

## 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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**The Scottish Parliament will be in recess from 20th December 2014 to 4th January 2015, the House of Commons from 18th December to 5th January, and the House of Lords from 17th December to 6th January 2015.**

**There will be one further issue of MEMO this year, and the next on 11th January.**

**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 Motions

**S4M-11782 Christina McKelvie: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery**—That the Parliament recognises 2 December 2014 as International Day for the Abolition of Slavery; understands that this day marks the date of the adoption of the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others; understands that 21 million people are still trapped in slavery worldwide; notes that this day aims to highlight all the contemporary forms of slavery, such as people trafficking, sexual exploitation, forced labour and forced recruitment of

children for use in armed conflict; understands that the UK has yet to sign up to this convention, 65 years after its drafting; wishes that the eradication of all forms of slavery remains a priority, and hopes that the celebration of this day will help to raise awareness of this issue.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-11782&ResultsPerPage=10>

## UK Parliament Questions

### British Nationality: Assessments

**William McCrea** [216139] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants for (a) indefinite leave to remain in the UK and (b) naturalisation as a British citizen have passed the Life in the UK test and have an intermediate level English Language speaking and listening qualification since the test was introduced.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Government strengthened the requirements for indefinite leave to remain and naturalisation as a British citizen in October 2013 to require adult applicants both to pass the Life in the UK test and to have an intermediate level speaking and listening qualification. There are some limited exceptions to this requirement, for example where applicants have a physical or mental condition which severely restricts their ability to learn English and it is possible for some applicants to demonstrate their level of English in a different way such as by being a national of an English speaking country or having a degree taught in English. In the period between October 2013 and September 2014, 107,565 applicants have been granted indefinite leave and 149,357 have been naturalised as British citizens.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-26/216139/>

### Entry Clearances

**Sammy Wilson** [216141] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is necessary for applicants for a visa to visit the UK to show that they have booked a return air ticket when they apply for the visa.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Applicants must satisfy the Entry Clearance Officer that they are genuinely visiting the UK for a period of less than six months, and intend to leave the UK at the end of their proposed visit. To support their visa application, applicants may wish to submit documents setting out accommodation and return travel bookings. However, applicants are advised not to make any payments for accommodation or travel until they have received a visa.

Guidance on the types of supporting documents that applicants can provide as part of their visa application is available on the UK Visas and Immigration page of gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visitor-visa-guide-to-supporting-documents>.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-26/216141/>

### Entry Clearances

**Sammy Wilson** [216142] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what compensation is available to people who are instructed to book a return ticket before they apply for a visitor's visa to come into the UK and subsequently find that their visa application has been refused.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** To support their visa application, applicants may wish to submit documents setting out accommodation and return travel bookings. However, applicants are advised not to make any payments for accommodation or travel until they have received a visa. This advice can be found

at: <https://www.gov.uk/general-visit-visa/documents-you-must-provide>

The Home Office does not provide compensation to those who purchase travel in advance of receiving a visa if the visa application is refused.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-26/216142/>

### **Immigration: Married People**

**Bob Russell** [216145] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy that foreign citizens married to a member of the armed forces can include within their qualifying period for British citizenship the time they were living overseas while accompanying their spouse on his or her deployment.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** For spouses and civil partners of British citizens there is discretion in the law to overlook time spent outside the United Kingdom accompanying a spouse or civil partner in Crown or specially "designated" service, which includes service in HM Forces. In these circumstances, time spent overseas is counted as though it were time spent in the UK for the purpose of satisfying the nationality residence requirements.

For Foreign or Commonwealth members of HM Forces, where discretion would normally be exercised over excess absences occasioned by the service person's armed forces service, the spouse's or civil partner's absences are normally disregarded in line.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-26/216145/>

### **Foreign Workers**

**Rosie Cooper** [216234] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what process is in place for triggering a review of the Shortage Occupation List insofar as it relates to the overhead line worker sector.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) reviews the Shortage Occupation List when commissioned to do so by the Government. Such commissions are made approximately every two years.

As stated in previous written answers (213992/213993 and 214206, 17 November),

the MAC is currently carrying out a review relating to this sector. It has issued a public call for evidence which closes on 5 December. Details can be found on the gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/migration-advisory-committee-mac-review-of-shortage-occupation-lists>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-26/216234/>

### **Foreign Workers**

**Rosie Cooper** [216235] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the reasons were for the voltage restriction placed on the overhead lineworkers category on the Shortage Occupation List by the Migration Advisory Committee in its review published in February 2013; what organisations gave evidence on the restriction of the category to high voltage workers; and what organisations were invited to give evidence on that restriction.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) did not reconsider the skill level of linesworkers in its February 2013 report. As the report explains, the review of linesworkers was limited to reviewing the inclusion of the job on the Shortage Occupation List, based on the MAC's "shortage" and "sensible" criteria only.

The MAC last considered the skill level, which led to only high voltage linesworkers being included on the Shortage Occupation List, on pages 28-29 of its March 2011 report, which can be read on the gov.uk website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/revise-uk-shortage-occupation-list-for-tier-2>.

The Government expects the MAC to review the skill level of linesworkers on high and low voltage lines as part of its current review.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-26/216235/>

### Immigration: Poland

**Lord Patten** [HL2989] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Wallace of Saltaire on 11 November (HL2694) concerning the employment of Polish immigrants in the United Kingdom, what is their assessment of the contribution to the economy made by the estimated 84 per cent of Polish nationals present in the United Kingdom aged between 16 to 64 who are in employment.

**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)** ... ONS does not produce any breakdown of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contributions by nationality. Estimates of GDP reconcile output, expenditure and income data, based on a combination of survey data (from businesses and households) and other (non-survey based) data sources. The majority of these data sources do not capture data on nationality.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-19/HL2989/>

### Immigration: Poland

**Lord Patten** [HL3119] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 20 November (HL2693), whether the Department for Work and Pensions has made an assessment of the contribution of Polish immigrants to the United Kingdom.

**Reply from Lord Freud:** DWP has made no such assessment, nor would it be within the remit of the Department to do so.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-24/HL3119/>

### Overseas Students: Entry Clearances

**Paul Blomfield** [215803] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many non-European Economic Area students were granted visa extensions under the International Graduates Scheme in each year since 2007.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The information available relates to International Graduates Scheme visa extensions granted in the UK, 2008 to 2013. The data is given in the table below:

Year	Main applicants	Dependants	Total
2008	16,147	2,666	<b>18,813</b>
2009	32	18	<b>50</b>
2010	5	0	<b>5</b>
2011	0	0	<b>0</b>
2012	1	1	<b>2</b>
2013	0	0	<b>0</b>

Source: Table ex\_01 Immigration Statistics April-June 2014

Table notes: Data for 2013 onwards are provisional figures.

The Home Office publishes quarterly statistics on extensions of stay granted in the UK by category in table ex\_01\_q (Extensions) within the 'Immigration Statistics' release. 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/2014-11-25/215803/>

### **Overseas Students: Scotland**

**Paul Blomfield** [215802] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many non-European Economic Area students were granted visa extensions under the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland route in each year since 2005.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Fresh Talent Working in Scotland Scheme was closed in 2008. The information available from Home Office data for grants of leave to remain under this scheme is shown in the following table.

Home Office data for grants of leave to remain under the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland scheme

2005 - 975

2006 - 2,045

2007 - 2,935

2008 - 1,665

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-25/215802/>

### **Entry Clearances: Graduates**

**Paul Blomfield** [215804] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many graduate entrepreneur visa holders switched to a skilled workers visa under the new rules announced by her Department on 6 September 2013.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The information available indicate there were 23 grants in 2013 of leave to remain in the UK in the Tier 1 high value migrant and Tier 2 skilled worker routes who were recorded as previously holding Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur status.

It is not possible to determine whether the decisions were made under rules announced on 6 September 2013.

The Home Office publishes annual statistics on grants of an extension by previous category in tables expc\_01 to expc\_01\_o within the 'Immigration Statistics' release.

A copy of the latest release, 'Immigration Statistics July - September 2014' will be available from the Library of the House and is available from

<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/2014-11-25/215804/>

### **Asylum**

**Philip Davies** [214949] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many illegal immigrants from what countries of origin were granted asylum in each year since 2010; what the nature of their illegal status was before they were granted asylum; for what reason they were granted asylum; whether they entered the UK illegally; whether their cases involved a claim under the Human Rights Act 1998; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The following table outlines the data requested. Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide information regarding the reasons that an individual has been granted asylum, nor is it possible to provide the number of claims that include a claim made under the Human Rights Act 1998. Information on this is not centrally recorded, and the information requested in my Hon. Friends question could only be obtained through a manual search of individual case files. This would only be achievable at a disproportionate cost.

The data included in the table solely relates to the number of main claimants who

claimed asylum and received a decision between 1st October 2006 and 31st December 2013 and have been granted asylum at the first case outcome. In line with our data protection principles, data sets with a cohort of fewer than 10 people have been replaced with a \*. Illegal Immigrant has been interpreted as referring to those who have been identified as being an illegal entrant or an overstayer.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/156351/original/214949%20-%20Data%20Table%20-v3.doc>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-18/214949/>

### Asylum

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**William Bain** [216163] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers who have been granted permission to work, where the claimant has waited more than 12 months for an initial decision on their asylum claims for asylum-based further submissions, are recorded as having subsequently secured employment in each of the last three years.

**William Bain** [216164] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have been granted permission to work where the claimant has waited more than 12 months for an initial decision on their asylum claim or asylum-based further submissions in each of the last three years.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The information requested by the Honourable Member is not centrally recorded and as such could only be answered with data collated through a disproportionately expensive manual search of individual case files.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-26/216163/>

### Asylum: Scotland

**Cathy Jamieson** [215847] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugees have settled in Scotland in each of the last five years for which figures are available.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Unfortunately it is not possible to answer the Honourable Member's question as we do not hold this information. Once an individual has been granted refugee status they are no longer subject to reporting requirements and there is no requirement for them to inform the Home Office of their current place of residence.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-25/215847/>

### Immigrants: Detainees

**Sarah Teather** [214974] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much compensation her Department has paid for unlawfully detaining individuals under immigration powers in each of the last five years.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The amounts paid by the Home Office in compensation following claims for unlawful detention were as follows:

2011-12	£4.5 million
2012-13	£5.0 million
2013-14	£4.8 million

It is not possible to provide similar information for earlier periods, as data are not held in the appropriate format and to extract them would incur disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-18/214974/>

## Detention Centres

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett** [HL3093] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will postpone their plans to expand the immigration detention estate until they have received the findings of the Parliamentary inquiry into the Use of Immigration Detention in the United Kingdom.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** 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/Lords/2014-11-24/HL3093/>

## Press Releases

**European Court of Human Rights clarifies the methods by which national authorities may assess the credibility of the declared sexual orientation of applicants for asylum**

<http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2014-12/cp140162en.pdf>

**True scale of modern slavery in UK revealed as strategy to tackle it published**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/true-scale-of-modern-slavery-in-uk-revealed-as-strategy-to-tackle-it-published>

## News

**EU court blocks gay asylum tests**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/30290532>

**Refugees who claim asylum on grounds they are gay should NOT have to undergo tests to prove it, EU court rules**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2857756/Refugees-claim-asylum-grounds-gay-NOT-undergo-tests-prove-EU-court-rules.html>

**European court: asking asylum seekers to prove sexuality is breach of human rights**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11269313/European-court-asking-asylum-seekers-to-prove-sexuality-is-breach-of-human-rights.html>

**Poland warning over David Cameron EU migrant benefits plan**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-30291451>

**Polish minister warns David Cameron that proposed migrant welfare reforms will cross a 'red line'**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/polish-minister-warns-david-cameron-that-proposed-migrant-welfare-reforms-will-cross-a-red-line-9897086.html>

**UN official attacks 'anti-migrant' policies**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4286765.ece>

**UN expert slams UK's 'b\*\*\*\*\*' attitude to immigration**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/un-expert-slams-uks-b-attitude-to-immigration-9899049.html?origin=internalSearch>

**United Nations investigator describes British attitudes to immigration as "b\*\*\*\*\*t"**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11270174/United-Nations-investigator-describes-British-attitudes-to-immigration-as-bt.html>

### **UK migrant threat 'fantasy' - envoy**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/uk-migrant-threat-fantasy-envoy-1.716513>

### **UK migrant threat 'fantasy' - envoy**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2858498/UK-migrant-threat-fantasy--envoy.html>

### **Refugees 'at risk' in early move from Red Road flats**

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/refugees-at-risk-in-early-move-from-red-road-flats-190896n.26021124>

### **Plans to rehouse asylum seekers 'in disarray'**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/plans-to-rehouse-asylum-seekers-in-disarray.113956677>

### **Poles lead march of east European migrants**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4284375.ece>

### **Landlords to rent homes to 'white tenants with British-sounding names' to avoid immigration red tape**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11263784/Landlords-to-rent-homes-to-white-tenants-with-British-sounding-names-to-avoid-immigration-red-tape.html>

### **Now pupils can study 2,000 years of immigration for GCSE: Pupils will learn about reasons and impact on the country in new history exam**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2856839/Now-pupils-study-2-000-years-immigration-GCSE-Pupils-learn-reasons-impact-country-new-history-exam.html>

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## **Community Relations**

### **UK Parliament Questions**

#### **Children in Care: Travellers**

**Baroness Whitaker** [HL3195] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps those responsible for Gypsy, Traveller or Roma children in care take to keep those children in touch with their culture and their community.

**Reply from Lord Nash:** Local authorities must draw up a care plan for the children they look after.

The plan sets out how their needs will be met, including how they will maintain family and social relationships (where this is consistent with their welfare) and develop their sense of racial and cultural identity. Further details are set out in the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 and accompanying statutory guidance.[1]

[1] [www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-act-1989-care-planning-placement-and-case-review](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-act-1989-care-planning-placement-and-case-review)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-26/HL3195/>

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## Equality

### UK Parliament Questions

#### **Mental Health Services: Ethnic Groups**

**Luciana Berger** [215813] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to tackle inequalities in mental health services in the black and minority ethnic community.

**Reply from Norman Lamb:** This Government is committed to tackling inequalities in access to mental health services. This commitment is set out in our mental health action plan Closing the Gap, as one of 25 key priorities for change in mental health, published in January this year.

The 2014-15 mandate to NHS England makes clear that everyone should have timely access to the mental health services they need.

Closing the Gap recognises that people from black and minority ethnic (BME) communities are less likely to access psychological therapies and we are working with the sector to find out why this is and what we can do to change it.

Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme is working with a number of BME groups to promote wider access of the service to all sections of the community. A grant scheme will be shortly launched to encourage community-based interventions to increase uptake of talking therapies, including from BME groups.

In 2012-13, the Department funded Time to Change to undertake a mental health anti-stigma and discrimination programme focused on working with African and Caribbean communities, ring-fencing 25% of the grants fund for work with BME communities, and building partnerships with BME organisations.

The Crisis Care Concordat, launched in February 2014, details how we plan to improve emergency support for people in mental health crisis across the country. It is part of a far-reaching new agreement between police, mental health trusts and paramedics. The Concordat acknowledges that there are particular difficulties to achieving better mental health outcomes for people in BME communities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-25/215813/>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament Questions

#### **Religiously Aggravated Offences**

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Diane Abbott** [215542] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incidents of Islamophobic hate crime were recorded by the police in (a) Greater London, (b) Hackney and (c) England in the last 10 years.

**Diane Abbott** [215543] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to reduce Islamophobic hate crime; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Lynne Featherstone:** The coalition government takes seriously all forms of hate crime, including anti-Muslim hatred. We have legislation in place to protect people from hostility, hatred and violence.

In May, we published our refreshed cross-Government hate crime action plan—Challenge it, Report it, Stop it, setting out the progress we have made and further

steps we will take to address the issue. Specific actions to tackle anti-Muslim hatred include supporting educational workshops for young people, running a series of regional roadshows across the country to engage with communities, and publishing new hate crime guidance for police officers which provides advice on dealing with anti-Muslim hatred.

We also continue to support the work of cross-government Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group, which includes community representatives, to identify what more can be done to prevent anti-Muslim hatred, and respond to any emerging issues.

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

The Home Office does not disaggregate religious hate crime by religion. We only hold recorded hate crime data at the police force area level and for the previous three years. This data can be found in the table below.

A breakdown of statistics by force area can be found at the following links: 2011/12 data in Table 2.01

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/265928/hate-crime-2013-apptabs.xls](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/265928/hate-crime-2013-apptabs.xls)

2012/13 and 2013/14 data in Tables 1.01 and 1.02 respectively

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/364201/hosb0214-tabs.ods](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/364201/hosb0214-tabs.ods)

<i>Numbers</i>			
<b>Hate crime strand - religion</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>
Metropolitan police	607	631	915
England	1,524	1,481	2,128
<i>Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office</i>			

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-21/215542/>

### **Castes: Discrimination**

**Lord Lester of Herne Hill** [HL2600] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to launch a further public consultation on treatment of caste-based discrimination as an aspect of race within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010.

**Reply from Baroness Garden of Frognal:** We are currently considering the form and timing of the public consultation in the light of ongoing caste discrimination litigation in the Employment Appeal Tribunal. We will await the outcome of the judgment before deciding in what form to issue the public consultation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-03/HL2600/>

### **Antisemitism**

**Lord Patten** [HL2987] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the conference on anti-semitism held on 12 and 13 November in Berlin by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

**Reply from Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government is grateful to the Swiss Chairmanship-in-Office of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) for organising this important conference in Berlin, to Germany for hosting it, and to the US for delivering a key note address. We recognise that, ten years on from the last concerted attempt to confront anti-semitism in OSCE member states, the phenomenon may be getting worse in several countries. The UK acknowledges the scale of the problem and has developed robust, evidence-based policies to combat it. The UK's success in encouraging more and better reporting of hate crime was recognised by several delegations at the conference.

We also welcome the conference of civil society groups which took place the previous day, with active participation by a range of UK experts, including the Community Security Trust and members of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. We hope the OSCE as a whole will take note of, and act upon, their recommendations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-19/HL2987/>

### **Antisemitism**

**Lord Patten** [HL2988] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a minister attended the recent Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe conference on anti-semitism held in Berlin; and what was the composition of the United Kingdom delegation.

**Reply from Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British delegation was led by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Portsmouth North (Penny Mordaunt), who delivered a statement. The Minister was accompanied by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Head of Human Rights and Democracy Department; and the Head of the Cross-Government Hate Crime Programme, based in the Ministry of Justice. Officials from our Embassy in Berlin participated in parts of the conference.

The conference was also attended by the hon. Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann), Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group against Anti-Semitism, and Mr Mike Whine of the Hate Crime Independent Advisory Group.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-19/HL2988/>

## **News**

**Britain's hidden racism: Workplace inequality has grown in the last decade**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/britains-hidden-racism-workplace-inequality-has-grown-in-the-last-decade-9898930.html>

**In black and white: New research puts into figures a subtler form of racism**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/in-black-and-white-new-research-puts-into-figures-a-subtler-form-of-racism-9899128.html>

**Antisemitism is racism. We need to acknowledge that**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/dec/02/antisemitism-is-racism-malky-mackay-david-whelan-mario-balotelli>

**Secret video: Is anti-Semitism alive on the streets of London?**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11271237/Secret-video-Is-anti-Semitism-alive-on-the-streets-of-London.html>

**Mario Balotelli apologises for anti-Semitic Instagram post of Super Mario who 'grabs coins like a Jew'**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/balotelli-apologises-for-antisemitic-instagram-post-of-nintendo-character-super-mario-who-grabs-coins-like-a-jew-9897175.html?origin=internalSearch>

**Liverpool footballer Mario Balotelli forced to apologise after he posted 'racist' Instagram post he described as 'funny'**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2858546/Liverpool-footballer-Mario-Balotelli-forced-apologise-posted-racist-Instagram-post-described-funny.html>

## Rise in racist, religious and homophobic hate crimes in London

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/rise-in-racist-religious-and-homophobic-hate-crimes-in-london-9899009.html?origin=internalSearch>

## Hearts And Celtic Accuse Each Others Fans Of Sectarianism And Intimidation

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/hearts-and-celtic-accuse-each-others-fans-of-sectarianism-and-intimidation.113958282>

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## Scottish Devolution

### Scottish Parliament Ministerial Statement and Questions

#### Smith Commission for Further Devolution of Powers to the Scottish Parliament

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9664&i=87766&c=1766122>

### Scottish Parliament Devolution (Further Powers) Committee

#### Smith Commission for Further Devolution of Powers to the Scottish Parliament

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9663&i=87763>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### Faith Schools

**Lord Storey** [HL3225] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to encourage local authorities to assess the teaching of religion in faith schools.

**Reply from Lord Nash:** Local authorities and their Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) are responsible for drawing up locally agreed syllabuses which all non-faith-based maintained schools, and some voluntary controlled and faith designated foundation schools, must follow. These syllabuses should be broadly Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.

Faith schools may develop their own syllabuses according to their trust deeds and/or the tenets of their faith.

SACREs should monitor the provision and quality of RE taught according to the agreed syllabus, and provide advice and support on the effective teaching of RE in those schools.

SACREs can draw on resources produced by experts when carrying out their work. For example, the Religious Education Council produced a curriculum framework for religious education in 2013.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-27/HL3225/>

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## Other News

**Muslims 'have stronger faith in the police than rest of the population has'**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/muslims-have-stronger-faith-in-the-police-than-rest-of-population-has-9894503.html>

**British Muslims have greater 'faith in the police' than the rest of the population, new research claims**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2855703/British-Muslims-greater-faith-police-rest-population-new-research-claims.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>

**\*\* 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=9658&i=87719>

Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee: Stage 1 evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9656&i=87714>

**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>

Second Reading, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141202/debtext/141202-0002.htm#14120262000001>

Programme

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141202/debtext/141202-0004.htm#14120271000005>

## Factsheets:

Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/382240/C\\_TS\\_Bill - Factsheet 1 - The Bill.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/382240/C_TS_Bill_-_Factsheet_1_-_The_Bill.pdf)

Terrorism prevention and investigation measures

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/382356/C\\_TS\\_Bill - Factsheet 4 - TPIMs.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/382356/C_TS_Bill_-_Factsheet_4_-_TPIMs.pdf)

Prevent duty

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/382410/C\\_TS\\_Bill - Factsheet 7 - Prevent.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/382410/C_TS_Bill_-_Factsheet_7_-_Prevent.pdf)

Channel

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/382434/C\\_TS\\_Bill - Factsheet 8 - Channel.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/382434/C_TS_Bill_-_Factsheet_8_-_Channel.pdf)

Kidnap and ransom

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/382438/C\\_TS\\_Bill - Factsheet 9 - Kidnap and Ransom.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/382438/C_TS_Bill_-_Factsheet_9_-_Kidnap_and_Ransom.pdf)

## **\*\* Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill**

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

Second Reading, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141024/debtext/141024-0002.htm#14102457000003>

## **\*\* Modern Slavery Bill**

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

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141201-0001.htm#14120117000420>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141201-0002.htm#14120134000218>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141201-0002.htm#14120138000274>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141203-0001.htm#14120356000509>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2014-2015/0051/amend/ml051-II.htm>  
and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2014-2015/0051/amend/su051-II-a.htm>

## **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!**

**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>

**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](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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## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Homecoming Scotland 2014**

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



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

\*\* *this week!*

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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)

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

### **Working with Interpreters**

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](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

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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>

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

**ACAS** [www.acas.org.uk](http://www.acas.org.uk)

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

**Volunteer Development Scotland** [www.vds.org.uk](http://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](http://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](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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