Resettlement Pledging Conference on 9 December 2014.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-17/214593/>

Sprakab

David Hanson [214725] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the quality of service provided to her Department by Sprakab in decision-making on asylum claims; and whether she plans to review claims dealt with by that company.

Reply from James Brokenshire: As part of the contract competition undertaken in 2014, Sprakab and Verified provided strong evidence of the quality of the services offered. There are dedicated formal arrangements in place to monitor our suppliers' compliance with the contract terms.

Sprakab also has its own internal quality checks, and – through the Swedish Migration Board – a sample of its tests are externally checked by the Immigration and Naturalisation Services (IND) of the Netherlands.

The quality of assessments made by Sprakab, have been thoroughly scrutinised by the Courts on a number of occasions. Where any criticisms have been made

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

about methodology, changes have been made to address them. Most recently, in 2014, the Supreme Court agreed that Sprakab's analyses were admissible in evidence, and for the conclusions they expressed to be given weight according to the reasoning and expertise used to support them.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-17/214725/>

Illegal Immigrants

Christopher Chope [213890] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been prevented by UK Border Force officers from entering the UK illegally in the last year for which figures are available; and how many of those people have been prevented more than once from entering illegally.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Between April 2013 and March 2014, Border Force and other agencies detected around 18,000 clandestines at the juxtaposed ports in France, while a further 16,570 people were refused entry at UK ports.

Please note, the figures on both clandestines and refusals represent the number of detections/refusals of illegal immigrants, not the number of individuals detected/refused, and so includes instances where the same person is detected on multiple occasions.

Between April 2013 and March 2014, there were 420 recorded instances where a person has been refused entry more than once. Please note this is the number of multiple instances, not the number of individuals who have been refused.

Data is not held on the corresponding figure for clandestines detected. This figure is derived from management information, subject to internal quality checks and may be subject to change.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-07/213890/>

Illegal Immigrants

William McCrea [212918] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent representations she has received about the number of illegal immigrants entering the UK.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office regularly receives written questions and correspondence from Honourable Members and their constituents about this issue. Since 2010, we have clamped down on illegal immigration.

The Immigration Act 2014 is a landmark piece of legislation which builds on the Government's ongoing reforms to our immigration system to ensure it works in our national interest.

The Act will have a major impact on the Home Office's work to secure our borders, enforce our immigration laws and continue to attract the brightest and the best to the UK.

The Act puts the law firmly on the side of those who respect it, not those who break it.

Key measures from the Act which are now in force including the introduction of enhanced duties for registrars to report suspected sham marriages and civil partnerships; new powers to streamline the recovery of illegal working penalties; the ability to remove harmful individuals before their appeals are heard if there is no risk of serious irreversible harm.

The Act also Strengthens requirements for the courts to have regard to Parliament's view of the public interest in immigration cases raising Article 8-making clear the right to a family life is not to be regarded as absolute and unqualified.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

New powers to revoke the driving licences of known illegal immigrants are also included in the Act.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-03/212918/>

Detention Centres

Sarah Teather [214847] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will halt any expansion of the immigration detention estate until the report from the inquiry by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration has been published.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Capacity of the detention estate is kept under rolling review. Decisions will continue to be made according to operational priorities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-18/214847/>

Detention Centres

Sarah Teather [214848] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the annual running costs of the immigration detention estate are.

Reply from James Brokenshire: In 2013/14 the total cost of running the Immigration Detention Estate was £164.4m. This includes all costs, including running costs, rent, depreciation and other costs, for all Immigration Removal Centres, Short Term Holding Facilities and amounts paid for spaces in the main prisons estate.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-18/214848/>

Detention Centres

Nicola Blackwood [214477] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many spaces are required in the immigration detention estate.

Reply from James Brokenshire: It has been estimated that an estate of around 5,000 beds will support the removal of those with no right to remain in the UK. This figure is subject to reviews of demand, affordability and value for money.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-17/214477/>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Alistair Burt [214450] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many women have been detained at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre for (a) 0 to six months, (b) six to 12 months, (c) over one year and (d) two years or more.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The requested information is not available. A subset of the latest published figures show that as at 30 June 2014 there were 294 female people detained in Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre who had been held in the immigration estate for less than 6 months, 9 for between 6 and 12 months and none for longer.

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

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-17/214450/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

David Hanson [214892] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many women held in Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre were on constant observation to prevent self-harm in each year since 2010.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Assessment Care in Detention and Teamwork (ACDT) is the system used for monitoring people considered to be at risk of self harm and operates within the broader context of decency, safety, and the concept of a healthy centre.

The table below provides the number of women in Yarl's Wood who were placed on constant observation to prevent self harm for the financial years 2012/2013, 2013/2014 and 1 April to 30 June 2014.

The information is based on management information only and has not been subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. These figures are provisional and are subject to change.

Financial Year

2012/2013 2013/2014 1 April – 30 June 2014

Number of women on constant observations to prevent self harm

168 164 36

Data on the numbers of women placed on constant observation to prevent self harm prior to 2012 is not recorded electronically and cannot be provided without examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Provisionally 2,464 women entered detention at Yarl's Wood IRC in 2012/2013, 2,004 in 2013/2014 and 481 between 1 April and 30 June 2014. Source Immigration Statistics:

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

This figure does not include women who transferred from other parts of the detention estate or returned to the estate from prisons. It may include women who have been detained on more than one separate occasion in the time period shown, such as a person who has left detention, but has subsequently been re-detained.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-18/214892/>

Slavery

Jason McCartney [215322] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by what process she plans that businesses will report exploitation in their supply chains as a result of the Modern Slavery Bill.

Reply from Karen Bradley: Businesses required to comply with the transparency in supply chains provision, now included in the Modern Slavery Bill, will be required to publish their annual slavery and trafficking statement on their website. They must also include a link to the slavery and human trafficking statement in a prominent place on their website's homepage.

Where a business uncovers slavery or trafficking in their supply chains they will be encouraged to report their concerns or findings to the relevant authorities in that jurisdiction. The statutory guidance to support businesses in understanding what kinds of information they may wish to include in any slavery and trafficking statement may include guidance on reporting concerns.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-19/215322/>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **Press Releases**

New powers to tackle sham marriage announced

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-powers-to-tackle-sham-marriage-announced>

Serco re-appointed to manage Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/serco-re-appointed-to-manage-yarls-wood-immigration-removal-centre>

New Publications

Giving notice of marriage or civil partnership

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/377482/Marriage_notice.pdf

Home Office immigration statistics: user guide (updated)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/377865/user-guide-immig-statistics.pdf

Migration statistics, quarterly report: November 2014

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

Immigration statistics, July to September 2014

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

Monthly asylum application tables

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/379069/asylum-sep2014.ods

Children entering detention under Immigration Act powers

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/379065/children-detention-oct2014.ods

Immigration Enforcement data: November 2014

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-enforcement-data-november-2014>

The impact of immigration on population growth

<http://www.migrationwatchuk.org/briefing-paper/15.3>

Modern slavery strategy

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/381354/Modern_Slavery_web.pdf

News

Net migration to UK rises to 260,000 in year to June

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-30224637>

Net migration hits 260,000 in new blow for Government pledge

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11256116/Net-migration-hits-260000-in-new-blow-for-Government-pledge.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Immigration figures: PM's pledge 'in ruins' as net annual migration soars to more than quarter of million

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/immigration-figures-pms-pledge-in-ruins-as-net-annual-migration-soars-to-more-than-quarter-of-a-million-9886603.html>

UK net immigration rises above 2010 level

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/nov/27/uk-net-migration-rises-above-2010-level>

PM under scrutiny as immigration up since 2010

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/pm-under-scrutiny-as-immigration-up-since-2010-1-3618104>

Immigration set to miss Tory target

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/immigration-set-to-miss-tory-target-1.705438>

Government 'aware from the start' that immigration target unattainable

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/nov/27/immigration-eu-figures-uk-impossible-target-teresa-may>

Cameron's pledge to cut immigration to the 'tens of thousands' lies in tatters after a record 228,000 people arrive from the EU

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2851521/Cameron-s-pledge-cut-net-migration-lies-tatters-figure-soars-260-000.html>

Trust in Cameron to tackle immigration halves in four years but PM still stands by pledge to slash net migration to tens of thousands

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2847167/Cameron-FAIL-honour-pledge-slash-net-migration-tens-thousands-year-blown-course-Eurozone-crisis-admits-May.html>

Astonishing new figures show immigration numbers up nearly 50% in just 10 years... as it emerges one million more Poles want to come to UK

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2854507/Astonishing-new-figures-immigration-numbers-nearly-50-just-10-years-emerges-one-MILLION-Poles-want-come-UK.html>

More than 100,000 Romanians apply to work here in just one year - while number of Bulgarians asking for National Insurance number soars

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2852483/More-100-000-Romanians-apply-work-just-ONE-year-Number-Bulgarians-asking-National-Insurance-number-sees-sharp-rise.html>

The hidden impact of migration: Statistics ignore 1.3 million children born to foreign parents

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2849618/The-hidden-impact-migration-Statistics-ignore-1-3-million-children-born-foreign-parents.html>

Cameron's pledge in tatters after 43% increase in migrant numbers

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4280883.ece>

Soaring population is 'almost entirely' fuelled by migrants

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4278327.ece>

Immigration impact 'underestimated' on UK population, says report

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11253939/Immigration-impact-underestimated-on-UK-population-says-report.html>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Cameron in tough migrants crackdown

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4280903.ece>

EU migrants face four-year wait for benefits - PM

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4281314.ece>

EU migrants 'could be required to register with police on arrival in the UK'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2854029/EU-migrants-required-register-police-arrival-UK.html>

David Cameron sets out immigration reforms: We should distrust Ukip and their 'snake-oil of simple solutions'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/david-cameron-sets-out-immigration-reforms-we-should-distrust-ukip-and-their-snakeoil-of-simple-solutions-9890167.html>

David Cameron: We will bar EU nationals from benefits 'for four years'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/david-cameron-we-will-bar-eu-nationals-from-benefits-for-four-years-9888621.html>

Immigration is important, but we can't forget our 'lost generation'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/columnists/article4279567.ece>

Community voice concern over plan to house asylum seekers

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/100-people-are-at-meeting-on-plan-to-house-asylum-seekers-189848n.25960023>

Residents given extra time to comment on controversial asylum plan

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/extra-time-to-comment-on-asylum-plan-190031n.25969121>

Traffickers exploiting social media

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/traffickers-exploiting-social-media-1.703192>

Facebook used to 'enslave' people trafficking victims

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/11253089/Facebook-used-to-enslave-people-trafficking-victims.html>

Pope urges Europe to accept migrants

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/world-news/pope-urges-europe-to-accept-migrants.25963164>

Pope Francis urges EU to help and welcome refugees

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/world/pope-francis-urges-eu-to-help-and-welcome-refugees-1-3615965>

Sercu 'has failed over asylum seeker worries'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/sercu-has-failed-over-asylum-seeker-worries.25972884>

13,000 people in Britain 'being held in slavery'

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/13-000-people-in-britain-being-held-in-slavery-1-3620026>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Slavery levels in UK 'higher than thought'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-30255084>

Up to 13,000 victims of modern slavery are trapped in the UK

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/up-to-13000-victims-of-modern-slavery-are-trapped-in-the-uk-9892395.html>

Up to 13,000 working as slaves in UK

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/nov/29/13000-slaves-uk-four-times-higher-previously-thought>

Up to 13,000 trapped in modern-day slavery in Britain

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4282659.ece>

Theresa May says tens of thousands held as modern slaves in Britain

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/11262320/Theresa-May-says-tens-of-thousands-held-as-modern-slaves-in-Britain.html>

Benefit changes will make UK 'less attractive', Hammond says

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-30257544>

How much do immigrants really claim in benefits?

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11255425/How-much-do-immigrants-really-claim-in-benefits.html>

The Leeds school teaching English as a foreign language

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article4277040.ece>

Where are the immigrants? This map will tell you

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11251624/Where-are-the-immigrants-This-map-will-tell-you.html>

Who's been coming to Britain? Immigration explained

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11258430/Whos-been-coming-to-Britain-Immigration-explained.html>

Tax credits 'turned UK into a honeypot for EU immigrants': Worker on minimum wage could receive additional £330 a week

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2848128/Tax-credits-turned-UK-honeypot-EU-immigrants-Worker-minimum-wage-receive-additional-330-week.html>

£244million - That's the staggering sum YOU pay each year to help children in British schools who cannot speak English

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2854377/244MILLION-s-staggering-sum-pay-year-help-children-British-schools-speak-English.html>

We're adding a migrant city the size of Birmingham every 30 months reveals MP who co-chairs migration group

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2854392/We-adding-migrant-city-size-Birmingham-30-months-reveals-MP-chairs-migration-group.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Is this why you wait so long to see your GP? Half a million immigrants are signing up at doctors surgeries every year

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2854514/Is-wait-long-GP-Half-million-immigrants-signing-doctors-surgeries-year.html>

Lord Tebbit's test for migrants: who did your grandfather fight for in the war?

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/nov/28/lord-tebbit-migrants-grandfather-war>

Next recruits Polish workers after 'failing to hire enough British people'

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/nov/28/next-polish-workers-british-retailer-poland-uk-minimum-wage-yorkshire-warehouse>

Why is Next hiring thousands of cheap Eastern European workers to staff English warehouse - in area where more than 200,000 are on the dole - before they even advertise the jobs here?

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2852931/How-hiring-thousands-cheap-Eastern-European-workers-staff-warehouse-area-200-000-dole.html>

A migrant's verdict on immigration plan: 'there is a war against us'

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/nov/28/romanian-migrant-verdict-david-cameron-speech>

Theresa May accused of personally delaying critical reports on immigration

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/nov/26/theresa-may-accused-delaying-immigration-reports>

Theresa May 'buried' bad news immigration report, watchdog warns

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/theresa-may-buried-bad-news-immigration-report-9885734.html>

Serco given Yarl's Wood immigration contract despite 'vast failings'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/serco-given-yarls-wood-immigration-contract-despite-vast-failings-9880772.html>

Come and be an NHS nurse - You don't even need to speak English... and you'll get twice the pay for half the hours, hospitals tell foreign health workers

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2853527/Come-NHS-nurse-don-t-need-speak-English-ll-twice-pay-half-hours-hospitals-tell-foreign-health-workers.html>

Poland wants its doctors back: Ambassador in plea to thousands of medics to leave the NHS and return home... but says cutting benefits won't help deter migrants

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2847086/Poland-wants-doctors-Ambassador-says-country-wants-lure-workers-NHS.html>

Immigration discussed in UK as if a disease, says shadow minister

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/nov/30/immigration-discussed-in-uk-disease-europe-shadow-minister>

Meet the nun who helps police raid brothels run by human traffickers

<http://www.theguardian.com/law/2014/nov/30/nun-helps-police-raid-brothels>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Commitment to consider improvements for people seeking sanctuary in Scotland

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/2535_commitment_to_consider_improvements_for_people_seeking_sanctuary_in_scotland

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Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-11674 Bill Kidd: Inaugural Shia Muslim-Christian Interfaith Meeting—That the Parliament congratulates the Scottish Shia Muslim and various Scottish Christian communities and all other contributors for their work toward their inaugural interfaith meeting on 24 November 2014 at the Trades House of Glasgow; recognises that the aim of the event is to initiate learning, conversation and relationships between members of the Shia community in Glasgow and further afield with Christian leaders; notes that participants include Sheikh Muhammad Kazim Ali from the Shia Muslim community, Mr Shabir Beg, a community member from Al Huda, the Deacon Convener of the Trades of Glasgow, Dr Idris Jones, Emeritus Episcopalian Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, and, from the Church of Scotland, the Rev Stuart Smith, the Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery, the Very Rev Bill Hewitt, Presbytery Clerk, and Rev Roy Henderson of the Presbytery Ecumenical Relations and Interfaith Matters Committee, Archbishop Mario Conti, Sr Isabel Smyth and Dr Anthony Allison from the Bishops' Committee for Inter-Religious Dialogue from the Roman Catholic Church and the Rt Rev Gordon Mursell, Hon Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, the Rev John Conway, Convener, Provincial Committee for Relations with People of Other Faiths and the Rev Cedric Blakey, Diocesan Interfaith Adviser from the Scottish Episcopal Church; considers this a historic event and understands that it is the first of its kind in Scotland and was instigated by everyday Scots and Glaswegians of varying religious, political and civic persuasions, and looks forward to future such events of this ecumenical initiative for the benefit of Scottish society.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-11674&ResultsPerPage=10>

News

Respect and tolerance key British values, says government

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-30245074>

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Equality

New Publication

Measure, Plan, Act: How data collection can support racial equality

http://www.enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/20084_equalitydatacollectionpublication-8-low.pdf

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions

Antisemitism

Guto Bebb [215618] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of changes in the number of anti-Semitic incidents in the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: 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 police-recorded race hate crime increased by 4% (an increase of 1,595 offences) and religious hate crime by 45% (an increase of 700 offences) in England and Wales. 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.

The Community Security Trust monitors levels of antisemitism. Their most recent report, published at the end of July covering the period of January to June 2014, highlighted that there had been a 36% increase in the number of antisemitic incidents recorded compared to the same period in 2013 (307 incidents in 2014, compared to 223 in 2013). Following this, they recorded 314 antisemitic incidents in July, and 229 in August, making the combined total for those two months higher than the total for the whole of 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 also established a working group to tackle antisemitism which brings together community representatives and experts from across government to help explore issues affecting these communities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-24/215618/>

Antisemitism

Guto Bebb [215644] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had (a) with his counterparts from Belgium, France and the Netherlands and (b) in EU fora about the incidence of anti-Semitic attacks in those countries.

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.

As current Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), we will be discussing the recent rise in anti-Semitism across Europe (and particularly Holocaust denial and denigration) with European partners and others at the IHRA's Plenary Meetings in Manchester in December.

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

The British Government was represented by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my Hon Friend the Member for Portsmouth North (Ms Mordaunt), at the tenth anniversary of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Conference and Declaration on Anti-Semitism, held in Berlin on 13 November. We hope the OSCE as a whole will take note of, and act upon, recommendations made at that conference.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-24/215644/>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Antisemitism

Lord Blencathra [HL2806] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consider that the current law is sufficient to deal with hate messages against Jews on social media, including Twitter.

Reply from Lord Faulks: Yes. The Government is absolutely clear that abusive and threatening behaviour online – whoever the target - is totally unacceptable. A number of offences may be committed by abusing others on social media. A message sent by means of a public electronic communications network, such as a message on Twitter, which is grossly offensive, indecent, obscene or menacing may be an offence under section 127(1) of the Communications Act 2003. Sending indecent, grossly offensive or threatening material to another with the purpose of causing distress or anxiety to a person to whom the material is communicated, including by means of the internet, is an offence under the Malicious Communications Act 1988.

Internet abuse could also amount to an offence under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 if it is carried out as part of a 'course of conduct' which amounts to harassment or puts someone in fear of violence.

Changes to the law being taken forward in the Criminal Justice and Courts Bill will increase the maximum penalty for offences under the Malicious Communications Act 1988 to 2 years imprisonment, and will mean that the current requirement that prosecutions are brought within 6 months of the offence being committed will no longer apply. The Bill will also extend the time within which prosecutions under section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 may be brought, to up to three years from commission of the offence, as long as this is also within 6 months of the prosecutor having knowledge of sufficient evidence to justify proceedings.

These steps will help to ensure that people who commit these awful crimes are prosecuted and properly punished. Where any crime is motivated by or demonstrates hatred based on the race or religion of the victim, the courts will take this into account in passing sentence.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-10/HL2806/>

News

British Muslims face worst job discrimination of any minority group

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/british-muslims-face-worst-job-discrimination-of-any-minority-group-9893211.html>

Banker's life in ruins after race abuse on train

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/bankers-life-in-ruins-after-race-abuse-on-train.25973098>

Dave Whelan: Wigan chairman charged by FA for alleged racist comments

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news-and-comment/dave-whelan-wigan-chairman-charged-by-fa-for-alleged-racist-comments-9888095.html?origin=internalSearch>

FA acts over Dave Whelan 'comments'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/sport/football/article4280470.ece>

Power of language needs to be spelt out in black and white

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/sport/columnists/matthewsyed/article4276314.ece>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Dave Whelan's use of the word 'chink' is a reminder of the problems facing Britain's Chinese population

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/david-whelans-use-of-the-word-chink-is-a-reminder-of-the-problems-facing-britains-chinese-population-9880358.html?origin=internalSearch>

Dave Whelan charged by FA over antisemitic comments

<http://www.theguardian.com/football/2014/nov/27/dave-whelan-charged-fa-antisemitic-comments-wigan-athletic>

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Scottish Devolution

Scottish Government Press Release

Smith Commission proposals published

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Smith-Commission-proposals-published-12bb.aspx>

UK Government Press Releases

The Smith Commission has reported – what's next?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-smith-commission-has-reported-whats-next>

Milestone on road to more powers for Scottish Parliament

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/milestone-on-road-to-more-powers-for-scottish-parliament>

Smith Commission

The Smith Commission Report

https://www.smith-commission.scot/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/The_Smith_Commission_Report-1.pdf

Scottish Parliament First Minister's Questions

Jackie Baillie: I am sure that the whole chamber will welcome the all-party consensus on the Smith commission. I thank Lord Smith and all the party commissioners for their hard work in reaching agreement. They have delivered a powerhouse Parliament; a promise made before the referendum is now a promise delivered—and more. Does the First Minister agree that this is the most substantial transfer of powers to Scotland since a Labour Government delivered the Scottish Parliament itself in 1999?

Reply from the First Minister: On a note of consensus, I, too, pay tribute to Lord Smith, who is to be commended. I spoke to him this morning and thanked him, on behalf of the Scottish Government, for his role in this process.

I also welcome the new powers that are recommended. I want this Parliament to be as powerful as possible, so I welcome any new powers that come to it. The powers now have to be delivered. ...

Overall, the package is disappointing. ...

Scottish Devolution

Scottish Parliament First Minister's Questions (continued)

Seventy per cent of our taxes will continue to be set at Westminster. Eighty-five per cent of social security spending will be controlled at Westminster. This Parliament will be responsible for less than half of the money that we will spend. It is not so much the home rule that was promised; in so many respects it is continued Westminster rule.

Jackie Baillie: ... Any politician not electrified by the possibilities that these new powers present for us ... to change the lives of the most vulnerable people in our country needs to ask themselves whether they are in the right job.

The Smith proposals will see huge devolution of power to this Parliament: control over £20 billion of taxation, £3 billion of welfare and the power to create new benefits. The Parliament will have substantial control over income tax, borrowing, air passenger duty, the Crown Estate, the work programme, work choices, a long list of benefits and much more. ...

Reply from the First Minister: ...what would have electrified me and this Parliament would have been control of job-creating powers, control of the minimum wage, control of the income tax personal allowance, control of national insurance contributions, control of universal credit and tax credits and control of the kind of things that create jobs and help us tackle inequality. ...

To read the full question and answer session see

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9655&i=87675&c=1764460>

UK Parliament Statement and Questions

Smith Commission

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Alistair Carmichael): ... I would echo the comments of Lord Smith in the foreword to his report: "This agreement is, in itself, an unprecedented achievement. It demanded compromise from all of the parties. In some cases that meant moving to devolve greater powers than they had previously committed to, while for other parties it meant accepting the outcome would fall short of their ultimate ambitions. It shows that, however difficult, our political leaders can come together, work together, and reach agreement with one another."

In preparing the report, Lord Smith heard from a wide range of Scottish civic institutions and members of the public. Over 400 submissions were received from organisations and groups, and over 18,000 submissions, including e-mails, letters and signatures to petitions, from people across Scotland.

The Smith commission has today produced comprehensive heads of agreement ... [that] provide for a durable but responsive constitutional settlement for Scotland within the United Kingdom. They give greater financial responsibility to the Scottish Parliament, with an updated fiscal framework for Scotland, consistent with the UK fiscal framework. For the first time, over 50% of the money spent by the Scottish Government will be raised by the Scottish Government. ...

The recommendations provide for key welfare measures to be designed by and delivered in Scotland. That will give the Scottish Parliament the tools—and the responsibility—to tackle a range of issues with specific consideration of local circumstances, including those related to social care, long-term unemployment and housing, while continuing to benefit from the strength and stability of the UK-wide system.

The recommendations build on the already significant powers of the Scottish Parliament in social justice and a range of other policy areas. Together, those recommendations give greater responsibility for more decisions affecting Scotland to be made in the Scottish Parliament and paid for by revenue raised by the Scottish Parliament. ... The

Scottish Devolution

UK Parliament Statement and Questions (continued)

Government are committed to ensuring that Scotland and the whole of the United Kingdom continue to prosper from our single domestic market, our social union and the strength that comes from the pooling and sharing of risks. ...

To support the preparation of the draft legislation, I have invited key Scottish stakeholders representing a wide range of sectors to form a stakeholder group. I shall provide further details of the membership and terms of reference of the group in due course, but it is my intention that it will support the Government's work translating the heads of agreement into the draft legislation that we shall publish by 25 January.

To the full statement and subsequent question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141127/debtext/141127-0001.htm#14112763000001>

News

Quick guide to Smith Commission Report

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo-news/quick-guide-to-smith-commission-report/>

Scotland 'should set own income tax', says Smith Commission

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-30223348>

Sturgeon attacks Smith deal on new powers for Holyrood

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/scottish-politics/sturgeon-attacks-smith-deal-on-new-powers-for-holyrood.25989654>

Smith Commission announces new Parliament powers

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/smith-commission-announces-new-parliament-powers-1-3617490>

Key points: Smith Commission powers to Scottish Parliament

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/key-points-smith-commission-powers-to-scottish-parliament-1-3617667>

The Vow delivered: New income tax and welfare powers handed to Holyrood in wake of No vote in Scottish independence referendum

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/vow-delivered-new-income-tax-4704612>

Ministers struggle to agree on what powers should be sent north

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4281000.ece>

SNP wants more power and vows to fight for it

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4281039.ece>

Scotland to control £14bn of income tax and welfare benefits in cross-party deal

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/nov/27/scotland-scottish-parliament-power-14bn-income-tax-welfare-cross-party-deal-lord-smith>

Nicola Sturgeon attacks Scotland powers deal agreed by SNP

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/SNP/11259179/Nicola-Sturgeon-attacks-Scotland-powers-deal-agreed-by-SNP.html>

Scottish Devolution

News (continued)

Smith Commission: New powers on taxation mean 'home rule for Scotland within the UK'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/scottish-independence/smith-commission-new-powers-on-taxation-mean-home-rule-for-scotland-within-the-uk-9888601.html>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Debates

Programme for Government 2014-15

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9653&i=87656>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9655&i=87706>

St Andrew's Day

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9655&i=87705>

Parliamentary Motion

S4M-11687 Christina McKelvie: SNAP Year One Anniversary—That the Parliament congratulates Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP) on its first anniversary on 10 December 2014; acknowledges SNAP's shared birthday with the founding of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948; commends SNAP's success in developing an organisation that serves as a campaigner for the enhancement of human rights in Scotland; recognises what it considers the group's achievement in effectively unifying numerous human rights organisations, which together fulfil SNAP's global commitments; notes that, in achieving its aims, SNAP brings together government, the public sector, civil society and people whose human rights are directly affected, in a collaborative manner that identifies what should be done and how to do it, and hopes that SNAP will serve as a beacon in the international battle for a better culture, improved health and social care, an adequate standard of living and an amended justice and safety system.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-11687&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Releases

Programme for Government

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Programme-for-Government-12b0.aspx>

Recorded crime reaches 40 year low

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Recorded-crime-reaches-40-year-low-129c.aspx>

First Minister's St Andrew's Day Message

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/First-Minister-s-St-Andrew-s-Day-Message-12c4.aspx>

Other Scottish Parliament and Government (continued) New Publications

One Scotland - Programme for Government 2014-15
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0046/00464455.pdf>

Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2013-14
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0046/00464137.pdf>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Question

Castes

Mark Durkan [214592] To ask the Ministers for Women and Equalities, what representations she has received on the timetable for the amendment of the definition of race to include caste in the Equality Act 2010.

Jo Swinson: Since July 2013 when the timetable was published, the government has received a number of representations from MPs, Peers, organisations and individuals. These representations have concerned whether the timetable should go ahead as well as the length of time required to implement the various stages it contains. Representations from organisations in particular have included both those in favour of and those opposed to the introduction of legislation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-17/214592/>

Press Releases

Counter Terrorism and Security Bill unveiled
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/counter-terrorism-and-security-bill-unveiled>

St Andrew's Day 2014: David Cameron's message
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/st-andrews-day-2014-david-camerons-message>

St Andrew's Day
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/st-andrews-day>

New Publication

Female genital mutilation, experimental statistics: October 2014
<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB16000>

News

Faith schools told: judiciary comes before religious law
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/11260908/Faith-schools-told-judiciary-comes-before-religious-law.html>

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New Publications

SNAP: Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights – Year One Report

<http://scottishhumanrights.com/application/resources/documents/SNAPYearOneReport.pdf>

Third sector funding and spending in 2013

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/news-campaigns-and-policy/research/third-sector-funding-and-spending-in-2013/>

Human Rights in Action: Case studies from regulators, inspectorates and ombudsmen

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/Human%20Rights%20in%20Action%20RIO%20case%20studies.pdf

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Other News

Forget Black Friday and move over Cyber Monday #GivingTuesday is coming

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/management/news/forget-black-friday-and-move-over-cyber-monday-givingtuesday-is-coming>

The campaigns to end FGM are a step forward, but they don't go far enough

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/the-campaigns-to-end-fgm-are-a-welcome-step-but-they-dont-go-far-enough-9892282.html>

The changing face of Muslim match-making

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/the-changing-face-of-muslim-match-making.25999140>

Law Society withdraws controversial guidance on Sharia-compliant wills

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/law-society-withdraws-controversial-guidance-on-shariacompliant-wills-9880599.html>

Law Society backs down on Sharia wills

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4277222.ece>

Sharia law guidelines abandoned as Law Society apologises

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11250643/Sharia-law-guidelines-abandoned-as-Law-Society-apologises.html>

Controversial Sharia guidelines for lawyers that would help them compile wills that comply with the laws are withdrawn over claims they encourage discrimination

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2848319/Controversial-Sharia-guidelines-lawyers-help-compile-wills-comply-laws-withdrawn-claims-encourage-discrimination.html>

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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>

Bills in Progress Scottish Parliament (continued)

Community Empowerment Bill

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

Criminal Justice Bill

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

Bills in Progress UK Parliament

Arbitration and Mediation Services (Equality) Bill

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

Assisted Dying Bill (England and Wales only)

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

Asylum (Time Limit) Bill

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

** Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill 2014-15

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

Bill as introduced

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0127/15127.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0127/en/15127en.pdf>

Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill

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

Modern Slavery Bill

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

UK Borders Control Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

** *closes this week!*

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>

Consultations (continued)

**** What do you think of your National Human Rights Institution?** (closing date 22 December 2014)

<http://scottishhumanrights.com/news/latestnews/iccreaccreditation>

Devolution (Further Powers) Committee Survey (closing date 31 December 2014)
This consultation is open to people who were aged 16 or 17, and eligible to vote in the Scottish Independence Referendum, on 18 September 2014

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2XVXMYL>

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

**** Funding Scotland**

<http://www.fundingscotland.com/>

**** closes 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!**

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

**** The Diversity of Persistence: A Critical Analysis of Language Policy and Ethnicity in Scotland**

16 December 2014 in Glasgow (1.00 – 2.00)

Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity seminar to examine some of the less visible aspects and informal forms of language practices which thrive or survive in Scotland today. For information contact Lindsey Garrett lindsey.garratt@manchester.ac.uk or see <http://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/about-us/events/eventdetails/?eid=even:vma-i2yubles-tvndjz>

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

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)

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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>

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

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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>

Useful Links (continued)

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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