

## 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.*

Supported by



## Contents

Immigration and Asylum

Equality

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

New Publications

Other News

Bills in Progress

Consultations

Job Opportunities

Funding Opportunities

Events/Conferences/Training

Useful Links

**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.**

**Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to [MEMO@scojec.org](mailto:MEMO@scojec.org) and requests to be added to circulation to [mail@bemis.org.uk](mailto:mail@bemis.org.uk)**

**The UK Parliament has been dissolved, and will not meet again until after the General Election. New MPs will be sworn in on 18 May 2015, and the State Opening of Parliament will take place on 27 May 2015, after which, normal business will resume.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Questions

#### UK Visas and Immigration

**Gordon MacDonald:** To ask the Scottish Government what relationship it has with UK visas and immigration. (S4O-04234)

**Reply from the Minister for Europe and International Development (Humza Yousaf):** The Scottish Government has regular contact with UK visas and immigration on matters relating to Scotland's interests and priorities. We will continue to press the United Kingdom Government to provide an immigration system that meets Scotland's needs.

**Gordon MacDonald:** I was contacted by two constituents who required assistance on an immigration issue. As there are no members of Parliament at present, I was approached as a local member of the Scottish Parliament. On contacting UK visas and immigration, I

## Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

was told the following: “If they have not already done so, they can contact a Westminster parliamentary candidate during the current pre-election period.”

Does the minister agree that that decision undermines our democracy, in that UK visas and immigration is suggesting that constituents contact a member of the public for assistance rather than an elected representative?

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** Yes, I agree entirely with the member. It is completely unacceptable that any department of the UK Government could demonstrate such a lack of respect for the hard-working members of the Scottish Parliament across the entire chamber. It is essential that our MSPs are able to represent their constituents appropriately.

I call on the incoming UK Government, whoever is in it, to take a respectful approach to Scotland’s MSPs and to work with us to best serve the people of Scotland. This is a practical and pragmatic issue, as Gordon MacDonald rightly demonstrates, but it is also about people’s lives. People and their families are getting ripped apart because of UK immigration rules, and hard-working MSPs are being completely dismissed by that UK Government department. I agree entirely with the member—it is an affront to our democratic mechanisms and it is completely unacceptable.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9911&i=90760#ScotParlOR>

**The following four questions about Human Trafficking all relate to this question which was answered in February.**

**Jenny Marra:** *To ask the Scottish Government how many suspected or confirmed survivors of trafficking have been (a) arrested, (b) charged and (c) reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service on suspicion of committing a crime in each year since April 2009; what the (i) offence and (ii) outcome was, also broken down by (A) age, (B) gender and (C) nationality, and what information it has on (1) the nature of the trafficking and (2) how many convictions or sentences have been subject to appeal.*

**Reply from Michael Matheson:** *The Scottish Government does not hold the requested information.*

*In his letter of 21 January 2013 to the Convener of the European and External Relations Committee, the Lord Advocate explained the system which prosecutors must follow when it is identified that a person accused of a crime may be a victim of human trafficking. The Lord Advocate's guidance requires prosecutors in these circumstances to instruct further inquiries into whether the individual may have been trafficked. Where there is credible evidence that the crime was committed by the individual as a direct consequence of his or her trafficked status, there is a presumption not to prosecute. Where, in the interests of justice, it is decided to proceed with prosecution, this decision must be reviewed by the National Lead Prosecutor for Human Trafficking. The Lord Advocate's letter confirmed that these measures are compatible with Article 8 of the EU Directive on combating and preventing trafficking of human beings.*

*In line with the terms of Article 8, final decisions about prosecution in all circumstances are a matter for the Lord Advocate.*

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-24432&ResultsPerPage=10>

### Human Trafficking

**Jenny Marra:** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-24432 by Michael Matheson on 25 February 2015, for what reason the information is not held centrally. (S4W-25130)

## Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

**Reply from Lesley Thomson:** The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service central case management system does not hold information in a format which specifically identifies cases which involve victims of human trafficking. The information is recorded informally and further detail is provided in answer to question S4W-25132.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-25130&ResultsPerPage=10>

### Human Trafficking

**Jenny Marra:** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-24432 by Michael Matheson on 25 February 2015, whether it will publish the Lord Advocate's guidance to prosecutors. (S4W-25131)

**Reply from Lesley Thomson:** The approach taken and the factors to be considered by all prosecutors in any case are outlined in the Prosecution Code which is published at: <http://www.copfs.gov.uk/publications/prosecution-policy-and-guidance>. In relation to victims of human trafficking the Lord Advocate has already published a set of draft instructions for prosecutors which are intended to satisfy the terms of section 7 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill. These draft instructions are available from the Justice Committee website and outline the robust position that will be taken by prosecutors, namely that where it is established that someone is a credible victim of human trafficking they shall not be prosecuted for any offences they are compelled to commit as a result of their trafficked status. The instructions also explain the process which should be followed by a prosecutor in considering such a case including the factors which should be taken in to account, the agencies which should be contacted for assistance and the requirement to refer all cases to the National Lead Prosecutor for Human Trafficking. Any comments which are received regarding these draft instructions will be taken in to consideration by the Lord Advocate prior to the publication of the final version.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-25131&ResultsPerPage=10>

### Human Trafficking

**Jenny Marra:** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-24432 by Michael Matheson on 25 February 2015, how many times since April 2009 an accused person has been identified as a possible victim of human trafficking; how many "further inquiries" as set out by the guidance were instigated; how many of these led to a decision not to prosecute, and how many of the decisions not to prosecute were (a) reviewed and (b) upheld by the National Lead Prosecutor for Human Trafficking. (S4W-25132)

**Reply from Lesley Thomson:** The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service have considered a number of prosecutions in relation to seven different individuals who have been reported as victims of human trafficking. The National Lead Prosecutor for Human Trafficking made the final decision in relation to the continuation of all of the cases for these seven individuals. In one case the prosecution was continued against the individual as he was not considered to be a genuine victim of human trafficking. In relation to the remaining six individuals their cases were discontinued or no action was taken as the conclusion was reached that they were genuine victims of human trafficking. The UK Human Trafficking Centre provided assessments in each of these cases, all of which were followed by the National Lead Prosecutor for Human Trafficking.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-25132&ResultsPerPage=10>

## Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

### Human Trafficking

**Jenny Marra:** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-24432 by Michael Matheson on 25 February 2015, what action the Lord Advocate takes to ensure that such prosecutions comply with article 8 of the EU directive. (S4W-25133)

**Reply from Lesley Thomson:** Full guidance is available for all Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service staff on how to deal with cases involving potential victims of human trafficking. This guidance outlines the process which must be followed which includes the referral of all of these cases to the National Lead Prosecutor for Human Trafficking. The guidance also outlines the factors which prosecutors should consider when assessing whether the individual is a genuine victim of human trafficking and also instructs that prosecutors should seek the assessment of the UK Human Trafficking Centre to assist with any decision. This guidance is sufficiently robust and detailed to ensure that the prosecution service in Scotland adheres to both the terms and the spirit of Article 8 of the directive.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advantage&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-25133&ResultsPerPage=10>

### Europe (Rescue of Migrants)

**Alison Johnstone:** To ask the Scottish Government what response it has received to its letter to the United Kingdom Government regarding the rescue of migrants attempting to enter Europe across the Mediterranean. (S4T-00996)

**Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs (Fiona Hyslop):** The tragic deaths of migrants in the Mediterranean is, sadly, not just a recent experience. I have persistently raised the deaths of migrants in the Mediterranean since 2013. I raised the issue at the joint ministerial committee on Europe on 31 October 2014, and my letters of 3 November to the Minister of State for Europe, David Lidington, and of 20 January to the Minister of State for Security and Immigration, James Brokenshire, both highlighted that abandoning search and rescue is wrong in humanitarian and practical terms and that the current policy has clearly failed. An immediate rethink in strategic terms is essential.

The United Kingdom Government's response to my letter of 3 November 2014 focuses on the traffickers, not the victims, as did the Home Secretary's statement on Monday. The agreed 10-point plan from the European foreign ministers is more hopeful, and the agreed summit to be held on Thursday is a positive development.

Humanitarian issues are cross-border and pan-European ones. Together, the European Union must prevent the Mediterranean from becoming a watery grave for so many fleeing conflict, fear and hate.

**Alison Johnstone:** I welcome the cabinet secretary's strong stance on the issue. Poisonous and damaging rhetoric on immigration has allowed Governments to create a policy in which thousands of people drown at sea. The UK Government believes that a search and rescue operation is a pull factor, ignoring the push factor—the persecution, conflict and war that cause many people to leave home and family behind to embark on truly terrifying journeys without any guarantee of safe arrival, let alone a warm welcome. Does the Scottish Government unequivocally reject the concept that drowning people will stop others making the crossing?

**Reply from Fiona Hyslop:** I very much agree with that last sentiment. The argument was continually used that that would somehow avert people from travelling. It is quite clear that that policy has failed.

There is an important point about where we are now and how to go forward. Not only does the EU have to take collective responsibility, which it is starting to do, instead of leaving the Italians to deal with the issue on their own; one of the



## Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

concerns is that, because the UK is not a member of Frontex, as it is not part of the Schengen area, it does not have direct involvement in the exercise, so all that it has provided at the request of operation Triton is two debriefing officers in 2014 and this coming year. Therefore, the rethink has to be not just about the approach to immigration but about the value of human life in a dangerous context in which adults and children are drowning in the Mediterranean. It is not just in recent years that they have been drowning. An estimated 10,000 people have died in the Mediterranean in recent decades.

We want strategic thinking, but the most important point and the argument that we should put forward to David Cameron and the other EU leaders is that, as well as dealing with the strategic issues that we all need to address, they must take a humanitarian approach first and foremost.

**Alison Johnstone:** The cabinet secretary will be aware that merchant ships are preventing an even worse crisis. They rescued approximately 40,000 people in 2014 alone, and everyone expects that number to increase. Does the Government support the calls of Amnesty International and others for more safe and legal routes to Europe for people who are fleeing persecution and conflict? As the minister noted, Frontex is beyond the control of the European Parliament. Does the Government support more parliamentary accountability for that agency?

**Reply from Fiona Hyslop:** I would encourage parliamentary scrutiny of the issue not just at the European level but at the domestic level.

There is a concern that so much of the emphasis in and the focus of the Home Secretary's statement and the 10-point plan are on the traffickers and the smugglers. However, when we look at migrants' experiences, we see that most of them have paid for transportation and then go on to claim asylum in Europe. The general approach must be scrutinised further.

Alison Johnstone's point about better management of merchant shipping and legal routes across the Mediterranean must be addressed. However, the key issue is where the people are fleeing from. Many are from Syria and many are from Libya. The overall response of Europe and, from our perspective, the UK to Syria must be addressed. The problem will not be easily resolved but, in the meantime, we must renew the humanitarian efforts.

**Christina McKelvie:** Presiding Officer, 1,400 souls have perished since the beginning of the year. We are 101 days into 2015 and we have lost 1,400 men, women and children. Those are not just migrants or trafficked people—they are human beings. The EU and the UK have abdicated their responsibility and committed a dereliction of duty to those people. Will the cabinet secretary provide an assurance to us all that she will lobby the next UK Government to reverse the coalition's refusal to support the planned search and rescue of those souls who have perished?

**Reply from Fiona Hyslop:** I appreciate Christina McKelvie's point. As the convener of the European and External Affairs Committee, she was at the committee session when the Italian ambassador set out the Italian concerns and their pleas for more co-operation across Europe. I agree with her about the need to treat people as individuals and to stress the humanity aspect of the situation. However critical I have been of the previous UK Government's approach, let us take the opportunity that Thursday's summit provides to think and act differently. With the encouragement of all parties, I am sure that we can ensure that any incoming UK Government will approach the issue differently. If it took a different approach, I am sure that it would get support from across the chamber.

**Claire Baker:** I am sure that everyone was horrified to see the reports over the weekend on the tragedies in the Mediterranean. Those lost were mothers, fathers, sons and daughters. They were attempting to find a better future for themselves and escape the

## Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

terrors and dangers of their home country.

As both Alison Johnstone and the cabinet secretary rightly highlight, the tactic of cancelling the search and rescue operations last year has failed, with horrendous consequences. As the cabinet secretary said, the problems are complex, which will require not just the EU but the international community to work together. That includes the need for humanitarian assistance. What contribution is the Scottish Government making in that area?

**Reply from Fiona Hyslop:** In my correspondence to the UK Government last November and in January 2015, we indicated that the Scottish Government stands ready to help. We have also said to the UK Government that we can play our part in whatever co-operation is required on Syrian refugees. We will continue to make those offers.

The UK is in a different position from the rest of the EU, but it should not be allowed to abdicate responsibility. Its non-membership of Frontex should not prevent it from providing assistance. We stand ready to provide our support under the powers that this Parliament has.

**Roderick Campbell:** When the Italian ambassador gave evidence to the European and External Affairs Committee in October last year, he called for work with countries of origin for example, to co-ordinate aid better and to create economic opportunities and jobs in those countries to discourage people from leaving their homes to look for a better future. What will the Scottish Government do to assist that approach?

**Reply from Fiona Hyslop:** I referred to the Italian ambassador's committee evidence in which he addressed the complex wider issues. It needs a multi-pronged response. I must stress again that a humanitarian response in the Mediterranean seas outwith the borders of operation Triton must be part and parcel of that approach.

As part of our strategic efforts, we must look at the displacement of millions of people and provide support for the rehabilitation and compassionate treatment of refugees at their countries of origin, which is what the Italians suggested initially.

The Italians have stood on their own. Operation mare nostrum finished in November 2014. It was replaced by an operation that has clearly failed. However, we must stand by our Italian friends and colleagues. They should not bear the burden by themselves. I would encourage EU leaders to look at the Italian ambassador's proposals.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9906&i=90710#ScotParlOR>

## Scottish Parliament Motion

**S4M-12964 Christina McKelvie: Mediterranean Tragedies**—That the Parliament calls on the Scottish Government to urge the UK Government to provide help to the migrants who are trying to reach Europe on boats across the Mediterranean; notes with horror the recent deaths of more than 700 migrants; understands that Giuseppina Maria Nicolini, the Mayor of Lampedusa, has made several calls for help to be given, including at the Humanitarian Congress in Vienna in March 2015; urges the EU to reconsider its Triton programme, which was launched in November 2014 as a replacement to Mare Nostrum; understands that the programme is aimed at control and not about the rescue of migrants and that funding has dropped by £6 million to £3 million, and hopes that this call will be heard by the UK Government so that such tragedies will not happen again.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-12964&ResultsPerPage=10>

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

### **Lochhead raises Mediterranean migrant tragedy**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Lochhead-raises-Mediterranean-migrant-tragedy-185f.aspx>

### **European Commission Statement on developments in the Mediterranean**

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_STATEMENT-15-4800\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-15-4800_en.htm)

### **Ten point action plan on migration**

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/2015/20150420\\_01\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/2015/20150420_01_en.htm)

### **The STUC condemns the Home Office and calls for an end to detention within the Asylum System**

<http://www.stuc.org.uk/news/1154/the-stuc-condemns-the-home-office>

### **A protection-based response to the crisis in the Mediterranean**

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/latest\\_news/2615\\_a\\_protection-based\\_response\\_to\\_the\\_crisis\\_in\\_the\\_mediterranean](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/2615_a_protection-based_response_to_the_crisis_in_the_mediterranean)

### **FRA reiterates call for rights-based EU migration policy following latest deaths in Mediterranean**

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2015/fra-reiterates-call-rights-based-eu-migration-policy-following-latest-deaths-mediterranean>

### **Saving migrant lives is imperative but what next? – UN human rights experts ask EU leaders**

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15889&LangID=E>

## **New Publications**

### **Damned if you do, damned if you don't: The challenges of including and comparing the children of immigrants in European survey data**

<http://www.nidi.nl/shared/content/output/papers/nidi-wp-2015-01.pdf>

### **Migration, Integration and Neighbourhoods The policy challenges of ethnic inequalities**

<http://www.ethnicity.ac.uk/medialibrary/briefings/policy/migration-integration-and-neighbourhoods-a4-leaflet-v4.pdf>

## **News**

### **Church of Scotland moderator urges UK Government to help solve migrant crisis**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/church-of-scotland-moderator-urges-uk-government-to-help-solve-migrant-crisis.1429612344>

### **Unions probing mistreatment denied Dungavel access**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/unions-probing-mistreatment-denied-dungavel-access-1-3753902>

### **Religious and refugee groups denied access to Dungavel immigration centre**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/apr/21/religious-and-refugee-groups-denied-access-to-dungavel-immigration-centre>

## **Immigration and Asylum** **News** (continued)

### **Call for human rights groups to inspect Dungavel detention centre**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/demand-for-human-rights-groups-to-inspect-dungavel.124288901>

### **Closing Dungavel would be the beginning of a more humane asylum system in the UK**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/closing-dungavel-would-be-the-beginning-of-a-more-humane-asylum-system-in-the-uk.124288311>

### **What goes on in Dungavel happens in our name**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/what-goes-on-in-dungavel-happens-in-our-name.124288158>

### **Refugees at Dungavel paid just £1 an hour for work in detention centre**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/revealed-refugees-at-dungavel-paid-just-1-an-hour-for-work-in-detention-centre.124290548>

### **Life in Dungavel: hunger strikes, unlawful detention ... and paracetamol if you've been in a car crash**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/life-in-dungavel-hunger-strikes-unlawful-detention-and-paracetamol-if-youve-been-in-a.124289619>

### **The Polish firefighter from Dundee who is the new face of British immigration**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/the-polish-firefighter-from-dundee-who-is-the-new-face-of-british-immigration.123567693>

### **Immigration rules could damage British culture, say leading figures in arts**

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/apr/23/immigration-rules-damage-british-culture>

### **Revise immigration policy to keep talented overseas arts students in the UK**

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/apr/23/revise-immigration-policy-keep-talented-overseas-arts-students>

### **Home Office ordered to bring back migrant mother and five-year-old son deported to Nigeria**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-ordered-to-bring-back-migrant-mother-and-fiveyearold-son-deported-to-nigeria-10193656.html>

### **More and more people are bored by the constant discussion of immigration, poll finds**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/more-and-more-people-are-bored-by-the-constant-discussion-of-immigration-poll-finds-10195673.html>

### **Yarl's Wood: Hunger strike at immigration removal centre for release of widow**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/yarls-wood-hunger-strike-at-immigration-removal-centre-for-release-of-widow-10196889.html?origin=internalSearch>

### **Immigration rules need clarifying and enforcing**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/liamhalligan/11563227/Immigration-rules-need-clarifying-and-enforcing.html>

### **Migrant baby boom that's cost 80,000 children the school places they wanted and led to pupils being sent miles away from their homes**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3054469/Migrant-baby-boom-costs-80-000-children-school-places-wanted.html>



## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

#### David Cameron commits UK help in migrant crisis

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/david-cameron-commits-uk-help-in-migrant-crisis-1-3753084>

#### Royal Navy to aid migrant rescue mission

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/world-news/royal-navy-to-aid-migrant-rescue-mission.124065528>

#### Migrants: Britain has 'moral duty' to help, says bishop

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-32471030>

[TOP](#)

## Equality

### New Publication

#### Living on the margins

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/LivingontheMargins.pdf>

### News

#### Time to address ethnic minority recruitment issues

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/node/122626>

[TOP](#)

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Press Release

#### UN Human Rights Chief urges U.K. to tackle tabloid hate speech, after migrants called “cockroaches”

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Media.aspx?IsMediaPage=true&LangID=E>

### News

#### Police winning the war on hate crime in the city

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/blitz-on-vile-hate-thugs-204043n.123529031>

[TOP](#)

## New Publications

#### Race and Elections

[http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/RaceandElectionsFINAL\\_interactive.pdf](http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/RaceandElectionsFINAL_interactive.pdf)

[TOP](#)

## Other News

**Quarter of Britons will be from an ethnic minority within decades**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4416634.ece>

[TOP](#)

## 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>

#### **Criminal Justice Bill**

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

#### **\*\* Education Bill**

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

Scottish Parliament Information Centre Briefing

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB\\_15-19\\_Education\\_Scotland\\_Bill.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_15-19_Education_Scotland_Bill.pdf)

#### **\*\* Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill**

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

Stage 1 consideration, Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9905&i=90705#ScotParlOR>

Stage 1 Report, Justice Committee

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_JusticeCommittee/Reports/juR-15-09w.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_JusticeCommittee/Reports/juR-15-09w.pdf)

[TOP](#)

## 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](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/403575/2015-02-12_TISC_Consultation_FINAL.pdf)

**Education (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 18 May 2015)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/88324.aspx>

**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](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/416129/Call_for_Evidence_Tier_1_Entrepreneurs.pdf)

## Consultations (continued)

**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](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>

[TOP](#)

## Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities

[TOP](#)

## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* closes 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/>

**Tackling Sectarianism – Small Grant Programme 2015-16**

*closing date for applications: 1 December 2015, but all projects must be completed by 19 February 2016*

Projects must help build understanding of:

- The problems caused by sectarianism in different communities and ways in which these problems impact on the lives of the people living in those communities;
- The impact that the projects and activities delivered have on individual communities and the lives of the people living in those communities; and
- What communities want to do to tackle the sectarian problems they are experiencing and how they can work together to deliver the change that they themselves want to see in their community.

<http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/tackling-sectarianism-small-grants-programme/>

[TOP](#)

**\*\* closing date for applications this week!**

**Queens Cross Housing Association: Housing Traineeships**

Closing date for applications 28 April 2015

PATH (Scotland) thirty-six month Positive Action Training Scheme, which has been specifically designed to redress the under-representation of black and minority ethnic communities in employment in Scottish Housing. For information see <http://pathscotland.org.uk/vacancies-opportunities/>

**\*\* this week!**

**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](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

**\*\* this week!**

**Film screening: “Working Illegally”**

29 April 2015 in Glasgow (7.00 – 9.00)

Documentary film looking behind the rhetoric, closed walls, and barbed wire of UK border enforcement, to expose the reality of immigration detention. For information see

<http://www.cca-glasgow.com/programme/552f9f0c66bad1707d000053> or contact 0141 352 4900 / [gen@cca-glasgow.com](mailto:gen@cca-glasgow.com)

**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](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 223 7951 or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

**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](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 223 7951 or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

**New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees**

20 May 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

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

2 June 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

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

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

**Prosecute or Protect? Article 31 (1) of the 1951 Refugee Convention and the Criminal Justice System in Scotland**

21 May 2015 in Glasgow (1.00 – 5.00)

Scottish Refugee Council seminar in partnership with the Faculty of Advocates to raise

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

awareness of the refugees' rights under the 1951 Refugee Convention not to be penalised for offences related to their illegal entry or presence in Scotland and their statutory defence in domestic law against prosecution for these offences. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/ppj4fmx>

### **\*\* Health and Happy in Glasgow**

29 May 2015 in Glasgow (10.00 – 2.00)

Advice and information day for women refugees and asylum seekers. For information see [http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/15v\\_healthy\\_and\\_happy.pdf](http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/15v_healthy_and_happy.pdf) or contact Claire Fuller 0141 3552 3201 / [CFuller@rapecrisiscentre-glasgow.co.uk](mailto:CFuller@rapecrisiscentre-glasgow.co.uk)

[TOP](#)

## 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](http://www.acas.org.uk)

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

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

**Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)** <http://www.oscr.org.uk/>

**Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS)** [www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services](http://www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services)

**Disclosure Scotland** <http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/>

**BBC News** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>

**BBC Democracy Live** [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc\\_parliament/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm)

[TOP](#)





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/>

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.