

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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The Scottish Parliament will be in recess from 4 to 19 April 2015.

The UK Parliament has been prorogued, and will not meet again until after the General Election. (Prorogation marks the formal end of the Parliamentary session. It usually takes the form of an announcement, read on behalf of the Queen in the House of Lords, listing important Bills passed during the session, and describing other things that the government has done during that parliamentary session.)

The next issue of MEMO will be published on 20 April 2015.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Debate

Post-study Work Visas

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9872&i=90407#ScotParlOR>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Scottish Parliament Motions

S4M-12763 Humza Yousaf: Post-study Work Visas—That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the Post Study Work Working Group’s report; agrees with business and education leaders who demand the return of the post-study work visa to Scotland; recognises the contribution that international graduates make to the economy and society; highlights that Scotland’s education institutions provide a first-class experience for talented students from around the world; embraces a culturally diverse student and teaching body that enriches Scotland’s intellectual, social and cultural life; calls on the UK Government to engage constructively on the Smith Commission finding that it should work with the Scottish Government to explore schemes to allow international graduates to remain in Scotland and contribute to economic activity, and calls for an immigration system for Scotland that meets its needs.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-12763&ResultsPerPage=10>

S4M-12763.1 Claire Baker: Post-study Work Visas—As an amendment to motion S4M-12763 in the name of Humza Yousaf (Post-study Work Visas), insert at end “; recognises the success of Fresh Talent, launched by the then First Minister, Jack McConnell, in bringing considerable benefits to Scotland’s economy by encouraging international students to work, study and stay in Scotland, and calls on the UK Government to immediately remove university students from net migration targets to ensure that Scotland’s universities can continue to compete in a growing global market”.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-12763.1&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Debate

Immigration: Detention

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150326-0001.htm#15032625000605>

UK Parliament Questions

Migration

Alex Cunningham: What [the Home Secretary’s] policy is on the net migration target; and if she will make a statement. [908227]

John Spellar: What [the Home Secretary’s] policy is on the net migration target; and if she will make a statement. [908236]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May): Uncontrolled mass immigration increases pressure on public services and can drive down wages for people on low incomes. That is why we are committed to reducing net migration. Where we can control immigration, our policies are working; we have reduced non-EU immigration, raised the standards required to come here and clamped down on abuse. Without our efforts, net migration would have been far higher.

Alex Cunningham: But net migration is much higher now than it was when the Conservatives came to power—54,000 higher. It now stands at more than 300,000, which is more than double their target. Is the Home Secretary trying to take the public for fools by suggesting that her party will repeat its broken promise to cut migration drastically?

Reply from Theresa May: I have been very clear that of course we have not met

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

the net migration target we set, but I have to say to the hon. Gentleman that this Government have clamped down on abuse—860 bogus colleges can no longer bring in overseas students—and tightened every route into the UK from outside the EU, and we have set out clear plans for what a Conservative Government would do to deal with free movement. We on the Government Benches will take no lessons from a Labour party that allowed uncontrolled mass immigration.

John Spellar: Contrary to that reply, is not the reality that the Home Secretary is leaving office with net migration higher than when she arrived, because it now stands at 298,000? She claims she has cut migration from outside the EU, and that is true: it is down from 196,000 to 190,000. Rather than all this waffle, why will she not finally admit that her record at the Home Office is one of complete failure in that area and a series of broken promises?

Reply from Theresa May: As I said in response to the hon. Member for Stockton North (Alex Cunningham), I fully accept that we have not met the net migration target that we set, but we have tightened every route into the United Kingdom from outside the European Union, and we have said clearly what a Conservative Government would do to deal with free movement from the European Union. I say once again that it ill behoves the Labour party to make such comments, because in government it presided over uncontrolled mass immigration that had the impact of keeping incomes at the lower end of the scale down and was identified by its own policy guru as a 21st century wages and incomes policy.

Philip Davies: The public certainly want immigration to be properly controlled, and far better controlled than it is at the moment, but they also want some honesty about immigration. Is not the fact of the matter that while we remain in the EU with free movement of people we cannot guarantee how many people will come to this country, so we should not be making promises that we are in no position to keep? Is not the fact of the matter that we cannot control the number of people coming to this country while we remain in the EU?

Reply from Theresa May: My hon. Friend is right to identify the significant increase in the number of people coming to this country from inside the European Union as the key reason we have failed to meet our net migration target. However, crucially, not only has the coalition already taken steps to tighten up on movement from inside the European Union—for example, by reducing access to benefits—but the Conservative party has clearly set out what we would do in government after the election to deal with free movement and tighten up further to reduce migration from inside the European Union.

David Nuttall: Does the Home Secretary recognise the sense of grievance felt by citizens of Commonwealth countries who for years have abided by the rules when trying to get into this country as immigrants, only to see EU citizens being able simply to walk in and out of the country at will?

Reply from Theresa May: My hon. Friend makes a point about Commonwealth citizens, many of whom have come to the United Kingdom and contributed greatly. We are clear that we want to tighten the rules on people coming from inside the European Union, particularly in relation to the ability to claim benefits, which I believe will have an impact on the number of people coming here, but in order to do that we need a Conservative Government to be elected on 7 May.

David Hanson: Could the Home Secretary bring herself to say the words, “Net migration is 54,000 higher than when Labour left office”? Could she stand at the Dispatch Box and say that today—not tens of thousands, as she promised—and could she say to the House with no ifs and no buts that she has broken her promise made at the election?

Reply from Theresa May: The right hon. Gentleman’s question is the third that I am answering from Labour Members. In response to the first two, I said clearly that the Government have not met their net migration target. I am not trying to

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

claim that we have; I am very clear about the fact that we have not met our net migration target, but this Government have recognised the significance of immigration as an issue, and the impact that it has on public services and wages at the lower end of the income scale, and it is this Government who are doing something about it.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150323/debtext/150323-0001.htm#1503231000010>

Immigration

Nicholas Soames [228201] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what level of net migration was assumed in his Department's 2012-based household projections for England.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The 2012-based household projections were based on the population projections published by the Office for National Statistics, which can be found at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/npp/national-population-projections/2012-based-projections/index.html>

These are not a forecast of immigration, nor are they a target. They are derived from broad assumptions, based on previous trends. They do not take into account the impact of the Government's clear and intended policies to ensure controlled immigration.

These include the reforms we have made to strengthen our border and improve the enforcement of our immigration laws. Since 2010, this Government has stripped more than 850 bogus colleges of their rights to sponsor foreign students; cracked down on illegal working and sham marriages; made it harder for people to live in the UK illegally by restricting their access to bank accounts, driving licences, and private housing; and reduced the number of appeal routes to stop people clogging up our courts with spurious attempts to remain in the country.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-18/228201/>

Immigration

Paul Blomfield [228714] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what arrangements her Department plans to put in place to deal after Dissolution with (a) deportation orders and (b) other immigration cases raised by hon. Members.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Following the dissolution of Parliament, the Government retains its responsibility to govern and Ministers remain in charge of their Departments. Deportation orders will therefore continue to be signed on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Correspondence relating to individual immigration cases will be accepted by the Home Office from all parliamentary candidates with written authorisation from the constituent. Candidates should submit their enquiries in writing.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-23/228714/>

Visas: Income Threshold

Richard Burden: What [the Home Secretary's] policy is on the minimum income threshold requirement for people wishing to sponsor their partner's visa to settle in the UK. [908239]

Reply from the Minister for Security and Immigration (James Brokenshire): The minimum income threshold of £18,600 for sponsoring a partner under the family immigration rules ensures that couples who wish to establish their family life in the UK can stand on their own feet financially. The requirement prevents

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

burdens on the taxpayer and promotes integration. It has been upheld by the Court of Appeal and is helping to restore public confidence in the immigration system.

Richard Burden: The Minister has just asserted that the purpose of the minimum income threshold is to ensure that a spouse from overseas who comes to live here is not a burden on the taxpayer. However, at £18,600, the threshold is more than £3,000 higher than the living wage. Does he not think that it should be reviewed to ensure that the original purpose of the minimum income threshold is what counts and that it does not discriminate against those on the living wage or below, or against people who happen to live in the wrong part of the country?

Reply from James Brokenshire: As the hon. Gentleman knows, the income threshold was set on the basis of advice given to the Government by the Migration Advisory Committee, which considered this issue in great detail to assess the appropriate level. Perhaps he will find interesting the fact that the 2014 annual survey of hours and earnings for the Office for National Statistics showed that median earnings of those in full-time employment were appreciably higher than £18,600 in all parts of the UK.

Duncan Hames: In practice, the length of time in which a sponsor is required to demonstrate that they have met the minimum income threshold is driving families apart. Would it be sufficient for a sponsor to demonstrate that they have secured permanent employment on such a salary, and not have a situation where several months have to pass with someone providing bank statements to show their income, during which time their partner is separated from them?

Reply from James Brokenshire: Migrant partners with an appropriate job offer can apply to come to the UK under tier 2 of the points-based system, and those using the family route to come to the UK must be capable of being independently supported by their sponsor, their joint savings, or non-employment income. We have considered the issue in an appropriate way to ensure that people are not a burden on the taxpayer, and I underline again that the system has been tested and upheld in the courts.

John Cryer: Has the Minister made any assessment of the minimum age of sponsors as well as minimum income, because the two factors often relate to each other?

Reply from James Brokenshire: The hon. Gentleman will no doubt be aware that the minimum age for spouse visa applicants and sponsors was increased to 21 in 2008, and the Government defended that position. The Supreme Court found in 2011 that although the Secretary of State was pursuing a legitimate and rational aim in seeking to address the problem of forced marriages—the hon. Gentleman will know that such issues exist—increasing the minimum marriage visa age from 18 to 21 disproportionately interfered with the right to a family life under article 8 of the European convention of human rights. We keep such issues under close review, but they are complex.

Jeremy Corbyn: Will the Minister think again about this whole policy? It is cruel on children who are denied the right to live with their parents, contrary to the principles of the conventions on human rights, and really not necessary. Its only effect is that of hurting the very people who should not be hurt because of it.

Reply from James Brokenshire: While ensuring sufficient resources so that those arriving are supported at reasonable levels, the minimum income threshold is also intended to ensure that family migrants can participate sufficiently in everyday life to facilitate their integration into British society. That is one of the fundamental purposes of the policy, and I think that is right.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150323/debtext/150323-0001.htm#1503231000019>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Entry Clearances: English Language

Hywel Williams [228660] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons her Department has reduced the number of approved English test providers for people applying for a UK visa to two from 6 April 2015.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The number of approved English language test providers was determined following an open competition launched in October 2014. Following the significant abuse uncovered of some of the English Language Tests, I announced to Parliament on 24 June 2014 the intention to put in place new, strengthened arrangements. Only those providers that were able to meet and continue to meet our requirements have been awarded Concession Agreements to offer tests for immigration purposes from 6 April 2015.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-23/228660/>

Overseas Students: English Language

Hywel Williams [228661] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the cost to UK universities of reducing the number of approved English test providers for people applying for a UK visa to two from 6 April 2015.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office does not stipulate which institutions the approved provider should use to facilitate their tests so cannot comment on operational changes. The number of approved English language test providers for immigration purposes from 6 April 2015 was determined following an open competition that was launched in October 2014. We cannot comment on the totality of bids received but only those providers who were able to demonstrate that they can and will continue to meet our requirements have been awarded a concession.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-23/228661/>

Overseas Students: English Language

Barry Sheerman [227974] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of the reduction in the number of English Language Test Centres on international students studying at UK universities.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The reduction in the number of test centres offering English language tests for immigration purposes was necessary to ensure control and audit ability following significant abuse identified in early 2014. The Home Office has planned the Secure English Language Test centre network to meet anticipated demand and extensive transitional arrangements have been arranged to coincide with the 2014/15 academic year to minimise the impact on student applications.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-17/227974/>

Overseas Students: English Language

Barry Sheerman [227975] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of the reduction in the number of English Language Test Centres for international students on university finances.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Secure English Language Test centre network has been planned to meet anticipated demand. Overseas, the test centres have been mapped to the Visa Application Centre locations to limit the impact on travel and within the UK, there will be an adequate spread of test

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UK Parliament Questions (continued)

centres across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. There are provisions in the contract which allow us to expand the network if there is a capacity or location specific issue.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-17/227975/>

Overseas Students: English Language

Barry Sheerman [227977] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent representations she has received from universities on the reduction in the number of English language test centres for international students.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office is currently meeting delegates from across the English language sector to address their members' questions about the test centre network, and to confirm that there is no change to the ability of higher education institutions to perform their own assessment of English language for those studying degree level courses and above.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-17/227977/>

Overseas Students

Barry Sheerman [227976] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential economic effect of (a) reducing and (b) increasing the number of international students studying at UK universities.

Reply from James Brokenshire: There is no limit on the number of genuine international students who can come to study here, and the reforms we have made to tackle abuse have not deterred

the brightest and the best from coming to study at our world-class universities.

Figures show that there has been an increase of 18% in visa applications from university students compared to 2010 and increase of 30% for those wishing to attend a Russell Group university compared to 2010.

Higher education statistics for the academic year 2013-14 show that there has been strong growth in countries such as Malaysia (+13%) and Hong Kong (+7%).

Chinese new entrants have also more than doubled since 2008-09.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-17/227976/>

Post-study Work Visas

Mike Crockart: What discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Scotland on the potential introduction of a scheme to allow international students graduating from Scottish further and higher education institutions to remain in Scotland to work for a defined period of time. [908240]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Karen Bradley): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary meets colleagues regularly for discussions on a range of issues, including how we can continue to attract the brightest and best to study here while bearing down on abuse.

Mike Crockart: The recommendation comes as part of the Smith agreement. It recognises that the higher education sector is a multi-billion pound industry, and Edinburgh university is one of the most successful participants in that. More than 10,000 foreign students are now studying at Edinburgh, generating some of the highest quality research in the UK. Does the Minister agree that keeping more of those excellent students in the UK while their research is commercialised would be of enormous benefit, not just to the Scottish economy but to the UK as a whole?

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UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Karen Bradley: My hon. Friend will know that the Russell Group of universities, of which Edinburgh is a member, has seen a 30% increase in the number of applications from overseas students since 2010, showing that studying in the United Kingdom is an attractive offer to students. There is no cap on the number of students who can stay in the UK after completing their degree, provided they have a graduate-level job, get an internship or become a graduate entrepreneur.

Pete Wishart: The Minister will have seen the Scottish Government's post-study work working group, which recommends that a post-work study visa is reinstated for a wide range of people, including businesses, education and student representatives. Will the Minister consider that or will she ignore it again? What can the Scottish people do to progress that agenda and ensure that our economy and higher education institutions benefit?

Reply from Karen Bradley: What the Scottish people can do is clear: stay part of the Union. I repeat that there is no cap on the number of graduates who can stay on after their studies, provided they have a graduate job, an internship or a graduate entrepreneurship.

Ann McKeichin: The Minister will be aware of the reduction in the number of students from the Indian subcontinent. One of the major reasons for that is that they are unable to remain in the United Kingdom for a few years to work and to pay off their fees. This policy, therefore, discriminates against those who come from poorer nations, rather than those from richer families.

Reply from Karen Bradley: I repeat that since 2010 there has been an increase in the number of visa applications from overseas students. It is difficult to say what the drivers are for our seeing more students from some countries and fewer from others. For example, we are seeing a significant increase in the number of students from China, which indicates that it is not the reforms that are stopping people from coming.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150323/debtext/150323-0001.htm#1503231000020>

Sham marriages

Stephen Hammond: What recent steps [the Home Secretary] has taken to tackle sham marriages. [908243]

Reply from the Minister for Security and Immigration (James Brokenshire): This month, the Government introduced a new scheme to tackle sham marriages and sham civil partnerships allowing the Home Office to investigate suspected sham cases under an extended 70-day notice period. Since April 2014, we have intervened in more than 2,000 suspected sham marriages, and last year 30 organised crime groups involved in arranging sham marriages were disrupted, with many receiving long custodial sentences.

Stephen Hammond: Will my hon. Friend update the House on the number of people he expects this country to protect itself against following the introduction of these new powers?

Reply from James Brokenshire: This has been a priority for me since I took on the immigration responsibilities last year. We will take strong action, including prosecution and seizure of assets. As for an update, this financial year we have undertaken more than 2,000 operations, resulting in 1,200 arrests and more than 430 removals, which compares with 327 sham marriage operations, resulting in 67 arrests in 2010, showing that, unlike the last Government, this Government are committed to this issue.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150323/debtext/150323-0001.htm#1503231000023>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum

Andrew Johnes [227470] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress her Department has made in reducing the number of asylum cases dating to before 2007.

Reply from James Brokenshire: At the end of 2012, there were approximately 41,000 'legacy' asylum and migration cases where the original application was submitted before March 2007. The Home Office committed to review and communicate decisions on all of these by the end of 2014. The work to review and communicate decisions was completed by the end of December 2014 aside from a small number of cases where an external impediment, such as an outstanding criminal investigation or ongoing litigation, prevented us completing our review. There are cases where the Home Office has completed a review and decided that it is not appropriate to grant leave but not yet removed the applicant. It is for this reason that we committed to review and communicate decisions on the pre March 2007 cases but did not guarantee that all will be concluded by the end of 2014. Such individuals will remain live whilst removal is progressed.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/407276/asylum_transparency_data-q4_2014.ods

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-12/227470/>

Asylum

Pete Wishart [227453] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what (a) financial and (b) equality impact assessment has been undertaken of the forthcoming changes to the Immigration Rules announced on 13 January 2015 that will require further submissions by post-2007 refused asylum applicants to be made in person at her Department's office in Liverpool.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The further submissions process applies only to failed asylum seekers whose claims have already been carefully considered by UK Visas and Immigration, and their cases examined and found by the independent courts not to need protection or have any other basis to stay in the UK. Those who choose to make further submissions have usually been in the UK for at least six months and will have had access to free legal advice throughout the asylum process.

The changes we are making will bring post-2007 further submissions cases in line with pre-2007 cases by requiring all applications to be lodged in person, in Liverpool, unless there are exceptional circumstances. This will improve customer service and enable decisions on further submissions to be taken within five working days in most cases. Those who are recognised as refugees or found to be otherwise eligible for leave to remain in the UK will therefore be granted leave more quickly under the new arrangements. Those whose applications are rejected will be expected to leave the UK and in most cases will not be eligible for asylum support. Tax payers should not be expected to support migrants who have failed to establish a right to remain in the UK and the changes we are making will result in substantial financial savings to asylum support costs.

A full equality impact assessment was undertaken in advance of the changes. Extension of the existing process to more recent cases has been deferred for a short period to allow for discussion of concerns raised by Liverpool City Council but when we implement we expect to publish the Policy Equality Statement along with the revised policy.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-12/227453/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum

Alex Cunningham [228878] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the capability of each local authority to accommodate the number of asylum seekers dispersed to those areas.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Agreements between the Government and local authorities are voluntary and have been in place since the last Government set them up in 2000. Accommodation providers are contractually required to liaise and consult with local authorities to ensure that the impacts of dispersal have been fully assessed. Providers will take into account the cultural compatibility of the environment; capacity of local health, education and other support services; concentration of service users; and the assessment of social tension risks.

This work is formally supported through Strategic Migration Partnerships; local authority-led partnerships with the Home Office and accommodation providers, established as a forum for managing the dispersal of asylum seekers to local authorities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-24/228878/>

Asylum: Education

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL5790] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of education received by children of asylum seekers in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord nash: Education is a devolved matter. The Department for Education has not made any assessment of the level of education received by children of asylum seekers in the United Kingdom. Parents of children of compulsory school age have a duty to ensure their children receive a full time education suitable to the children's age, ability, aptitude and any special education need the children might have, either by regular attendance at a school or otherwise. Where a child of compulsory school age (including children of asylum seekers) is not registered at a school or receiving an education other than at a school, the relevant local authority has the power to require that parent to satisfy them as to the suitability of the education being provided for that child. If they are not satisfied then the local authority can require the child to register at a named school.

It is the fundamental responsibility of every school to educate its pupils regardless of their background so that they can achieve their full potential. Our funding system gives local authorities the freedom to allocate extra funds to schools to support pupils whose first language is not English, including children of asylum seekers.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-17/HL5790/>

Asylum: Females

Toby Perkins [228305] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that women are informed about all of their specific rights and entitlements within the asylum process.

Reply from James Brokenshire: We are currently reviewing the information we provide to women asylum applicants at the point of claim to ensure that they are aware of the external services available to them and of their rights in the asylum process, such as the right to request an interviewer and interpreter of a particular gender. In conjunction with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Refugee Council and the Scottish Refugee Council, we will shortly begin a

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

pilot to signpost women who may have been the victims of sexual violence to existing support services.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-19/228305/>

Asylum: LGBT People

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Scriven [HL5839] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps have been taken to ensure that the new Home Office guidance issued in February, Asylum Policy Instruction: Sexual identity issues in the asylum claim, is implemented by all government representatives.

Lord Scriven [HL5840] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps have been taken to improve training to Home Office civil servants on LGBTI asylum issues, particularly so that stereotyping does not appear in interview questions, following the report of the investigation by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, John Vine, into the Home Office's handling of asylum claims made on the grounds of sexual orientation, published in October 2014.

Reply from Lord Bates: Following publication of the Home Office guidance, a communication was sent to all relevant parts of the Home Office alerting them to it and advising them of its main issues. Subsequently, a communication was issued to the main caseworking areas offering them awareness raising sessions with policy officials to support their understanding of the guidance. Sessions took place in the immigration office at Becket House on 19 March and further sessions are planned around the country in April. Sessions also took place in Harmondsworth and Yarl's Wood in advance of the publication of the guidance. In light of the new instruction, and following the report of the investigation by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, John Vine, into the Home Office's handling of asylum claims made on the grounds of sexual orientation, an internal review of training needs and training materials will be conducted during April and May.

Within the existing 5-week mandatory Foundation Training Programme for all new asylum decision makers, a 1-day module provides skills on handling asylum applications submitted on the grounds of sexual orientation. This helps trainees to interview people sensitively and effectively, identify effective and ineffective questions, use country of origin information effectively, make fair and defensible decisions and identify what may constitute persecution in sexual orientation claims. It is designed to enable decision makers to make well informed and legally sound decisions.

This course was designed and first rolled out to asylum decision makers in 2011 and has continued to be updated in line with policy changes.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-18/HL5839/>

Asylum: LGBT People

Lord Scriven [HL5841] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps have been taken to ensure that statistical data concerning asylum claims made on grounds of sexual identity are accurately recorded, as recommended by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, John Vine, in his investigation into the Home Office's handling of asylum claims made on the grounds of sexual orientation, published in October 2014; and when such data will be released.

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. This

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

process still requires significant further development. Once we are satisfied with the quality of the data we will be in a position to release this.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-18/HL5841/>

Asylum: LGBT People

Lord Scriven [HL5842] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people detained in immigration detention centres are pursuing asylum claims based upon their sexual identity; and how many such claims were (1) granted, (2) refused, and (3) overturned on appeal, in each of the last five years.

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. This process still requires significant further development: once we are satisfied with the quality of the data we will be in a position to release this, however we will be unable to release the data retrospectively.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-18/HL5842/>

Asylum: LGBT People

Lord Scriven [HL5843] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps will be taken to tackle bullying, harassment and abuse of LGBTI people in immigration detention centres, including Harmondsworth and Yarl's Wood, in the light of the recent Inquiry into the Use of Immigration Detention in the United Kingdom by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration, and concerns expressed by the UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group.

Reply from Lord Bates: We take the welfare of our detainees very seriously and no form of ill-treatment or discrimination is tolerated.

All immigration removal centres have anti-bullying strategies in place. Every detainee receives an individual risk assessment at the point of initial detention which is repeated when the detainee enters the immigration removal centre. The risk assessment is kept under review.

On 9 February 2015 the Home Secretary announced an independent review of welfare in detention, led by Stephen Shaw CBE, which will focus on vulnerable detainees. The review is expected to report in 6 months.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-18/HL5843/>

Asylum: LGBT People

Lord Scriven [HL5844] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps have been taken to improve the quality of asylum decision-making in sexual identity asylum claims proceeding under the Detained Fast Track process following the concerns expressed by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, John Vine, in his investigation into the Home Office's handling of asylum claims made on the grounds of sexual orientation, published in October 2014; and what assessment they have made of the suitability of such claims for accelerated procedures.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Home Office has positively engaged with the Independent Chief Inspector's recommendations and taken a range of actions including additional training for case working staff in the Detained Fast Track process. More detailed policy guidance was published and issued to case workers in February 2015. This guidance included:

How to ask appropriate and relevant questions during asylum interviews.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

How to approach and consider asylum claims made on the basis of sexuality.
The reasons why the Home Office no longer accepts sexually explicit material submitted in support of asylum claims.

The suitability of all cases accepted in to the Detained Fast Track process is continually reviewed in accordance with published policy.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-18/HL5844/>

Asylum: LGBT People

Lord Scriven [HL5914] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps will be taken to implement the Supreme Court's recent judgment in R (JB (Jamaica)) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2015] UKSC 8; and whether they intend to carry out a fundamental review of those countries designated under section 94(5) of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002, in the light of discrimination and violence experienced by LGBTI people in certain countries.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Government is considering the full implications of the judgment. Any proposals for changes to the designation of countries must be made by order, and will be put to Parliament. We will continue to consider each asylum and human rights claim on its own merits.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-19/HL5914/>

Asylum: Finance

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL5764] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people receive support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 specifically because it is the Secretary of State's opinion that no viable route of return is currently available.

Reply from Lord Bates: There is currently no country which the Secretary of State has designated as having no viable route of return available.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-16/HL5764/>

Asylum: Finance

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL5765] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people are in receipt of support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 because they have applied for a judicial review of their asylum application and have been given permission to proceed.

Reply from Lord Bates: At the end of December 2014, Home Office records indicate there were 212 people who were successful in their application for support under Section 4 because they had applied for a judicial review of their asylum application and were given permission to proceed. Please note that individuals may since have transitioned onto the receipt of section 4 support for a different reason, however this information is not centrally recorded.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-16/HL5765/>

Asylum: Finance

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL5766] To ask Her Majesty's Government what the cost was of assessing applications under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 in each of the last three years.

Reply from Lord Bates: We are unable to disaggregate the cost of assessing

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Section 4 applications from the cost of asylum casework generally without incurring disproportionate costs.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-16/HL5766/>

Use of Immigration Detention Inquiry

Lord Lester of Herne Hill [HL5515] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to implement the recommendations of the Report of the Inquiry into the Use of Immigration Detention in the United Kingdom.

Lord Bates: We will issue a response to the All Party Parliamentary Group's report of their Inquiry into the Use of Immigration Detention and will ask Stephen Shaw to consider any aspects of the Inquiry's report that fall within the terms of reference for his independent review of the welfare of those held in immigration detention.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-09/HL5515/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Paul Blomfield [908247] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential implications for her policies of the introduction of a 28-day time limit on immigration detention.

Reply from James Brokenshire: It is Government policy that there is a presumption in favour of liberty when exercising detention powers under immigration legislation. Parliament voted on introducing a limit on detention of 60 days during the passage of the Immigration Act. This amendment was rejected with a majority of over 300.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-17/908247/>

Immigrants: Pregnant Women

The following two questions both received the same answer

Richard Fuller [227944] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to end the immigration detention of pregnant women.

Immigrants: Older People

Richard Fuller [227945] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to end the immigration detention of people over the age of 65.

Reply from James Brokenshire: It is not normally considered appropriate to detain pregnant women for immigration offences unless there is either a clear prospect of their early removal, and medical advice does not suggest that the baby is due before the planned removal date; or as part of the asylum fast-track process in the case of women who are less than 24 weeks pregnant.

Older people are only considered suitable for detention in exceptional circumstances, especially where constant or significant supervision is required which cannot be satisfactorily managed in detention.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-17/227944/>

Deportation

William McCrea [227085] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people were deported from each constituent part of the UK in 2013 and 2014.

Reply from James Brokenshire: We are unable to provide a breakdown of the number of removals for each constituent part of the UK but the total number of

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

removals is available at: <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/2015-03-10/227085/>

Detention Centres

Sarah Teather [228234] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to expand the size of the immigration detention estate.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Detaining and removing people with no right to be in the country, with dignity and respect, is an essential part of effective immigration controls.

The future requirements of the detention estate, including its capacity and location, is kept under constant review.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-18/228234/>

Offenders: Deportation

Matthew Offord [228149] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of powers under the Immigration Act 2014 to stop criminals using family life arguments to delay deportation.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The new Immigration Act 2014 stops criminals from using family life arguments to delay their deportation by making clear that the public interest normally requires the deportation of foreign criminals, notwithstanding their claim to family life.

Since passing this Act, the Government has also removed more than 600 foreign national offenders under the new non suspensive appeals powers, with many more going through the system.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-18/228149/>

Human Trafficking

Paul Blomfield [228674] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the (a) accessibility of legal aid for victims of human trafficking and (b) number of matter starts available for victims to pursue compensation and immigration claims.

Reply from Karen Bradley: Victims of human trafficking can apply for civil legal aid for advice and representation in relation to immigration matters and for damages and employment claims arising from their trafficking exploitation. Through provisions in the Modern Slavery Bill, victims of slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour will also be eligible for civil legal aid in the same situations.

The recent review of the National Referral Mechanism recommended that legal aid should be available from the point of referral. The Government has committed to piloting a range of changes to the National Referral Mechanism in light of recommendations made by the review, which will include the provision of legal aid at this earlier point.

'Matter starts' are the mechanism used by the Legal Aid Agency to monitor the amount of work conducted by its legal aid providers and do not limit legal aid availability for applicants. Where they are eligible, victims of human trafficking will always be able to access legal aid.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-23/228674/>

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

Half of migrants educated to degree level

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Half-of-migrants-educated-to-degree-level-17a9.aspx>

Migrants' positive contribution

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Migrants-positive-contribution-17ab.aspx>

Cross party support for post study visas

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Cross-party-support-for-post-study-visas-17b8.aspx>

New Publications

Characteristics of Recent and Established EEA and non-EEA migrants in Scotland: Analysis of the 2011 Census

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00473606.pdf>

Post Study Work Working Group: Report to Scottish Ministers

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00473583.pdf>

New Scots: Integrating Refugees in Scotland's Communities: Year 1: Implementation Progress Report

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00474319.pdf>

House of Commons Home Affairs Committee The work of the Immigration Directorates: Calais

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmhaff/902/902.pdf>

Monthly asylum application tables (January 2015)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/416425/asylum-jan2015.ods

Children entering detention under Immigration Act powers (February 2015)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/416429/children-detention-feb2015.ods

Experiences of Pregnant Migrant Women receiving Ante/Peri and Postnatal Care in the UK

http://b.3cdn.net/drofttheworld/c8499b817f90db5884_ym6bthx1.pdf

Unwanted, unnoticed: an audit of 160 asylum and immigration-related deaths in Europe

<http://www.irr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/ERP-Briefing-Paper-No-10-FINAL.pdf>

News

UK immigration policy failing Scotland, says Scottish minister

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/mar/24/immigration-work-visas-foreign-students-scotland>

Business group calls for return of work visa

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/education/business-group-calls-for-return-of-work-visa-1-3725282>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Scotland damaged as top students 'driven away'

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/education/scotland-damaged-as-top-students-driven-away-1-3727544>

New Scots twice as likely to have degrees as old ones

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/new-scots-twice-as-likely-to-have-degrees-as-old-ones.121484283>

The value of incomers

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-view/the-value-of-incomers.121496991>

Immigration: let's change the way we talk about it

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/mar/24/immigration-lets-change-the-way-we-talk-about-it>

Illegal immigrants caught entering Britain 'simply released into the French countryside'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/conservative/11488477/Illegal-immigrants-caught-entering-Britain-simply-released-into-the-French-countryside.html>

Migrants who won't learn English to be stripped of housing benefits under Tories

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/conservative/11492116/Migrants-who-wont-learn-English-to-be-stripped-of-housing-benefits-under-Tories.html>

Labour vows to ban indefinite detention of asylum and immigration applicants

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/mar/25/labour-vows-to-ban-indefinite-detention-of-asylum-and-immigration-applicants>

Labour would end indefinite detention of refugees

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/generalelection/labour-would-end-indefinite-detention-of-refugees-10134006.html>

Immigrants in their own words 100 stories

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/ng-interactive/2015/mar/24/immigrants-in-their-own-words-100-stories>

Growing up between cultures is tough – until you realise it's a creative blessing

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/mar/24/growing-up-between-cultures-meera-syal>

Polish are most 'economically active' in Scotland

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/polish-are-most-economically-active-in-scotland-1-3730615>

Poles lead economic activity in Scotland

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4394466.ece>

Syria and Iraq conflicts see asylum seekers up by 45% - UNHCR

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32066108>

Theresa May urged to investigate Dungavel concerns

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/theresa-may-urged-to-investigate-dungavel-concerns.121871991>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Harmondsworth: Detained asylum-seeker sews up mouth in protest at conditions

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/harmondsworth-detained-asylumseeker-sews-up-mouth-in-protest-at-conditions-10131200.html>

Pregnant migrants 'deterred from seeking antenatal care by potential cost'

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/mar/28/pregnant-migrants-deterred-from-seeking-antenatal-care-by-potential-cost>

NHS 'health tourism' crackdown making destitute migrant mothers pay thousands for care

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/nhs-health-tourism-crackdown-making-destitute-migrant-mothers-pay-thousands-for-care-10140189.html>

Deported immigrants died after leaping from ferry to swim ashore, inquest told

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/mar/26/deported-albanian-immigrants-died-leaping-ferry-swim-ashore-inquest>

Deported migrants died after jumping off ferry to swim back to Britain

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/deported-migrants-died-after-jumping-off-ferry-to-swim-back-to-britain-10137126.html>

Trafficked people legislation has pitfalls

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/chris-marshall-trafficked-people-legislation-has-pitfalls-1-3727858>

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Equality

UK Parliament Questions

Employment: Young People

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Taylor of Warwick [HL5756] To ask Her Majesty's Government what they are doing to increase the long-term employment of young ethnic minority people in the United Kingdom.

Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon [HL5800] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase employment opportunities for young people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, in the light of research from the House of Commons Library showing an increase in long-term unemployment for young people from those backgrounds.

Reply from Lord Freud: The number of people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds in employment is at a near record high, with unemployment rates falling across all ethnic groups. Latest figures show that there are 129,000 more people from BME backgrounds in work compared to the same time last year, with the total number, at a near record high of more than 3 million. The employment rate has also risen by 0.7 percentage points over the last year. Unemployment has fallen for all ethnic minorities and is down by 2 percentage points (88,000) over the last year and down by 2.9 percentage points (103,000) since 2011.

The youth claimant count is at its lowest level since the 1970s. Work Coaches offer all claimants tailored support from day one of their claim. Under the Youth Contract, we are providing additional funding and Jobcentre Plus support for

Equality

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

those who are still facing barriers to work including young people from Black and Ethnic Minority groups. We provide work experience and sector based work academy placements to give young people training and experience to help them to get into work. DWP employment programmes such as the Work Programme, Youth Contract and Mandatory Employment Programmes have been designed for all long-term claimants and are tailor made for the individual.

One of the Government's strategies for increasing ethnic minority employment and participation in the labour market is based around mainstreaming opportunity through locally delivered flexible provision. In addition, in October 2014 we introduced an intensive 3 month support package for 18-19 year olds from Day 1 of their claim in areas of high youth unemployment and the 8 highest concentrated areas of young claimants from Black and Ethnic Minority groups. This additional support will run until the end of March 2015.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-03-16/HL5756/>

Press Release

People power

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/People-power-17d5.aspx>

New Publications

Analysis of Equality Results from the 2011 Census - Part 2

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00473938.pdf>

Equality and Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan Revision 2015/16

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/Statutory/Strategic%20Plan%202015-16.pdf>

Equality Evidence Toolkit for Public Authorities

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00474223.pdf>

Better Impacts: using the equality impact assessment duty to influence decision makers - a guide for voluntary and community organisations in Scotland

<http://www.crer.org.uk/Publications/PSEDToolkit.pdf>

Scottish Specific Equality Duties: Get Ready for April 2015

<http://www.crer.org.uk/Publications/PSED2015.pdf>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-12822 James Dornan: Condemning the Racist Graffiti at Cathcart Cemetery—

That the Parliament condemns the racist graffiti, which said "Britain First" that was painted on a sign pointing to the Muslim section of Cathcart cemetery; considers this a

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion (continued)

shocking act of vandalism and entirely out of touch with the views of the vast majority of people in Scotland; believes that, because it occurred at a place of rest, it is particularly abhorrent; hopes that those who are responsible for this are quickly caught and punished; reiterates its condemnation of this, and believes that people of all religions and none are welcome in Scotland and deserve to live their lives in peace and, when they pass away, rest in peace.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-12822&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Question

Extremism

Kate Green: What steps is the Home Secretary taking to encourage police forces to record accurately and comprehensively incidences of Islamophobia and hate crimes against Muslim victims, which Greater Manchester police is already doing?

Reply from Theresa May: The hon. Lady raises a very important point. The approach to recording hate crime has developed over the past five years and I am pleased that we are now able to see much more clearly what is happening. I was very clear in my speech today that this is an issue for a future Government, but a future Conservative Government would require the police to record anti-Muslim incidents as well as anti-Semitic incidents.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150323/debtext/150323-0001.htm#1503231000014>

Press Release

Anti-Muslim Graffiti Affects Cathcart Cemetery in Glasgow

<http://tellmamauk.org/anti-muslim-graffiti-affects-cathcart-cemetery-in-glasgow/>

News

Police investigate after woman filmed shouting racial abuse at another woman in Glasgow

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/video-police-investigate-after-woman-filmed-shouting-racial-abuse-at-another-woman-in.1427123490>

Shocking video of a woman shouting racial abuse at another woman in Glasgow

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/u/video-police-investigate-after-woman-filmed-shouting-racial-abuse-at-another-woman-in-glasgow.1427122846>

Thugs target Muslim graveyard in act of hatred

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/thugs-target-muslim-graveyard-in-act-of-hatred-201505n.121662932>

It's time to tackle the anti-semitic abuse

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/opinion/columnists/its-time-to-tackle-the-anti-semitic-abuse-201304n.121444233>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Anti-Semitism in Europe akin to 1930s: Jewish leader

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/11493482/Anti-Semitism-in-Europe-akin-to-1930s-Jewish-leader.html>

Jewish leader warns that anti-Semitism in Europe is "like the 1930s"

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/jewish-leader-warns-that-antisemitism-in-europe-is-like-the-1930s-10133646.html?origin=internalSearch>

European Jews are 'living in fear like in the 1930s' claims World Jewish Congress leader, as he calls on U.S. to condemn 'evil' anti-Semitism

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3011722/European-Jews-living-fear-like-1930s-claims-World-Jewish-Congress-leader-calls-U-S-condemn-evil-anti-semitism.html>

Roma: MEPs debate discrimination affecting Europe's largest ethnic minority

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150324STO37305/html/Roma-MEPs-debate-discrimination-affecting-Europe's-largest-ethnic-minority>

Victim had bleeding on brain after race hate attack

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/crime/victim-had-bleeding-on-brain-after-race-hate-attack-1-3731181>

Black and Asian civil servants facing discrimination by 'old boys network'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/black-and-asian-civil-servants-facing-discrimination-by-old-boys-network-10140037.html>

Nil By Mouth and Scotland's secret shame

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/insight-nil-by-mouth-and-scotland-s-secret-shame-1-3732290>

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Scottish Devolution

New Publications

House of Lords Select Committee on the Constitution Report: Proposals for the devolution of further powers to Scotland

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldselect/ldconst/145/145.pdf>

House of Commons Public Administration Select Committee: Lessons for Civil Service impartiality from the Scottish independence referendum

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmpubadm/111/111.pdf>

House of Commons Political and Constitutional Reform Committee: The future of devolution after the Scottish referendum

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmpolcon/700/700.pdf>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Motion

S4M-12773 Malcolm Chisholm: Congratulations to Gypsy/Traveller Project—That the Parliament congratulates the Gypsy/Traveller project of the Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project (MECOPP), which is based in the Edinburgh Northern and Leith parliamentary constituency, on winning the Principles into Practice Respect for Diversity award; understands that the award has been given by the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland in recognition of the project's innovative work on mental health with the Gypsy/Traveller community and highlights the collaborative, community-based approach of the project; recognises the importance of such an approach in allowing marginalised communities to access health and social care services, and welcomes the best practice offered by MECOPP's use of creative arts to break mental health stigma.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-12773&ResultsPerPage=10>

Equal Opportunities Committee

Inquiry into Age and Social Isolation: evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9871&i=90402#ScotParlOR>

Press Release

Education (Scotland) Bill launched

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Education-Scotland-Bill-launched-17ac.aspx>

New Publications

Scotland's International Policy Statement

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00473712.pdf>

Scotland's International Framework

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00473547.pdf>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Prorogation

Prorogation: Her Majesty's Speech

Prorogation marks the formal end of the parliamentary session. It usually takes the form of an announcement, read on behalf of the Queen in the House of Lords, listing important Bills passed during the session, and describing other things that the government has done during that parliamentary session.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150326-0002.htm#15032625000608>

Other UK Parliament and Government (continued)

Parliamentary Questions

Religious Buildings: Security

Greg Mulholland [228687] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 16 March 2015 to Question 226670, and with reference to paragraph 2.64 of the Budget 2015, what proportion of the additional funding will be for increased security funding for synagogues and mosques.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Government works with the police to ensure the safety and security of all communities. Following recent attacks against individuals and Jewish community sites in Europe, there have been considerable efforts from the police, working with the community, to mitigate threats to Jewish interests in the UK.

On 18 March the Prime Minister announced an additional £10.9 million of funding for protective security measures to further ensure the safety and security of the Jewish community, including at synagogues, Jewish schools and community sites. This was part of £23.9 million provided in the budget for 2015-16 for counter-terrorism and protective security measures.

Ensuring that there is effective security at crowded places and potentially vulnerable sites remains a key priority for Government. We provide considerable advice and guidance to mosques, madrassahs and other Islamic centres. Monitoring of the security situation remains under constant review.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-23/228687/>

Radicalism

Andrew Rosindell [228767] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to tackle extremism.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Government takes extremism seriously and is committed to tackling it in all its forms. In 2011 the Home Secretary reformed the Prevent strategy to tackle the ideology behind the terrorist threat we face and made sure it tackled non-violent extremism as well as violent extremism. This Government also set up the Extremism Task Force (ETF) in July 2013 in the wake of the murder of Drummer Lee Rigby to consider what more we could do to deal with extremism. The ETF has driven forward a number of actions. The Home Secretary has excluded more hate preachers than ever before, nearly 90 since 2010. We have removed 61,000 pieces of terrorist related material since December 2013. We have created a new online tool to make it easier for the public to report extremist content. We have worked with over 250 mosques, 50 faith groups and 70 community groups. We have trained over 150,000 frontline public sector workers to identify and support those at risk of radicalisation.

This week the Home Secretary outlined proposals for a new counter-extremism strategy to tackle the whole spectrum of extremism. The foundation of the strategy would be the proud promotion of British values.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-23/228767/>

Press Releases

State Opening of Parliament to take place on 27 May 2015

... The Prime Minister will ask Her Majesty to summon the new Parliament to meet on Monday 18 May, when the business will be the election of the Speaker and the swearing-in of members. The State Opening of Parliament will follow on Wednesday 27 May.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/state-opening-of-parliament-to-take-place-on-27-may-2015>

Other UK Parliament and Government Press Releases (continued)

A Stronger Britain, Built On Our Values

Home Secretary's speech: A New Partnership To Defeat Extremism

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/a-stronger-britain-built-on-our-values>

Muslim Council of Britain response to the Home Secretary's speech: We Need Tough, Evidence-Based Counter-Terrorism Strategies

<http://www.mcb.org.uk/we-need-tough-evidence-based-counter-terrorism-strategies/>

New Publications

Female genital mutilation, experimental statistics: February 2014

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB17251>

Female Genital Mutilation Risk and Safeguarding: Guidance for professionals

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418564/2903800_DH_FGM_Accessible_v0.1.pdf

Commissioning services to support women and girls with female genital mutilation

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418549/2903842_DH_FGM_Commissioning_Accessible.pdf

News

Theresa May to ban radical preachers and organisations from schools

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/theresa-may-to-ban-radical-preachers-and-organisations-from-schools-10128532.html?origin=internalSearch>

Home Office to blacklist extremists to protect public sector

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/mar/23/home-office-to-blacklist-extremists-to-protect-public-sector>

Mosques harbouring Islamic extremists to be closed down

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4391212.ece>

Extremist blacklist drawn up as May cracks down on militants

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4390698.ece>

Expose extremists in your midst, May urges Muslims

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4390250.ece>

We'll shut down extremist mosques supporting terror, warns Theresa May in fresh drive to defeat extremism

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3006962/We-ll-drive-extremists-pledges-kick-fanatics-reject-British-values-promote-terror-Islam.html>

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New Publications

Human rights for all - forwards or back?

<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/application/resources/documents/Human%20rights%20for%20all%20-%20forwards%20or%20back.pdf>

Social Landscape: The state of charities and social enterprises in 2015

<https://www.cafonline.org/PDF/CAF%20Social%20Landscape%20Report%20-%20WEB.pdf>

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Other News

Glasgow project supporting victims of sexual violence, FGM and and trafficking is at breaking point

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/glasgow-project-supporting-victims-of-sexual-violence-fgm-and-and-201726n.121788400>

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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 consideration, Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9873&i=90419#ScotParlOR>

**** Community Empowerment Bill**

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

Bill as amended at Stage 2

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Community%20Empowerment%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b52as4-stage2-rev.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Community%20Empowerment%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b52as4-stage2-rev.pdf)

Criminal Justice Bill

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

**** Education Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/87330.aspx>

Bill as introduced

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Education%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b64s4-introd.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Education%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b64s4-introd.pdf)

Explanatory Notes

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Education%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b64s4-introd-en.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Education%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b64s4-introd-en.pdf)

Policy Memorandum

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Education%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b64s4-introd-pm.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Education%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b64s4-introd-pm.pdf)

Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00473534.pdf>

Bills in Progress

Scottish Parliament (continued)

Equalities Impact Assessment

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00473670.pdf>

Information for Parents

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00473658.pdf>

Information for Children

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00473699.pdf>

**** 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=9874&i=90422#ScotParlOR>

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament

Arbitration and Mediation Services (Equality) Bill

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

Assisted Dying Bill (England and Wales only)

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

Asylum (Time Limit) Bill

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

Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill

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

**** Modern Slavery Bill**

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

House of Lords consideration of House of Commons amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150325-0001.htm#15032588000991>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2014-2015/0104/amend/ml104-l.htm>

Royal Assent

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150326/debtext/150326-0004.htm#15032630000010>

UK Borders Control Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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>

** **The economic impact of the Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) route** (closing date 12 June 2015)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/416129/Call_for_Evidence_Tier_1_Entrepreneurs.pdf

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

Faith 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!***

Fair Trade in Islam

31 March 2015 in Edinburgh (6.00pm)

1 April 2015 in Glasgow (6.00pm)

Scottish Fair Trade Forum and MADE In Europe workshops about Fair Trade in Islam. For information and to book a place see <http://tinyurl.com/qasgx33>

**** *next week!***

Exploring Access to Mental Health Care Services for Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Patients

9 April 2015 in Glasgow (full day)

10 April 2015 in Edinburgh (full day)

Scottish Universities Insight Institute seminar bringing together mental health practitioners, interpreters, health care administrators, policy makers and academics to discuss the most salient issues in the provision of mental health care to linguistically diverse patients with the goal of understanding systemic difficulties and enhancing provision. For information contact Prof Isabelle Perez I.A.Perez@hw.ac.uk or see <http://www.scottishinsight.ac.uk/Programmes/Programmes20142015/AccessToMentalHealthCareServices.aspx>

**** *next fortnight!***

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children, and Young People

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

**** *next fortnight!***

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)

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 0141 223 7951 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk 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>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Working with Interpreters

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>

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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/>

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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