

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.

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and requests to be added to circulation to 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

Dungavel Detention Centre (Inspection)

Christine Grahame: To ask the First Minister what recent communications there have been between the Scottish Government and the Home Office regarding an independent inspection of Dungavel detention centre. (S4F-02756)

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): The Scottish Trades Union Congress, the Church of Scotland, the Catholic Church, the Muslim Council of Britain and the Scottish Refugee Council have all requested an urgent collective meeting with detainees at Dungavel, which the Home Office has thus far refused. The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights wrote to the Home Secretary about the situation at Dungavel on 26 March, urging her to grant permission for the visit requested. As of this morning, we have not yet received a response to the cabinet secretary's letter.

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

Christine Grahame: The denial of access to those groups and the delayed publication of the report by HM inspectorate of prisons following an inspection in February is of great concern, with disturbing reports of hunger strikes, lengthy detentions with no notice of when they will end and transfer at a moment's notice. Those are surely matters of urgency.

Does the First Minister consider that denial of access and delay has something to do with awkward truths during a general election campaign, when convicted criminals in our prisons have the protection of human rights while people whose only crime is to seek asylum in the United Kingdom have next to none?

Reply from the First Minister: I very much share Christine Grahame's concerns. We can only imagine the desperation of people who are detained, often far from home, with no time limit on their detention and no idea of when they might be released.

It is important to say that to seek asylum is a right—it is not a crime. That is why the Scottish Government supports the recommendations of the all-party groups on refugees and on migration in their recent joint “Report of the Inquiry into the Use of Immigration Detention in the United Kingdom”, that “There should be a time limit of 28 days on the length of time anyone can be held in immigration detention” and that “The presumption ... should be in favour of community-based resolutions.”

That is also why the social justice secretary has urged the Home Secretary to allow the STUC and the churches access to Dungavel to meet detainees and hear their concerns. The fact that we are in the run-up to a general election should not make any difference to the exercising of anybody's human rights, particularly when we are talking about the human rights of some of the most vulnerable people in the country.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9924&i=90889#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-13062 Jean Urquhart: Polish Language Learning—That the Parliament welcomes the 1+2 approach to language learning in primary schools; congratulates those local authorities, including Highland Council, that have already appointed 1+2 Development Officers to realise the ambition of having two languages besides English taught in all primary schools; welcomes the offer of assistance in developing Scotland's Polish language teaching from the Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Edinburgh; understands that Polish is, after English, the language most commonly spoken at home by Scottish school pupils; believes that Polish language teaching in some schools would give pupils the opportunity to learn from each other and promote integration, and commends the efforts of campaigners and educators working to expand the availability of Polish language teaching and qualifications in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-13062&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Release

Leave to remain: Spouses have rights too, Court of Session affirms

<http://ukhumanrightsblog.com/2015/04/28/leave-to-remain-spouses-have-rights-too-court-of-session-affirms/>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

New Publications

Monthly asylum application tables: February 2015

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/424910/asylum-feb2015.ods

Children entering detention under Immigration Act powers: March 2015

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/424914/children-detention-mar2015.ods

News

Celebration of refugees to show positive impact they have on Scotland

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/celebration-of-refugees-to-show-positive-impact-they-have-on-scotland-204928n.124552678>

Immigration 'drives two thirds of new households' in Britain

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11569240/Immigration-drives-two-thirds-of-new-households-in-Britain.html>

Most new households headed by immigrants

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4425475.ece>

Tighten immigration controls? We should be loosening them

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/columnists/oliverkamm/article4426351.ece>

We must not turn a blind eye: these desperate migrants deserve compassion

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/28/desperate-migrants-deserve-compassion>

'My children can't sleep, crying for daddy:' How spouse immigration rules affect British families

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/love-sex/my-children-cant-sleep-crying-for-daddy-how-spouse-immigration-rules-affect-british-families-10206082.html?origin=internalSearch>

'It's not easy, I think it's very cruel:' How spouse immigration rules affect British families

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/love-sex/its-not-easy-i-think-its-very-cruel-how-spouse-immigration-rules-affect-british-families-10208953.html?origin=internalSearch>

'If they take him away, that's when I'm going on hunger strike:' How spouse immigration rules affect British families

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/love-sex/if-they-take-him-away-thats-when-im-going-on-hunger-strike-how-spouse-immigration-rules-affect-british-families-10211742.html?origin=internalSearch>

General Election 2015: How do immigrants from Britain's smallest minorities feel about one of the hottest issues affecting the polls?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/general-election-2015-how-do-immigrants-from-britains-smallest-minorities-feel-about-one-of-the-hottest-issues-affecting-the-polls-10216095.html>

It is tabloid hate speech that should be condemned not desperate refugees

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/sunday-herald-view/it-is-tabloid-hate-speech-that-should-be-condemned-not-desperate-refugees.124300550>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Moderator calls for shared humanity in refugee debate

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/moderator_calls_for_shared_humanity_in_refugee_debate

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Question

Hate Crime

Jackie Baillie: To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to introduce a national action plan on hate crime similar to the action plan, Challenge it, Report it, Stop it, in England and Wales. (S4W-25314)

Reply from Alex Neil: Tackling hate crime in partnership with key stakeholders and affected communities is a key priority. The Scottish Government believes hate crime to be unacceptable in modern day Scotland, and we are committed to eradicating it from society. We have already strengthened the law in this area, continue to work closely with Police Scotland and others to encourage reporting and are investing over £20 million in 2015-16 to achieve equality and tackle discrimination. As we develop our approach, we are looking with interest at the approaches taken in other jurisdictions.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-25314&ResultsPerPage=10>

News

'Isis effect' helps spark 15% rise in hate crimes

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/article1551764.ece

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Disability-related hate crime

Jackie Baillie: To ask the Scottish Government what progress has been made on developing third party reporting systems for disability-related hate crime. (S4W-25311)

Reply from Michael Matheson: In some cases, it can be that victims and witnesses of hate crime including disability-related hate crime do not feel comfortable reporting the matter directly to Police Scotland and may be more comfortable reporting it to someone they are familiar with. That is why Police Scotland works in partnership with a wide variety of partners who perform the role of third party reporting centres. The staff within third party reporting centres have been trained to assist a victim or witness in submitting a report to the police and can make such a report on the victim/witnesses behalf. Examples of third party reporting centres participating in the Police Scotland scheme range from housing associations to victim support offices and voluntary groups.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-25311&ResultsPerPage=10>

Other Scottish Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Disability-related hate crime

Jackie Baillie: To ask the Scottish Government how it monitors the number of reports of disability-related hate crime that do not result in a prosecution. (S4W-25312)

Reply from Michael Matheson: Responsibility for prosecution of any crime including hate crime falls on the independent Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service. In July 2014, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service published their annual Hate Crime in Scotland publication. This report indicated that in 2013-14, 154 charges were reported to prosecutors with an aggravation of prejudice relating to disability, 12% more than in 2012-13 (17 additional charges). The report went on to advise that court proceedings were commenced in respect of 126 charges (82%), a higher proportion than in previous years. In total 130 (84%) of charges led to court proceedings, including those not separately prosecuted, but which may have been incorporated into other charges for the same accused. The report indicated that no action was taken in respect of 7 charges (5%), a lower rate than in previous years. The most common reason for taking no action was the lack of sufficient admissible evidence for the substantial charge even though there was sufficient evidence for the disability aggravation associated with the charge. If there are no proceedings on the substantial charge, there can be no proceedings on an aggravation associated with the charge. At the time this report was compiled, 13 charges (8%) were awaiting the outcome of further enquiries before a final decision on proceedings. More generally, the report noted there is a broad consensus that disability-related hate crime may well be under reported compared to other forms of hate crime. Both Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service are engaged in a variety of activities aimed at increasing the level of awareness, especially amongst disability communities, that hate crime is unacceptable and should not be tolerated.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-25311&ResultsPerPage=10>

Disability-related hate crime

Jackie Baillie: To ask the Scottish Government what more the (a) police and (b) criminal justice system can do to support people who report a disability-related hate crime. (S4W-25313)

Reply from Michael Matheson: Police Scotland have made considerable progress in recent years through the development of third party reporting centres and online reporting of hate crime to help support people affected by hate crime including disability-related hate crime. In addition, specific statutory disability hate crime aggravations were introduced through the Offences (Aggravated by Prejudice) (Scotland) Act 2009 which has improved the recording of hate crime and ensures the court must consider whether to increase an offender's sentence to reflect that an offence has been motivated by malice or ill-will towards another person based on their characteristics relating to their identity such as having a disability. Efforts will continue by partners in the justice system including Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service to encourage victims of hate crime to report incidents so access to justice can take place and for a robust approach in dealing with such crimes to continue.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-25313&ResultsPerPage=10>

Other Scottish Parliament and Government (continued) Equal Opportunities Committee

Inquiry into Age and Social Isolation: evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9918&i=90799#ScotParlOR>

Press Release

Scotland's population at its highest ever

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Scotland-s-population-at-its-highest-ever-1896.aspx>

New Publications

Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service: Standards of Service for Victims and Witnesses (revised)

http://www.copfs.gov.uk/images/Documents/Victims_and_Witnesses/Standards%20of%20Service%20for%20Victims%20and%20Witnesses%20April%202015.pdf

Mid-2014 Population Estimates Scotland

Report <http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/population-estimates/midyear-2014/14mid-year-pe-cahb-publication.pdf>

Infographic <http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/population-estimates/midyear-2014/14mid-year-pe-cahb-infographic.pdf>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Press Release

Female genital mutilation, experimental statistics: March 2014

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB17463>

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Other News

Sharia-compliant savings and bank accounts rocket in popularity across Britain

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/shariacompliant-savings-and-bank-accounts-rocket-in-popularity-across-britain-10220992.html>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

**** Assisted Suicide Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/69604.aspx>

Stage 1 Report, Health and Sport Committee

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_HealthandSportCommittee/Reports/her15-06w.pdf

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>

Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes 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

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

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/>

Consultations (continued)

Inquiry into the recruitment and appointment practices on company boards

(no closing date given)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/our-legal-work/inquiries-and-assessments/inquiry-recruitment-and-appointment-practices-company-boards>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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>

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>

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 / 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 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

see <http://tinyurl.com/ppj4fmx>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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 or contact Claire Fuller 0141 3552 3201 / CFuller@rapecrisiscentre-glasgow.co.uk

** Refugee Festival Scotland

3 to 21 June 2015, Scotland-wide

The theme for Refugee Festival Scotland 2015 is 'Celebrate'. The festival celebrates not only the contribution refugees make to the vibrancy of our communities and cultural life, but also Scotland as a place that offers protection to people fleeing conflict and persecution where can rebuild their lives in safety: something we can all be proud of. For information about events during the festival see the full programme <http://tinyurl.com/qbr26t9> or contact the Scottish Refugee Council 0141 248 9799 / info@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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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

Useful Links (continued)

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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