

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

UK Parliament Debate

Commonwealth Immigration and Visas

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150127/halltext/150127h0001.htm#15012758000001>

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

Language Controls: Health Professionals

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Daniel Poulter): We greatly value the contributions that health care professionals from all over the world have made, and continue to make to our NHS, but it is essential that they have sufficient knowledge of the English language to provide safe patient care. In 2014, changes were introduced to strengthen the law in this area for doctors, by introducing language controls for

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement (continued)

European economic area (EEA) doctors wishing to practise in the UK.

The Department of Health has since been working with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), the General Dental Council (GDC), the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI), and with other stakeholders, to look at ways to ensure more rigorous language competency tests can be applied for nurses, pharmacists and dentists from within the EEA. This would bring language controls for EEA health care professionals in line with the language tests and controls applied to non-European applicants who wish to treat patients in the UK.

For this reason, on 3 November 2014 the Department went out to consult on proposals to allow these regulatory bodies to apply language controls to healthcare professionals seeking entry to their registers, to ensure they have a sufficient knowledge of the English language to enable them to practise safely in the UK.

The Department has today published a consultation report, “Language controls for nurses, midwives, dentists, dental care professionals, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians—proposed changes to the Dentists Act 1984, the Nursing and Midwifery Order 2001, the Pharmacy Order 2010 and the Pharmacy (Northern Ireland) Order 197—A four country consultation report” which sets out our findings has been placed in the Library of the House. It is also available online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/writtenstatements>

The proposed legislative changes to strengthen language testing of health care professionals will be an effective way of ensuring the language competence of all overseas nurses, midwives, dentists, dental care professionals, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. This change in the law will mark an important milestone in improving patient safety and care.

The Health Care and Associated Professions (Knowledge of English) Order 2015 will be laid in Parliament shortly.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150129/wmstext/150129m0001.htm#15012951000006> (*second item*)

UK Parliament Questions

Population

The following six questions all received the same answer.

Lord Green of Deddington [HL4217] To ask Her Majesty’s Government what proportion of population growth in the United Kingdom over the last 10 years has been the result of immigration or the natural increase of the immigrant population.

Lord Green of Deddington [HL4218] To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether the proportion of United Kingdom population growth ascribed to international migration in the population projections published by the Office for National Statistics includes future births to migrants already living in the United Kingdom.

Lord Green of Deddington [HL4219] To ask Her Majesty’s Government what is the impact on projected population growth of births to migrants already living in the United Kingdom.

Lord Green of Deddington [HL4220] To ask Her Majesty’s Government what proportion of the projected population growth in England over the next 25 years would be attributable to immigration if the children of all migrants were also included.

Lord Green of Deddington [HL4221] To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they have any plans for the next publication of population estimates or projections to set out the full impact of immigration, including the natural increase due to immigrants already in the United Kingdom, on the growth of the United Kingdom population.

Lord Green of Deddington [HL4222] To ask Her Majesty’s Government on what basis

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

immigration assumptions have been adopted in population estimates published by the Office for National Statistics; how such assumptions have compared against immigration levels actually experienced; and what is the basis for any difference between assumptions and actual levels.

Reply from Lord Wallace of Saltire: 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: ... **1.** What proportion of population growth in the United Kingdom over the last 10 years has been the result of immigration or the natural increase of the immigrant population. (HL4217)

53 per cent of the 4.5 million growth in the population of the United Kingdom over the last 10 years (from mid-2003 to mid-2013) has been the direct result of net migration (which is the difference between immigration and emigration). ONS uses the standard UN definition of a migrant (an individual who changes his or her country of usual residence for a period of at least 12 months). Under this definition, immigrants can be UK or non-UK born and we do not hold the associated number of births and deaths (and therefore the natural change) for this group over time. We do publish separately figures for births born to non-UK born mothers. For the calendar years 2004-2013, UK figures for live births to non-UK born mothers totalled 1.7 million. We do not have any figures on the number of deaths of UK residents who had non-UK born mothers.

2. Whether the proportion of United Kingdom population growth ascribed to international migration in the population projections published by the Office for National Statistics includes future births to migrants already living in the United Kingdom. (HL4218)

3. What is the impact on projected population growth of births to migrants already living in the United Kingdom. (HL4219)

4. What proportion of the projected population growth in England over the next 25 years would be attributable to immigration if the children of all migrants were also included. (HL4220)

Fertility assumptions for the population projections are set based on the resident population irrespective of country of birth. Therefore, the projected number of births for those who had previously migrated to the UK is implicitly included as natural change in the population projections but cannot be separately identified.

Of the 8.7 million projected increase in the population of England between mid-2012 and mid-2037, 5.0 million (58 per cent) is due to projected natural increase and 3.6 million (42 per cent) is due to projected net migration. These figures are rounded.

The projected numbers of future births and deaths are themselves partly dependent on the assumed level of net migration. As migration is concentrated at young adult ages, the assumed level of net migration affects the projected number of women of childbearing age and hence the projected number of births. Of the 5.0 million natural increase projected between mid-2012 and mid-2037, 3.5 million would occur if net migration were zero at each and every age throughout the projection period. Thus, about 59 per cent of the projected increase in the population of England over the period mid-2012 to mid-2037 is either directly attributable to future migration (42 per cent) or indirectly attributable to the effect of fertility and mortality for these future migrants (17 per cent). Net migration in this context includes both international migration and cross border movements between England and the other countries of the United Kingdom.

5. Whether the Government has any plans for the next publication of population estimates or projections to set out the full impact of immigration, including the

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

natural increase due to immigrants already in the United Kingdom, on the growth of the United Kingdom population. (HL4221)

ONS recognises that further clarification would be useful for our users on how net international migration during the year contributes to population change and natural change. We will be adding something to our population projection and population estimate statistical releases to help clarify this issue. We also recognise that there are potentially many different definitions of a migrant and that this is a complex area that could benefit from clearer guidance for users. ONS will seek further advice on this matter from the UK Population Theme Advisory Board with a view, if it is deemed appropriate, to developing a methodological note that explains the statistics in this area and the definitional and other issues. The UK Population Theme Advisory Board provides advice on the UK-wide work programme on population statistics and demographic analysis and includes representatives from ONS, the devolved administrations, the Local Government Association, academia and the private sector.

6. On what basis immigration assumptions have been adopted in population estimates published by the Office for National Statistics; how such assumptions have compared against immigration levels actually experienced; and what is the basis for any difference between assumptions and actual levels. (HL4222)

Population estimates draw directly on migration estimates from the International Passenger Survey with adjustments to reflect, for example, those that switched intentions to visit or migrate. For the population projections, we use external demographic experts to help inform initial work on building our demographic assumptions. Migration assumptions have been set on the basis of the migration estimates for previous years. ONS and the devolved administrations then consult key stakeholders, including representatives from relevant government departments, local government and on occasion academia. We produce a principal projection with variants for high and low assumed migration levels. Details regarding demographic assumptions are published as part of the National Population Projections release. The table accompanying this reply shows how the net migration assumptions have compared with the actual migration estimates data for the last six years. Since net migration is the difference between immigration and emigration, the differences between the projections and the migration estimates can reflect differences between the assumed and actual numbers of people coming into the UK and/or the numbers of people leaving the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-16/HL4217/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-16/HL4218/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-16/HL4219/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-16/HL4220/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-16/HL4221/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-16/HL4222/>

Naturalisation

Richard Fuller [221349] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of naturalisation applications took (a) less than 6 months, (b) between 6 and 9 months, (c) between 9 and 12 months and (d) more than 12 months to be concluded in each of the last three years.

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

	2012	2013	2014
Less than 6 months	96.38%	98.05%	97.76%
6-9 Months	2.77%	1.36%	1.68%
10-12 Months	0.50%	0.29%	0.23%
Over 12 Months	0.34%	0.30%	0.33%

Note: Figures for 2014 include cases decided up to and including September 2014, in line with published data.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-20/221349/>

Asylum

Richard Burden [221467] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have (a) applied and (b) successfully resettled in the UK under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme to date; what the origin was of each applicant; which local authorities are participating in the scheme; and what the cost of the scheme has been to date.

Reply from James Brokenshire: We launched the Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme to help particularly vulnerable displaced Syrians, for whom relocation to the UK is the only option. In particular, the programme prioritises survivors of torture and violence, women and children at risk and those in need of medical care. We are working closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to identify potential cases for relocation to the UK and it is not therefore open to individuals to apply for places on the scheme.

Ninety people were relocated to the UK under the VPR scheme between the first group of arrivals on 25 March and the end of September. This is the latest publicly available figure, as numbers are released as part of the Home Office official statistics each quarter. The number of arrivals under the scheme up to December 2014 will be published on 26 February. Those we have relocated so far have come from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Our main focus remains the vulnerability of individuals rather than where they came from.

There are a number of local authorities already supporting the scheme and more who have expressed an interest, with whom we are in discussion. We therefore remain confident that we can continue to meet the needs of arrivals in the UK under the scheme as planned but we welcome further offers of support from other local authorities as the scheme progresses. However, as the scheme is based on vulnerability it would not be appropriate for us to release specific details of where individuals are being placed, as this risks undermining their privacy and recovery.

The cost of the VPR scheme will depend on the particular vulnerabilities of those

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

brought to the UK, and we are keeping costs under close review. Central government is responsible for the overall funding of the scheme, but we will recover costs wherever possible, including from international aid funding schemes and potential EU funding schemes. We have put forward proposals to obtain funding from the new EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and are hopeful of a positive outcome. The UK's National Programme is yet to be agreed and until this is signed off by the EU Commission, costs to the Home Office specifically will not be finalised.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-20/221467/>

Asylum: Finance

The following three questions all received the same answer.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4250] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in implementing the changes to the Azure Card they announced during the debate of 20 November 2014 (HL Deb, cols 545–67).

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4251] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the abolition of the carry-over limit for Azure Card users has been implemented.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4252] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to make existing Azure Card users aware of the changes in that card's rules.

Reply from Lord Bates: We are completing the practical arrangements to remove the restriction that prevents Azure card users from carrying over more than £5 credit on the card from one week to the next. Card users with children are already allowed to carry over unlimited credit. We expect to complete the work by the end of February.

Card users will be notified of the change by letter and there will be appropriate changes to our website information about the card.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-19/HL4250/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-19/HL4251/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-19/HL4252/>

Asylum Seekers: Women

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to consult Asylum Aid about ways to improve protection and fairness for women asylum applicants and support provided for those who have suffered gender-based harm.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Bates): My Lords, the UK has a proud history of offering protection to those who need it, male or female. Home Office officials regularly meet with Asylum Aid and recently discussed Asylum Aid's Protection Gap campaign and other practical steps that can be taken to further improve the management of asylum claims from women.

Lord Hylton: ... Will the Government extend childcare to all women's interviews, especially in London and Liverpool, where it is not available? Will they provide training on gender violence to interviewers and interpreters, as is already done for the police? Finally, will they explain to women applicants why choosing a woman interviewer or counsellor can be of benefit to them?

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Bates: I am grateful to the noble Lord for his question and respect his long interest in this area and his work with female refugees. On his first point, we are very much open to reasonable suggestions as to how childcare could be improved. There are some practical difficulties on some of the sites, particularly in central London. As for having female interviewers, that is a very good step and we want to make progress on that. There is some practical difficulty over interpreters. I will get back to the noble Lord on his other points, if I may.

Lord Morris of Handsworth: My Lords, what steps are being taken to ensure that the children of detained asylum seekers have access to a rounded education, including attending the local schools?

Reply from Lord Bates: There was a change in policy as a result of legislation that went through your Lordships' House, which said that children cannot be detained in immigration centres. Where they are in centres because their parents are there, they are more likely to be put into places such as the Cedars, which is a family-based centre where education is available on-site.

Baroness Hussein-Ece: My Lords, Women for Refugee Women's recent report highlighted how women held in Yarl's Wood detention centre were continually humiliated by male staff while they were dressing, showering and using the toilet. Given the ongoing reports of unacceptable treatment of women for some years in this establishment, is it not time to put a stop to women in these circumstances—female asylum seekers who have been raped, trafficked, tortured and subjected to FGM—being held in detention centres?

Reply from Lord Bates: We are very clear that all female asylum seekers should be treated with dignity and respect. It is also true that when the Chief Inspector of Prisons visited Yarl's Wood and produced his report, he found that it was a safe and respectful place. We have seen the report that was prepared. It contained some very disturbing accusations and we have asked its authors to share the sources of that information with us so that it can be properly investigated.

Baroness Smith of Basildon: My Lords, the noble Lord has tried to be positive in his response but these allegations are extremely serious. As the noble Baroness said, they often concern women who are fleeing sexual violence. The Government's response to the allegations was to expect contractors, in this case Serco, to maintain the highest standards. Will the Minister accept that saying it does not make it happen? When the UN investigators are not permitted to go into Yarl's Wood to see for themselves, that is something of a disgrace. Will the Government commit to a thorough, fully independent investigation into the circumstances at Yarl's Wood as a matter of the utmost urgency?

Reply from Lord Bates: Certainly, as we have said, if the information is supplied to us, it will be investigated very thoroughly indeed. The circumstances there have been subject to regular investigations by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons. In relation to the UN rapporteur who asked to visit, that was very last-minute request. We had set up a very detailed programme, including meetings with the Chief Inspector of Prisons and the Home Secretary, and had offered other meetings. We are open to further approaches in due course in the future.

Lord Harris of Haringey: My Lords, is it not the case that in a number of instances the women who made these very serious complaints have been deported before they can speak properly to the investigators? Surely, that is not something that the Government condone.

Reply from Lord Bates: No, it is not, and that is why we want the information to be brought to our attention as soon as possible. We cannot act if it is not shared with us.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150128-0001.htm#15012854000378>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Deportation

Nigel Dodds [221539] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers were returned to their country of origin in each year since 2010.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The table below provides the total number of people who have claimed asylum and been removed or departed voluntarily from the UK to their country of origin in each year since 2010.

Number of people claiming asylum who have been removed or voluntary departed from the UK to their country of origin, 2010 to 2013 (1)(2)(3)

Year	Total enforced removals	Total voluntary departures
2010	4,911	3,328
2011	4,736	3,513
2012	4,267	3,196
2013 (P)	3,944	3,555

(1) Destination as recorded on source database; all nationals returned to their home country.

(2) Removals are recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

(3) Recorded on the system as having claimed asylum at some point.

(P) These figures are provisional and may subsequently differ when the tables are revised, due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK within Immigration Statistics. The data on removals and voluntary departures are readily available in the latest release, Immigration Statistics: July – September 2014, from the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>. Data for 2014 will be available from 26 February 2015.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-21/221539/>

Human Trafficking

Paul Blomfield [221901] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many victims of human trafficking had been previously identified as having been trafficked into the UK in each year since 2011.

Karen Bradley: The information requested is not held by the National Crime Agency (NCA) as it is not routinely recorded as part of the National Referral Mechanism process. However, the NCA's 'Strategic Assessment on the Nature and Scale of Human Trafficking in 2013,' which was based on additional information and intelligence, identified that there were three cases where a potential victim had experienced a secondary period of exploitation following recovery during the period 1 January

2013 to 31 December 2013. Similar intelligence assessments were produced in 2011 and 2012 which contained no data relating to the number of potential victims that may have been re-trafficked. Data for 2014 has not been published yet.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-23/221901/>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Paul Blomfield (739) International students and net migration targets – That this House recognises the enormous cultural, academic and economic contribution that international students studying at UK universities make to the country; is concerned at the dramatic drop in students enrolling to study at UK universities from some of the UK's major international trading partners; believes that the public does not generally view international students to be migrants and does not wish to see their number reduced; and urges the Government to exclude university students from efforts to bear down on immigration including by removing university students from any target to reduce net migration.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2014-15/739>

Press Release

Integrating refugees in Scotland's communities

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Integrating-refugees-in-Scotland-s-communities-1506.aspx>

New Publications

2011 Census: detailed UK migration statistics

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/uk_migration

Monthly asylum application tables

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/399229/asylum-nov2014.ods

Children entering detention under Immigration Act powers

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/399232/children-detention-dec2014.ods

Migrant Voters in the 2015 General Election

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/publications/Migrant_Voters_2015_paper.pdf

News

Half of Londoners will be foreign-born by 2031

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4334398.ece>

Half of all Londoners will be foreign-born by 2031 as the capital's population is set to reach ten million

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2926454/Half-Londoners-foreign-born-2031-capital-s-population-set-reach-ten-million.html>

Election 2015: Migrant voters 'could be decisive'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-31062699>

March of the migrant voter: For the first time in history people born abroad will be in the majority in two constituencies

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2931726/Four-million-foreign-voters-election-including-two-constituencies-Britons-minority.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Migrant votes 'key in marginals'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2932345/Migrant-votes-key-marginals.html>

Surge in migrant voters could swing vote in key UK constituencies

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/jan/29/surge-in-voters-born-overseas>

PM: 'Britain would be better if net migration fell to tens of thousands'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/david-cameron/11371879/David-Cameron-Britain-would-be-better-if-net-migration-fell-to-tens-of-thousands.html>

'Somali immigrants' cause pub closures, says minister

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11370963/Somali-immigrants-cause-pub-closures-says-minister.html>

Pubs closing because traditional working class areas have been taken over by Muslims who don't drink, claims Lib Dem minister

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2928065/Pubs-closing-traditional-working-class-areas-taken-Muslims-don-t-drink-claims-minister.html>

Liberal Democrat minister defends comments suggesting immigration causes pub closures

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/liberal-democrat-minister-defends-comments-suggesting-immigration-causes-pub-closures-10005993.html>

Foreign pupils don't harm grades of English speakers

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/foreign-pupils-dont-harm-grades-of-english-speakers-10012046.html>

Rise of the Polish Brits: Number given UK citizenship soars 1,200% in just five years

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2933970/Rise-Polish-Brits-Number-given-UK-citizenship-soars-1-200-just-five-years.html>

Daily Mail's Ferry Offer Used By Activists To Help Calais Migrants

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/01/31/daily-mail-ferry-offer_n_6584282.html?utm_hp_ref=uk

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Community Relations

News

Muslim leader: 'Teaching British values in schools creates atmosphere of suspicion'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/muslim-leader-teaching-british-values-in-schools-creates-atmosphere-of-suspicion-10011944.html>

Mosque open days to ease 'tensions around terrorism'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-31076194>

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Equality

News

Black and Asian school-leavers 'more likely' to attend university

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/main-parties-have-no-answer-to-lack-of-social-mobility-in-schools-10006622.html>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Debate

Holocaust Memorial Day 2015

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9747&i=89311>

Press Releases

First Minister's speech: Holocaust Memorial Day 2015

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/Speeches-Briefings/Holocaust-Memorial-Day-2015-1522.aspx>

Prime Minister pledges prominent Holocaust Memorial for Britain

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-pledges-prominent-holocaust-memorial-for-britain>

National Holocaust Commemoration event 2015: Prime Minister's speech

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/national-holocaust-commemoration-event-2015-prime-ministers-speech>

Holocaust Memorial Day 2015: Nick Clegg message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/holocaust-memorial-day-2015-nick-clegg-message>

Communities ministers pay tribute to the survivors of the Holocaust

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/communities-ministers-pay-tribute-to-the-survivors-of-the-holocaust>

Foreign Secretary visits Auschwitz

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-visits-auschwitz>

Baroness Anelay marks Holocaust Memorial Day

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/baroness-anelay-marks-holocaust-memorial-day>

Efforts to counter anti-Semitism and all forms of intolerance crucial as ever, says OSCE on 70th anniversary of Auschwitz liberation

<http://www.osce.org/cio/136661>

'We are being tested again,' Ban warns as UN marks 70 years since Auschwitz liberation

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49912#.VMfxP3CUcp0>

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein statement ahead of the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15509&LangID=E>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Press Releases (continued)

International Holocaust Remembrance Day: Inter-community solidarity is key to fight anti-Semitism

<http://www.enar-eu.org/Joint-press-statement-801>

New Publication

Britain's Promise to Remember The Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission Report

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398645/Holocaust Commission Report Britains promise to remember.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398645/Holocaust_Commission_Report_Britains_promise_to_remember.pdf)

News

Holocaust memorial centre announced as UK marks Auschwitz anniversary

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-30997412>

Holocaust Memorial Day 2015: Keep the memory alive

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_blogs/2574_holocaust_memorial_day_2015_keep_the_memory_alive

Graphic exposure of sectarianism's absurd prejudice

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4337964.ece>

Graphic novel becomes latest weapon in fight to stamp out sectarianism ahead of Old Firm clash

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/graphic-novel-becomes-latest-weapon-5061640>

Graphic novel launched to teach youngsters about sectarianism

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/graphic-novel-launched-to-educated-young-people-about-sectarianism.1422445672>

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Scottish Devolution

Scottish Parliament Ministerial Statement followed by Q&A

Smith Commission

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9747&i=89293>

Scottish Parliament Devolution (Further Powers) Committee

Smith Agreement (Business Organisations)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9746&i=89284>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

New Publications

Census 2011: Characteristics of Scotland's population

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Census-2011-Charateristics-of-Scotland-s-population-155f.aspx>

People, Culture and Heritage in Scotland - Topic Report on results from the 2013 Scottish Household Survey

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0046/00469187.pdf>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Debate

Female Genital Mutilation

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150129/halltext/150129h0001.htm#15012960000001>

Parliamentary Question

Female Genital Mutilation

Seema Malhotra [221745] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, when his Department last updated the guidance it issues to the NHS on dealing with women who have undergone FGM.

Reply from Jane Ellison: The Department provided an interim update to the health content of the "Multi Agency Practice Guidelines – Female Genital Mutilation" in July 2014 whilst more detailed guidance was being developed to reflect new requirements on National Health Service staff related to the Department's FGM Prevention Programme. We plan to publish further guidance next month.

The Department and NHS England have also issued FGM guidance to the NHS through a statement of requirements and responsibilities, and have updated the content for health professionals on the NHS Choices FGM web-page.

The Department also commissioned Health Education England to produce five new e-learning training sessions on FGM for NHS staff, the first of which is available free of charge to NHS staff on the national 'eLearning for Health' platform.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-22/221745/>

New Publication

Female genital mutilation, experimental statistics: December 2014

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB16773>

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Other News

Shuja Shafi, head of the Muslim Council of Britain: 'We've never claimed to speak for everyone'

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jan/30/shuja-shafi-head-muslim-council-britain-interview>

'Ballot-rigging risk' in Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/general-election-2015/11373206/Ballot-rigging-risk-in-Pakistani-and-Bangladeshi-communities.html>

Day-care centres for ethnic groups to be shut down

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/u/day-care-centres-for-ethnic-groups-to-be-shut-down.1422517682>

Halal slaughter: Large increase reported in number of animals not being stunned at abattoirs

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/increase-in-animals-not-being-stunned-before-they-are-halal-slaughtered-10012559.html?origin=internalSearch>

Big increase in religious slaughter of animals

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/environment/article4339079.ece>

Sharp rise in halal abattoirs slaughtering animals without stunning them first

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11378667/Sharp-rise-in-halal-abattoirs-slaughtering-animals-without-stunning-them-first.html>

Banning ritual slaughter would be a victory for racists

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11379157/Banning-ritual-slaughter-would-be-a-victory-for-racists.html>

Millions more animals are slaughtered for halal food: Numbers rise 60 per cent amid calls for them to be stunned before death

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2932463/Millions-animals-slaughtered-halal-food-Numbers-rise-60-cent-amid-calls-stunned-death.html>

100,000 back no-stun slaughter ban

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2930760/100-000-no-stun-slaughter-ban.html>

'I regard FGM as abhorrent', accused doctor tells court

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-31026482>

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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>

Stage 1 evidence, Health and Sport Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9750&i=89313>

Bills in Progress Scottish Parliament (continued)

**** Community Empowerment Bill**

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

Stage 1 report, Local Government and Regeneration Committee

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_LocalGovernmentandRegenerationCommittee/Reports/lgR-15-02w.pdf

Criminal Justice Bill

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

**** Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/84356.aspx>

Stage 1 consideration, Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9749&i=89305&c=1792590>

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 amended in Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2014-2015/0092/15092.pdf>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150126-0001.htm#15012613000508>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150126-0002.htm#1501272000025>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150128-0001.htm#15012854000382>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2014-2015/0075/amend/ml075-III-rev.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2014-2015/0092/amend/ml092-I-rev.htm>

Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill

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

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament (continued)

**** Modern Slavery Bill**

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

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2014-2015/0069/amend/am069-c.htm>

UK Borders Control Bill

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

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Consultations

**** new or updated this week**

**** Mapping Exercise of Employability Services, Service Providers and Existing Government Schemes in Scotland, particularly aimed at Minority Ethnic Groups** (closing date 13 February 2015)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/D2FB2PY>

Constitutional implications of draft Scotland clauses (closing date 19 February 2015)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/political-and-constitutional-reform-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/draft-scotland-clauses-inquiry/>

Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Bill (closing date 24 February 2015)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/85581.aspx>

Educational attainment gap (closing date 7 March 2015)

<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ParentsSurvey>

Age and Social Isolation (closing date 13 March 2015)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/85810.aspx>

Proposed Bill Relating to Burial and Cremation and Other Related Matters in Scotland (closing date 24 April 2015)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0046/00468846.pdf>

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

SCVO Digital Challenge Fund

Closing date for applications: 13 February 2015

Grants of between £200 and £10,000 to enable groups and organisations to digitise content, build digital networks and improve the digital skills of their members, so that they can continue to thrive in the digital world. For information see

<http://digital.scvo.org.uk/challenge/>

**** Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund: small grant**

Closing date for applications: 25 February 2015

Grants between £500 to £2,000 for locally based faith groups in Scotland to undertake practical action in response to community need, particularly in the economically poorest urban and rural communities. For information see

<http://www.faithincommunityscotland.org/faith-in-community-scotland-action-fund/how-to-apply/>

Volunteering Support Grant

Closing date for applications: 27 February 2015

The Volunteering Support Grant offers funding to third sector organisations to create new or enhanced volunteering projects, increasing the diversity of volunteers, especially those from disadvantaged groups, and improving opportunities, skills and personal development through volunteering.

<http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/volunteering-development-grants/volunteering-support-grant/>

**** Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund: major grant**

Closing date for applications: 30 April 2015

Grants of up to £15,000 over three years for locally based faith groups in Scotland to undertake practical action in response to community need, particularly in the economically poorest urban and rural communities. For information see

<http://www.faithincommunityscotland.org/faith-in-community-scotland-action-fund/how-to-apply/>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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>.

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children, and Young People

18 (9.30-4.30pm) & 19 (9.30-12.30pm) Feb 2015 in Edinburgh

25 (9.30-4.30pm) & 26 (9.30-12.30pm) March 2015 in Edinburgh

15 (9.30-4.30pm) & 16 (9.30-12.30pm) April 2015 in Edinburgh

13 (9.30-4.30pm) & 14 (9.30-12.30pm) May 2015 in Edinburgh

10 (9.30-4.30pm) & 11 (9.30-12.30pm) June 2015 in Edinburgh

15 (9.30-4.30pm) & 16 (9.30-12.30pm) July 2015 in Edinburgh

Shakti Women's Aid course to raise awareness and understanding of issues facing minority ethnic women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jwxqq3> or contact Ola or Mridul 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

18 February 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

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

3 March 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

15 April 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

20 May 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

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

2 June 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

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

****Scotland, People, and Language**

20 February 2015 in Glasgow (9.00 – 1.00)

BEMIS/Gathered Together event to share experiences of actively promoting language diversity, and working with people whose first language is not English. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/qehrbu9>, or register for the event at <http://tinyurl.com/oscbmen>

Migration Matters Scotland

26 February 2015 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30)

COSLA event to outline learning from local engagement activities and facilitate migrant and council dialogue, showcase the new migration policy database resource, and test user preferences for the updated migration policy toolkit. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/nmv4or3>

Introduction to Politics in Scotland

9 March 2015 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.30)

CRER training course to improve understanding of Scotland's political landscape at local, Scottish and UK government level. For information see <http://www.crer.org.uk/81-front-page-articles/499-introduction-to-politics-in-scotland> or contact Nadia Rafiq nadia@crer.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Introduction to Equality in Scotland

17 March 2015 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.30)

CRER training course will help participants to understand key equality concepts and explore how the law protects people from discrimination. For information see <http://www.crer.org.uk/81-front-page-articles/500-introduction-to-equality-in-scotland> or contact Nadia Rafiq nadia@crer.org.uk

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 / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

Women in Employment: Advancing Equal Opportunities

24 March 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

BEMIS conference in partnership with STUC, Scottish Refugee Council, Scottish Women's Convention and GRAMNet. For more information see <http://bemis.org.uk/events/> or contact events@bemis.org.uk

Essentials of Asylum

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>

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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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