

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-12640 Christina McKelvie: Welcome To Scotland?—That the Parliament shares the Scottish Refugee Council's concerns at the recent poll conducted by BBC Scotland on Scottish attitudes to immigration; understands that the poll, called Welcome to Scotland? asked people about immigration in the UK and not only about Scotland; further understands that wide questions on the UK may have shifted answers away from the reflection of people's life experiences, that the poll provides no definition of the word immigration and makes no difference between foreign students, international academics, professionals from the EU member states, refugees seeking protection or victims of trafficking; considers that asking people their opinion about the contribution of these different groups of immigrants could have yielded a more nuanced and accurate insight; shares the Scottish Refugee Council's concerns at the relevance of such a poll in the context of the general election; wonders if this poll reflects the real views of the people of

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Motion (continued)

Scotland on immigration, and reminds all that it remains what it considers a dramatic issue that affects many people's lives.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-12640&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Questions

Immigration: Regulations

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have received in the past year from organisations dealing with the welfare of immigrants expressing concerns about the current immigration regulations.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Bates): My Lords, the Government are determined to ensure that people in all parts of our immigration system are treated with dignity and respect. Regular engagement with external partners takes place through the national asylum stakeholder forum and is an important part of ensuring that issues about migrants' welfare are raised and addressed.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: My Lords, has the Minister read the all-party report on immigration detention, published in the last few days? If so, does he agree with that committee that the system that we have at the moment is totally unworthy? There have been protests in both Yarl's Wood and Harmondsworth in the past couple of days. Will the Minister work to remove the injustice whereby those affected are detained indefinitely, with indefinite deprivation of liberty and of human rights? Is it not hypocrisy to celebrate 800 years of Magna Carta while we allow this sort of situation to continue?

Reply from Lord Bates: My Lords, I have read the report which came out last week. The Home Office will, of course, give a proper response to such an important and thorough piece of work. As to the noble Lord's point about detention, he will be aware that 93% of those who are actually detained in immigration removal centres are there for less than four months. They are the most serious of cases—people who have come to this country clandestinely. We need to establish their identity because it would be a dereliction of duty not to identify those whom we are letting into this country. There are foreign national offenders and people whose appeals have been exhausted. However, we are keeping this under review and that is why the Home Secretary has asked Stephen Shaw to undertake a thorough review.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett: My Lords, in its recent report on violence against women and girls, the Joint Committee on Human Rights, of which I am a member, expressed concern about how current Home Office policies leave some people destitute during the immigration and asylum process. This can lead to women being at greater risk of violence and sexual exploitation. Will the Government now amend the very welcome action plan on violence against women and girls to stop this happening?

Reply from Lord Bates: There is rightly support available for people who are in severe states of destitution. There are differing levels for those who are seeking asylum and for those whose asylum cases have been refused. These amounts are kept under review. There are additional facilities to provide accommodation, to help with food and access to legal and health care. These are all very important and we need to continue with them. ...

The Lord Bishop of Chester: My Lords, does the Government accept that, because the number of migrants who come here perfectly legally from the EU is much higher than expected, the downward pressure from the authorities on non-EU immigrants is onerous, aggressive and leads to the sort of report we have just heard? There is now such a

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

disparity of treatment between EU and non-EU immigrants that it is producing all manner of injustice.

Reply from Lord Bates: We have to look at the reason why we have seen pressure on immigration; we have to take it seriously. The right reverend Prelate will recognise that uncontrolled immigration, which we have had in the past, puts intolerable strains on our public services. In this country we rightly have a proud tradition of offering asylum to those who are in fear of persecution and that will continue under the present regime. ...

Lord Avebury: My Lords, does not my noble friend agree that if every other European country imposes a time limit on the length of detention, there is something wrong with our system? We should find some means to grant temporary status to people who are not going back to their own countries through no fault of their own—sometimes their countries will not accept them.

Reply from Lord Bates: My noble friend will recall that that was discussed during the passage of the Immigration Act; the proposal was made by the noble Baroness, Lady Williams, and was rejected by the House. We continuously keep that under review, but I reassure the House that 96% of female inmates are there for a period of less than four months—we want to keep detention to the minimum period possible.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150311-0001.htm#15031179000882>

Immigration: Married People

Lord Laird [HL5316] To ask Her Majesty's Government under what circumstances a spouse of a United Kingdom citizen who is not a European Union citizen can take up residence with their partner in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Government reformed the basis for family migration to the UK in July 2012, to prevent burdens on the taxpayer, promote integration and tackle abuse. The non-European Economic Area national spouse or partner of a British citizen can now join or remain with their sponsor here if they meet the relevant requirements of Appendix FM to the Immigration Rules. These include a financial requirement which generally means the sponsor must meet a minimum income threshold of £18,600 a year, and a requirement that the applicant can speak basic English. ...

The Immigration Rules Appendix can be read at

<http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/224294/original/Imm.%20Rules%20Appendix%20FM.pdf>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-02/HL5316/>

Asylum

Alex Cunningham [226001] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have been dispersed to each region in each of the last six months.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The dispersal policy for asylum seekers was set out by the last Labour Government in the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. Quarterly published data is only available up to December 2014 which is accessible via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2014-data-tables>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-03/226001/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum

Alex Cunningham [226003] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what additional funding has been provided to local authorities, schools and the NHS to fund costs relating to asylum seekers in the last 12 months.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Government has a legal obligation to provide support to asylum applicants who would otherwise be destitute. Support is provided in form of subsistence allowance and accommodation. The Government provides funding for Strategy Migration Partnerships which act as a focal point for all local authorities in the relevant region to consider and resolve any issues relating to dispersals and migration. The funding for 2014/15 was £1.325 million. The Government also provides additional funding to local authorities to support Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, those leaving care and asylum seekers who are turning 18. The total funding for these in 2013/14 financial year was £77.2 million. Cost from 2014/15 are yet to be audited and unpublished. Information for any extra funding for health and education will be available from the Department of Health and Department for Education respectively.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-03/226003/>

Asylum: Finance

The following four questions all received the same answer

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL5400] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made on their commitment to provide extra assistance to Azure Card users undertaking necessary travel.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL5401] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 20 November 2014 (HL Deb, cols 545–67), what further information has been provided to individuals for support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 on how to apply for extra assistance, and in which languages.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL5402] To ask Her Majesty's Government what efforts have been made to make it easier for small and medium-sized enterprises to sign up to the Azure Card scheme; and how many small and medium-sized enterprises have applied to join in the last year for which records are available.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL5403] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, as section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 is intended to promote a form of temporary support, Azure Card users can be returned to provision under section 95 for cash support after a period of one year.

Reply from Lord Bates: It is not currently possible to purchase travel tickets with the Azure card for practical reasons. Accommodation is provided within walking distance of shops and other services and tickets are provided for essential medical appointments.

Information and guidance about travel assistance is published on the GOV.UK website and it is widely known about by the voluntary sector organisations that assist Azure card users, including Migrant Help, which is funded by the Home Office to provide an advice service. Additionally, a mailshot sent out in the week commencing 16 February 2015 provided a reminder to all card users of where to find information on applying for additional assistance.

Any retail outlet that provides food and other essential living items and accepts visa transactions can apply to join the Azure card scheme. The card is currently accepted by Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury's, Morrison's, the Co-operative, Iceland, Boots, Mothercare, The British Red Cross, The Salvation Army and a few small independent retailers.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Support is provided in some circumstances to failed asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. This is generally because there is a temporary legal or practical obstacle to their departure, for example because the person is too sick to travel or needs time to apply for the necessary travel document. The Government currently has no plans to change this provision.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-03/HL5400/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-03/HL5401/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-03/HL5402/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-03/HL5403/>

Asylum: LGBT People

Lord Scriven [HL5472] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 3 March (HL5244), what steps they plan to take to ensure that information about people claiming asylum on grounds of their sexuality is recorded on a central database.

Reply from Lord Bates: Information on the basis of an asylum claim is not usually recorded but the Home Office has made arrangements to record this data for cases made on the basis of sexuality on our Case Information Database.

We have reminded decision makers to record this information accurately for all such cases and recording compliance is reviewed as part of the second pair of eyes checks on these cases.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-04/HL5472/>

Asylum: Detainees

Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb [HL5474] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of asylum seekers being detained under powers in the Immigration Acts, what access they have to statutory, free and independent forms of advocacy on an individual basis, excluding legal representation.

Reply from Lord Bates; All asylum applicants are directed to a range of sources of advice and support offered by non-governmental organisations. However we consider that statutory access to free and independent forms of advocacy is best delivered through providing the asylum applicant with the opportunity to consult a legal representative at his or her own, or public expense (in accordance with provision made by the Legal Aid Agency) or otherwise. This could be a barrister, solicitor or adviser; all however must be qualified to provide advice under Section 84 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to ensure that the advice offered is of the sufficient quality.

Safeguards exist for those entering detention through the Detention Duty Advice scheme which was set up by the Legal Aid Agency to provide access to legal advice in detention centres. The scheme provides free legal advice under legal aid for people held in immigration detention, who cannot afford a fee-paying private legal adviser or who are no longer represented by a duty solicitor.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-05/HL5474/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Detention Centres

Lord Hylton [HL5390] To ask Her Majesty's Government what qualifications and quality standards are required of contractors' staff in contact with detainees at Yarl's Wood and other detention centres.

Reply from Lord Bates: People undertaking custodial functions in immigration removal centres must be certified by the Secretary of State as Detainee Custody Officers (DCO) or, in the case of prison officers undertaking such duties, have the functions of DCOs conferred on them by the Secretary of State.

Under section 154 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 the Secretary of State may not issue a certificate of authorisation to perform the functions of a DCO unless she is satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person to perform those functions and has received training to such standard as the Secretary of State considers appropriate for the performance of those functions.

Detention Service Order 10/2014 sets out the requirements for DCO certification which contains requirements including: nationality and employment requirements, prohibitions on membership or affiliation with particular organisations, satisfactory completion of an initial training course and training on the work of immigration enforcement.

DCOs will not be issued with a certificate to work unless they have also passed all preliminary security checks, have no convictions and completed all declarations, including the Official Secrets Act.

For prison officers working at The Verne, Dover, Haslar and Morton Hall the National Offender Management Service is responsible for ensuring that all prison officer grades are appropriately cleared, trained and authorised to carry out their functions.

Evidence of the qualifications and quality standards to be met must be provided to the Home Office (Immigration Enforcement Certification Team).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-03/HL5390/>

Detention Centres

Lord Hylton [HL5391] To ask Her Majesty's Government what training is provided to contractors' staff at Yarl's Wood and elsewhere; how long such training lasts; and whether it is provided before or during their deployment at Yarl's Wood.

Reply from Lord Bates: Requirements for training under different contracts for Detainee Custody Officers (DCOs) in immigration removal centres (IRCs) will vary in their detail but service providers are required by their contract to provide an initial training programme that contains a number of elements including: Interpersonal skills First aid training to approved standards Race relations and cultural awareness

Managing the stress and anxiety of detainees and of service providers' staff Identification of and procedures for dealing with vulnerable detainees Security procedures and practice Control and restraint training accredited by the National Offender Management Service Assessment Care in Detention and Teamwork (prevention of self harm)

While there are no specific requirements for the duration of training courses in the contracts for IRCs these are generally between 6 and 8 weeks. For Yarl's Wood, Serco has advised that their initial training course is 7 weeks long. DCOs cannot be deployed at any centre unless they have successfully completed their initial training course.

For prison officers working at The Verne, Dover, Haslar and Morton Hall the National Offender Management Service is responsible for ensuring that all prison

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

officer grades are appropriately cleared, trained and authorised to carry out their functions.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-03/HL5391/>

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Lord Hylton [HL5392] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether proposed body cameras at Yarl's Wood

Reply from Lord Bates: Yes. Serco has undertaken to provide the Home Office with an implementation plan by March 2015.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-03/HL5392/>

Detention Centres: Females

Baroness Lister of Burtersett [HL5406] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the treatment of detainees in Yarl's Wood revealed by Channel Four and by Women for Refugee Women, what is their response to the recommendation of the All-Party Inquiry into the Use of Immigration Detention that "women who are victims of rape and sexual violence should not be detained" and that such women should be added to the Home Office list of "groups of people who should not be detained as it is unsuitable".

Lord Bates: Published Home Office detention policy as set out in chapter 55.10 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance specifies several categories of detainee who are normally considered suitable for detention only in very exceptional circumstances.

This list includes individuals for whom there is independent evidence of torture, which would encompass women who had suffered rape or other forms of sexual violence as an instrument of torture, as well as individuals who have been identified by the competent authorities as victims of trafficking.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-03/HL5406/>

Detention Centres: LGBT People

Lord Scriven [HL5404] To ask Her Majesty's Government what urgent action they will take to include reference in enforcement instructions and guidance to the assessment of risks relating to detaining lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals in immigration detention centres.

Reply from Lord Bates: When a decision has been taken to detain someone who has no right to be in the UK, the Home Office has specific procedures in place in detention centres to identify those who may be vulnerable and require extra support, which could include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people. Additionally the Home Secretary recently announced an independent review of welfare in detention led by Stephen Shaw CBE. This review, which is expected to report within 6 months, will focus on vulnerable detainees. Once the review has made its recommendations the Home Office will consider what changes to guidance are required.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-03/HL5404/>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **New Publications**

Interfaith manifesto for the just treatment of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants
http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/The_Interfaith_Manifesto.pdf

Briefing Paper on: The Interfaith Manifesto for the just treatment of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants
http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/Briefing_Paper_The_Interfaith_Manifesto.pdf

News

BBC poll suggests 64% of Scots want immigration reduced
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-31800374>

'Scots should get job priority', suggests BBC poll
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-31815393>

Welcome to Scotland?
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-31796146>

How do we define immigration?
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-31788503>

Scottish immigration chiefs tighten rules after it emerged 11 sham weddings reported every week
<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scottish-immigration-chiefs-tighten-rules-529587>

Where do Scotland's immigrants come from?
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-31800199>

How does immigration affect public services?
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-31822307>

Scots no more tolerant of immigration than rest of UK, says academic
<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/scots-no-more-tolerant-of-immigration-than-rest-of-uk-says-academic-1.849172>

Immigration: Scots 'no more tolerant than English'
<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/immigration-scots-no-more-tolerant-than-english-1-3714620>

Scotland no more tolerant of immigrants than the rest of UK, poll finds
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/scotland-no-more-tolerant-of-immigrants-than-the-rest-of-uk-poll-finds-10099105.html>

Highland fling: The migrants escaping pain in Spain
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-31849844>

Claim that Scots are more tolerant of immigration is a 'myth', says country's first black professor
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11462465/Claim-that-Scots-are-more-tolerant-of-immigration-is-a-myth-says-countrys-first-black-professor.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

MSPs object to asylum seeker incarceration times at controversial Strathaven facility

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/msps-object-asylum-seeker-incarceration-5311917>

Call to limit length of migrant detention

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4377398.ece>

For their sake, immigrants must speak the language of Shakespeare

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11457877/For-their-sake-immigrants-must-speak-the-language-of-Shakespeare.html>

Why Boris is (mostly) right about immigrants and the English language

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11457834/Why-Boris-is-mostly-right-about-immigrants-and-the-English-language.html>

Anti-extremist plan to push 'British values' and link benefits to learning English

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/mar/08/anti-extremist-plan-to-push-british-values-and-link-benefits-to-learning-english>

UK closing doors to Syrian migrants, lawyers say

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/mar/11/syrian-refugees-uk-visa-asylum-seekers-visa>

'Scotland has brought my family back together after Syria war hell': Mum speaks of relief as she is reunited with husband and children in Glasgow

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scotland-brought-family-back-together-5312020>

Reunited after fleeing Syrian war hell

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/u/reunited-after-fleeing-syrian-war-hell.1426060225>

Harmondsworth: Asylum seekers' hunger strike spreads to second centre

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/harmondsworth-asylum-seekers-hunger-strike-spreads-to-second-centre-10099111.html>

I was accused of having a sham marriage

<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2015/mar/13/experience-i-was-accused-of-having-sham-marriage>

Landlords must soon check the immigration status of their tenants - harmless change or a recipe for red tape and discrimination?

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/buytolet/article-2990165/Landlords-soon-check-immigration-status-tenants-harmless-change-recipe-red-tape-discrimination.html>

University barred from bringing in foreign students

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article4380349.ece>

Why are white people expats when the rest of us are immigrants?

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2015/mar/13/white-people-expats-immigrants-migration>

Welcome to Scotland?

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_blogs/2597_welcome_to_scotland

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Welsh jobs (Polish an advantage!): Council-owned company in the heart of Wales launches job advert and claims it 'makes sense' for potential workers to understand foreign language

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2990756/Welsh-jobs-Polish-advantage-Council-owned-company-heart-Wales-launches-job-advert-claims-makes-sense-potential-workers-understand-foreign-language.html>

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Community Relations

News

Ten things about race that are true but we can't say

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/newsreview/features/article1530667.ece>

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Equality

UK Parliament Questions

Health: Equality

The following two questions both received the same answer

Yasmin Qureshi [226262] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the effect of health inequalities on outcomes for (a) people with kidney disease from BAME communities, (b) other people with kidney disease and (c) the general population.

Yasmin Qureshi [226263] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to prioritise treatments and interventions to tackle health inequalities amongst (a) people with kidney disease from BAME communities and (b) other people with kidney disease.

Reply from Jane Ellison: We know that black and south Asian people are three to five times more likely to have kidney failure than white people.

The NHS England is under specific legal duties in relation to tackling health inequalities and advancing equality. Regarding kidney disease, the NHS Health Check programme, a universal programme for everyone between the ages of 40-74 years that launched in 2008, assess people's risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and diabetes. It is estimated that the programme could detect at least 20,000 cases of diabetes or kidney disease earlier, allowing individuals to be better managed and to improve their quality of life.

Local authorities, which are responsible for roll-out of the NHS Health Check in their respective areas, can choose to target high-risk groups, such as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups, to encourage participation in the programme, if appropriate. Guidance and tools for commissioners, clinicians and local authorities on the programme, including case study examples on its application in specific communities, can be found at the following link: www.healthcheck.nhs.uk

More generally, health and wellbeing boards (HWBs), and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) process that they oversee, offer valuable opportunities to drive local efforts to reduce inequalities locally, including those in

Equality

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

BAME groups. HWBs provide a forum where all commissioners can come together to jointly plan services to meet the needs of local populations. Consideration should be given by HWBs to meeting the Public Sector Equality Duties under the Equality Act 2010 throughout the JSNA process and in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy that are then produced.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-04/226262/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-04/226263/>

Police: Ethnic Groups

Lord Condon [HL5555] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of reductions in the workforce of police forces, what steps they are taking to recruit more police officers and support staff from ethnic minority communities.

Reply from Lord Bates: It is vital that the police reflect the communities they serve and I am determined to improve Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) representation in all 43 forces in England and Wales.

A number of police forces are currently recruiting officers. Decisions on when and how to recruit individuals are for the chief officer of a police force. It is important that they use equalities legislation, including positive action provisions, to make better progress in terms of recruitment of under-represented groups.

This Government's reforms have already made improvements, for example we set up the College of Policing which has embarked on a major programme of work, BME Progression 2018, looking at recruitment, retention and progression of black and minority ethnic officers, including the development of an evidence base of successful approaches used by forces.

As part of this programme the College recently published Positive Action Practical Advice, which advises forces on the use of lawful positive action to support the recruitment, retention and progression of officers from under-represented groups.

Also, under this Government innovative schemes such as Direct Entry and Police Now are increasing the number of BME recruits to the police, showing that you can achieve better representation while attracting the best and the brightest into policing.

Of the nine direct entry superintendents who began their superintendent training four (44%) are women and two (22%) are from an ethnic minority background. This is significantly more representative than the current make up of the superintendent rank which is comprised of 17% women and 4% from an ethnic minority background.

Police Now, an innovative graduate scheme implemented in the Metropolitan Police, received such a high calibre of applicants that it made provisional offers to 79 individuals, up from an anticipated 50. Of these, 16% per cent are from a BME background as compared to the Metropolitan Police's current BME officer make up of 11%, and the national police BME proportion of 5.2%.

The Metropolitan Police also introduced its London residency criteria for recruits in August 2014 since when the proportion of BME applicants has risen to approximately 40%, a percentage which now matches the BME population of London.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-09/HL5555/>

Equality (continued) New Publication

Judicial Appointment System in Scotland: 2014 Diversity Conference Report
<http://www.judicialappointmentsscotland.org.uk/files/diversityconferencereport.pdf>

News

'Barriers' stop women and minority candidates

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/barriers-stop-women-and-minority-candidates-1-3715355>

Remove barriers to the bench, report says

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/remove-barriers-to-the-bench-report-says.120367441>

Young, black or ethnic minority? Your job prospects have diminished under the Coalition

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/young-black-or-ethnic-minority-your-job-prospects-have-diminished-under-the-coalition-10100515.html>

I learnt the value of diversity in one of the last places an Asian boy from the East End would expect

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/i-learnt-the-value-of-diversity-in-one-of-the-last-places-an-asian-boy-from-the-east-end-would-expect-10106980.html>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Questions

Jewish Culture (Support)

Bob Doris: To ask the Scottish Government how it seeks to support Jewish culture in Scotland. (S4O-04094)

Reply from the Minister for Europe and International Development (Humza Yousaf): The Scottish Government recognises and values Scotland's Jewish communities and the contribution that they make to our nation. Most recently, we provided £10,500 to the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities to continue its being Jewish in Scotland project, which explores how attitudes to being Jewish in Scotland have changed over the past year. That money is on top of the £21,750 that was provided in 2011-12 to create a picture of contemporary Jewish life in Scotland.

The Scottish Government also supports, as the member will know, the annual commemoration of Holocaust memorial day through a grant to Interfaith Scotland. On 27 January, the First Minister attended the 2015 national Scottish Holocaust memorial day in Ayr.

Bob Doris: Does the minister agree that the celebration of Jewish culture is an expression of the tolerant and inclusive Scotland that we all want to nurture? Will he take this opportunity to pay tribute to our Jewish communities, which have contributed to Scottish society, and to express our solidarity with them at a time of heightened anxiety due to the increase in anti-Semitic abuse and attacks?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: I thank the member for raising that important point. We stand absolutely shoulder to shoulder with the Jewish community here in

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

Scotland, whose contribution is vast. We all know that it has contributed to our economy and our education sector; its contribution has also been social and cultural. We should celebrate that, and all of us across the chamber, regardless which party we belong to, have a duty to stamp out anti-Semitism wherever it exists.

On the attacks, although there is a lot more work to be done, I am pleased to note that there has been a 15 per cent decrease in anti-Semitic incidents, which is a 35 per cent decrease from the year before. However, there is a heck of a lot to be done.

My final point is that, at a time of inflamed rhetoric around immigration and migration, it is important that all of us stand with a united voice to say that those who seek to divide us should not be allowed to do so—not now; not in the future.

Anne McTaggart: How does the minister seek to support the Jewish culture in the education system?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: Religious education is a matter for local authorities. However, there should be as much exchange of information as possible. An important part of school when I was there was to learn from Jewish pupils and those from the community directly. I know that the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities has programmes in which it goes into schools and community members speak about their different traditions.

I am more than happy to speak to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning to see what is going on and to provide the member with a fuller answer. However, the more that we can promote interaction among communities, the better.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9829&i=90106>

Humza Yousaf has acknowledged that the reference to antisemitic incident statistics in the above answer is incorrect, and has told us that the Official Record will be corrected in due course. He wrote: "Almost as soon as I had sat down I realised I had made a mistake. I didn't mean to refer to anti-Semitic incidents I meant to say race-hate incidents. Straight after questions yesterday I instructed my officials to amend the record as is appropriate when mistakes of this nature are made."

UK Parliament Questions

Antisemitism

Nigel Dodds [226209] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the effect of anti-Semitism on freedom of expression and association within the UK.

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: We have a long-standing tradition of freedom of expression and association in this country – and the Coalition Government is clear that people are free to gather to protest and express their views in public. However, protesters should be clear, that like all members of the public, that they are subject to the law and the right to peaceful protest does not extend to threats or other criminal behaviour. Where criminal offences are committed and individuals have demonstrated antisemitic hostility, they will face the full force of the law.

We deplore all religious and racially motivated attacks. It is unacceptable for anyone to harass, intimidate, or threaten anyone in an illegal manner.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-03/226209/>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Castes: Discrimination

Lord Avebury [HL5534] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Northover on 4 August 2014 (HL1061), when they received the report of the feasibility study commissioned by the Government Equalities Office; and why the report has not yet been published.

Baroness Garden of Frognal: We received a final copy of the report in January 2015, and its findings are currently under consideration. We will publish it as soon as we are in a position to do so.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-09/HL5534/>

Press Release

Largest ever consultation reveals widespread confusion over laws protecting religion or belief

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/largest-ever-consultation-reveals-widespread-confusion-over-laws-protecting-religion-or-belief>

New Publication

Religion or belief in the workplace and service delivery

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/RoB%20Call%20for%20Evidence%20Report.pdf

News

Law firm renamed 'Christmas party' to avoid Christian connotations

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11465616/Law-firm-renamed-Christmas-party-to-avoid-Christian-connotations.html>

Christians are too scared to admit beliefs - because they fear being mocked or treated like bigots, say equality chiefs

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2990678/Christians-scared-admit-beliefs-fear-mocked-treated-like-bigots-say-equality-chiefs.html>

'Christians should challenge hostility'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11470456/Christians-must-learn-to-stand-up-for-themselves.html>

Are race discrimination laws still needed in the workplace?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-31856147>

Race discrimination at work

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/race-discrimination-work>

Nigel Farage calls for change in racial work laws

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-31846453>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Farage plans to scrap racial discrimination laws

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/farage-plans-to-scrap-racial-discrimination-laws-1-3718075>

Nigel Farage says his discrimination law remarks were wilfully misinterpreted

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/mar/12/nigel-farage-ukip-discrimination-law-wilfully-misinterpreted>

Farage under attack from all sides over call to scrap anti-discrimination laws

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/mar/12/farage-irresponsibly-mixing-fears-over-extremism-and-immigration-says-clegg>

Nigel Farage sparks race row by insisting discrimination in the workplace should be legalised

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/nigel-farage-sparks-another-race-row-by-calling-for-end-to-out-of-date-legislation-on-discrimination-in-the-workplace-10102133.html>

Cross-party outrage at Nigel Farage's plan to end discrimination laws

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/generalelection/crossparty-outrage-at-nigel-farages-plan-to-end-discrimination-laws-10104952.html>

'Colour-blind' Farage comes under fire

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4379848.ece>

David Cameron 'deeply concerned' about Nigel Farage's call to scrap race relations laws

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/nigel-farage/11466382/David-Cameron-deeply-concerned-about-Nigel-Farages-call-to-scrap-race-relations-laws.html>

Nigel Farage: Bosses should be allowed to discriminate between Britons and foreigners

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/11465505/Nigel-Farage-Bosses-should-be-allowed-to-discriminate-between-Britons-and-foreigners.html>

Humza Yousaf calls for UKIP MEP to resign after 'racist slur'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-31886415>

Ukip MEP in Islamophobia row

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/scottish-politics/ukip-mep-in-islamophobia-row.1426335784>

Scots UKIP MEP facing calls to quit after comparing SNP minister Humza Yousaf to terrorist Abu Hamza

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/scots-ukip-mep-facing-calls-5331881>

Ukip MEP David Coburn condemned for 'Abu Hamza' comment about Scottish minister

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/ukip-mep-david-coburn-condemned-for-abu-hamza-comment-about-scottish-minister-1.851348>

Ukip MEP causes Islamophobia row with Yousaf slur

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/ukip-mep-causes-islamophobia-row-with-yousaf-slur-1-3718893>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Ukip MEP David Coburn urged to resign for 'Islamophobia' after comparing Muslim SNP minister Humza Yousaf to terror preacher Abu Hamza

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/ukip-mep-david-coburn-urged-to-resign-for-islamophobia-after-comparing-snp-minister-humza-yousaf-to-abu-hamza-10108280.html>

MSP Humza Yousaf targeted by racist Twitter troll

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/msp-humza-yousaf-targeted-racist-5331985>

Glasgow man witnessed shouting sectarian abuse down his phone outside pub banned from matches for 12 months

<http://www.copfs.gov.uk/media-site/media-releases/1005-glasgow-man-witnessed-shouting-sectarian-abuse-down-his-phone-outside-pub-banned-from-matches-for-12-months>

Engineering boss guilty of sectarian train chant

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/engineering-boss-guilty-of-sectarian-train-chant-1-3716460>

British Muslims condemn terror laws for creating 'witch-hunt' against Islam

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/11/british-muslims-terror-laws-witch-hunt-islam-cage-hizb-ut-tahrir>

You can't ignore racism and raise anti-racist children. You have to tackle it head-on

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/mar/12/raise-anti-racist-children-tackle-racism>

Anti-fascists vow to oppose hate preachers

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/social-justice-and-poverty/anti-fascists-vow-to-oppose-hate-preachers>

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Scottish Devolution

Press Release

Call to keep Smith promises

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Call-to-keep-Smith-promises-172b.aspx>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Motion

S4M-12616 John Mason: FGM Fund—That the Parliament welcomes the Scottish Government's announcement that nearly £220,000 of funding will be made available to help prevent female genital mutilation (FGM) in Scotland; notes that this money will go to charities that support those affected by FGM; hopes that the money will help to raise awareness of and provide aid to the 3,000 girls born of mothers who come to Scotland from FGM-practising countries; believes that FGM has no place in Scotland, and pledges to do all that it can to stop this cruel and barbaric practice.

Other Scottish Parliament and Government Parliamentary Motion (continued)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-12616&ResultsPerPage=10>

Equal Opportunities Committee

Inquiry into Age and Social Isolation: evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9825&i=90067>

Press Release

Preventing female genital mutilation

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Preventing-female-genital-mutilation-1706.aspx>

New Publications

Scottish Parliament: Get involved

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/WebSPEIRResources/SP_Get_involved_A5_leaflet.pdf

Scottish Parliament: Find out

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/WebSPEIRResources/SP_Find_out_about_A5.pdf

Report on the Electoral Management of the Scottish Independence Referendum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Reports/dfpr-15-02w.pdf>

News

Funding to tackle female genital mutilation in Scotland

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-31800819>

Nicola Sturgeon promises to help FGM victims

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/nicola-sturgeon-promises-to-help-fgm-victims-1-3713474>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

New Publication

Female genital mutilation: follow-up

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmhaff/961/961.pdf>

News

'Confusion' over FGM law exemptions

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/confusion-over-fgm-law-exemptions.120619943>

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New Publication

Equality and Human Rights Law during an Election Period: Guidance for local authorities, candidates and political parties

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/Equality%20and%20Human%20Rights%20Law%20during%20an%20Election%20Period.pdf

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Other News

Poor health among British Asians may be in the genes

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/science/article4380413.ece>

Tinkers' Heart in Argyll: Monument status consultation

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-31796053>

Consultation launched on Scotland's only traveller memorial

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/consultation-launched-on-scotlands-only-traveller-memorial.120087300>

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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>

Stage 2 consideration of amendments, Local Government and Regeneration Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9830&i=90124>

Proposed amendments

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Community%20Empowerment%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b52s4-stage2-ml2-LG.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Community%20Empowerment%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b52s4-stage2-ml2-LG.pdf)

and

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Community%20Empowerment%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b52s4-stage2-ml2-RU.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Community%20Empowerment%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b52s4-stage2-ml2-RU.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 evidence session, Justice Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9828&i=90098>

Bills in Progress (continued) **UK Parliament**

Arbitration and Mediation Services (Equality) Bill

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

Assisted Dying Bill (England and Wales only)

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

Asylum (Time Limit) Bill

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

Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill

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

**** Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Order 2015**

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2015/9780111128459/pdfs/ukdsi_9780111128459_en.pdf

House of Lords consideration

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150310-gc0001.htm#15031039000312>

**** Immigration (Health Charge) Order 2015**

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2015/9780111128473/pdfs/ukdsi_9780111128473_en.pdf

House of Lords consideration

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150310-gc0001.htm#15031039000313>

**** Modern Slavery Bill**

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

House of Commons consideration of House of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0184/amend/psc01841303a.pdf>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0184/amend/modernslavaddednames.pdf>

**** Special Immigration Appeals Commission (Procedure) (Amendment) Rules 2015**

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2015/9780111127162/pdfs/ukdsi_9780111127162_en.pdf

House of Lords consideration

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150311-gc0001.htm#15031178000198>

UK Borders Control Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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>

Modern Slavery and Supply Chains Consultation (closing date 7 May 2015)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/403575/2015-02-12_TISC_Consultation_FINAL.pdf

Draft Charity Test Guidance Consultation (closing date 26 May 2015)
<http://www.oscr.org.uk/about/our-work/consultations/draft-charity-test-guidance-consultation>

**** What's Changed about Being Jewish in Scotland?** (no closing date given)
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JewishinScotland2015>

Discrimination in Football Survey (no closing date given)
http://efemico.eu/main_files/FARacismSurvey/FARacismSurvey.html

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

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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**** this week!**

Introduction to Equality in Scotland

17 March 2015 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.30)

CRER training course to explore basic equality concepts, look at equality law in Scotland, consider different types of discrimination, and identify some ways of promoting equality. For information see <http://www.crer.org.uk/training/introduction-to-equality-in-scotland> or contact Nadia Rafiq nadia@crer.org.uk

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

What does racism look like in Glasgow?

20 March 2015 in Glasgow (10.00 – 2.00)

Glasgow Voluntary Sector Racial Equality Network event to mark the UN International day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Places must be booked in advance. For information see <http://www.crer.org.uk/training/un-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-racial-discrimination> or contact Nadia Rafiq nadia@crer.org.uk

**** this week!**

Dealing with discrimination 2015

20 March 2015 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 2.00)

Equality and Human Rights Commission interactive stakeholder engagement event aimed at advice agencies, third sector organisations, and union representatives. Members of the EHRC legal team will provide a basic introduction to the Equality Act and focus on practical situations where the Act may assist in a range of contexts, as well as discussing how the Commission's legal powers may be able to help. For information and to book a place, contact equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5910.

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-files/wie_programme_web.pdf or contact events@bemis.org.uk

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children, and Young People

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

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 <https://shaktibmetraining.eventbrite.co.uk/> or contact Ola or Mridul 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

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)

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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>

Supporting Refugee Women

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>

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.gov.scot/>

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

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

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

Interfaith Scotland <http://www.interfaithscotland.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com>

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Useful Links (continued)

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/>



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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