

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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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 and requests to be added to circulation to mail@bemis.org.uk

New MPs will be sworn in on 18 May 2015, and the State Opening of the UK Parliament will take place on 27 May 2015, after which, normal business will resume.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Debate

Europe (Rescue of Migrants)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9937&i=90975&c=1823344#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-13104 Bill Kidd: Women's Interfaith Fair in Coordination with Refugee Festival Scotland 2015—That the Parliament wishes the Women's Interfaith Fair the very best of luck for its lunch event on 17 June 2015; notes that the event is part of the celebrations taking place across Scotland during Refugee Festival Scotland 2015 and will take place at the St Francis Centre in Cumberland Street in Glasgow, and understands that the week of events is coordinated by the Scottish Refugee Council, which is celebrating 30

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Motion (continued)

years of working on behalf of refugees in Scotland, and sponsored by Woman of Faith, Interfaith Glasgow, Interfaith Scotland and the Refugee Festival Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-13104&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Releases

Scottish Human Rights Commission statement on Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre

<http://scottishhumanrights.com/news/latestnews/dungavel>

Unaccompanied minors' asylum applications: process where the kids are, say MEPs

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150504IPR49610/html/Unaccompanied-minors%E2%80%99-asylum-applications-process-where-the-kids-are-say-MEPs>

News

London Catholics celebrate diversity and call for fair treatment of migrants

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/04/london-catholics-celebrate-diversity-and-call-for-fair-treatment-of-migrants>

Why is Britain forcing bisexual asylum seekers to choose between humiliation and death?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/why-is-britain-forcing-bisexual-asylum-seekers-to-choose-between-humiliation-and-death-10233052.html>

Join us and celebrate refugees

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_blogs/2717_join_us_and_celebrate_refugees

Nominate the best volunteering programme in Glasgow

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_blogs/2718_nominate_the_best_volunteering_programme_in_glasgow

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Questions

Anti-Muslim bigotry

Ken Macintosh: To ask the Scottish Government what support it provides the organisation, Tell Mama, which records anti-Muslim bigotry and aims to tackle online hate speech and intolerance, and what its position is on promoting the Tell Mama hotline. (S4W-25288)

Reply from Alex Neil: The Scottish Government does not provide support to Tell Mama. There are currently over three hundred organisations in Scotland registered as third party reporting centres with Police Scotland. The Scottish Government encourages all victims and witnesses to report incidents of hate

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

crime, either directly to Police Scotland or to a third party reporting centre. Details of third party reporting centres are available on Police Scotland's website at: <http://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/hatecrime-third-party-reporting/>.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-25288&ResultsPerPage=10>

Anti-Muslim bigotry

Ken Macintosh: To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to help tackle online hate speech, intolerance and anti-Muslim bigotry. (S4W-25290)

Reply from Alex Neil: The Scottish Government is clear that there is no excuse for any form of hate crime. In February 2014, we launched the 'Speak Up against Hate Crime' awareness campaign to help victims of and witnesses to hate crime to report all incidents to Police Scotland or to a third party reporting centre. The Scottish Government is investing over £3.1 million in 2015-16 to organisations working to tackle racist and religious intolerance, as well as improve the lives of minority ethnic and religious communities in Scotland. This includes £25,000 for Islam Information Scotland to promote a wider understanding of Islam and Scotland's Muslim communities. The Scottish Government works closely with the Muslim Council of Scotland to ensure Scottish Muslims are able to achieve their potential in Scotland and also supports the annual Islam Awareness Week. Our courts have long-standing powers to tackle hate crime through common law powers to take into account aggravating factors when sentencing. This is covered by the provisions of Section 6 of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012, which criminalises the communication of threats of serious violence and threats intended to incite religious hatred, whether sent through the post or posted on the internet.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-25290&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Release

Racist crime in the EU: increasing, under-reported, destroying lives. Until when?

<http://www.enar-eu.org/Racist-crime-in-the-EU-increasing>

New Publications

Racist crime in Europe ENAR Shadow Report 2013 - 2014

http://enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/shadowreport_2013-14_en_final_lowres-2.pdf

In Wi' the Mix: A Report on Tackling Sectarianism Together

<http://www.faitincommunityscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/In-Wi-The-Mix.pdf>

News

Hate crime victims urged to speak out

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/crime/hate-crime-victims-urged-to-speak-out-1-3763049>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Forty years after black footballers entered the game, racism is still a huge problem

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/may/07/black-footballers-racism-british-football>

Black and Asian officers in West Midlands Police almost four times more likely to be suspended from duty, says report

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/black-and-asian-officers-in-west-midlands-police-almost-four-times-more-likely-to-be-suspended-from-duty-says-report-10226855.html>

Campaigners accuse Met Police and mental health trust of racist cover-up

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/campaigners-accuse-met-police-and-mental-health-trust-of-racist-coverup-10237504.html?origin=internalSearch>

Expelliarmus! Potter magics away children's prejudice

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Arts/article1554234.ece

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Holyrood Committee launches race and employment inquiry

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/89241.aspx>

New Publication

How did Scotland Vote? – UK General Election 2015

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/How_did_Scotland_Vote_-_UK_General_Election_2015.pdf

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Other UK Parliament and Government

General Election Results

Election 2015 results: At-a-glance

<http://www.bbc.com/news/election-2015-32633008>

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Other News

Police reach out in Dundee over terrorism concerns

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/local/dundee/police-reach-out-in-dundee-over-terrorism-concerns-1.872830>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Assisted Suicide Bill

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

Community Empowerment Bill

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

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

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

**** Race, ethnicity and employment** (closing date 1 July 2015)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/89097.aspx>

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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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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

**** CRER Community Ambassadors training day**

28 May 2015 in Glasgow

CRER training day to support the Scottish Government's development of a new framework on race equality for Scotland. The Community Ambassadors Programme aims to ensure minority ethnic communities' voices are at the forefront of this process. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/modkjl> or contact Carol Yong carol@crer.org.uk

**** Launch of Minority Ethnic Employment Training Support (MEETS) project**

29 May 2015 in Glasgow (10.30 – 12.30)

West of Scotland Regional Equality Council project to support people from minority ethnic communities entering employment or education. For information see <http://www.wsrec.co.uk/index.php/projects/meets> or contact meets@wsrec.co.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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

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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