

## 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.*

### Contents

Immigration and Asylum	New Publications
Community Relations	Other News
Equality	Bills in Progress
Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination	Consultations
Scottish Devolution	Job Opportunities
Other Scottish Parliament and Government	Funding Opportunities
Other UK Parliament and Government	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.**

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## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Debate

#### Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10123&i=93457#ScotParIOR>

### Scottish Parliament European and External Relations Committee

#### Refugee Crisis in the European Union

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10129&i=93481#ScotParIOR>

## Immigration and Asylum (continued)

### Scottish Parliament Questions

#### Refugee Crisis

**Alison McInnes:** To ask the Scottish Government when it last discussed the refugee crisis with the United Kingdom Government. (S4O-04649)

**Reply from the Minister for Europe and International Development (Humza Yousaf):** When the First Minister and I met the Foreign Secretary, Philip Hammond, on 21 September, we welcomed the UK Government's recent decision to take more refugees and made the case for the UK to go further than it has and set out a clear timetable for meeting its current commitments. On that date, I also met the UK Government's newly appointed minister with responsibility for Syrian refugees, Richard Harrington, to discuss in detail the practical actions that are necessary to co-ordinate the arrival of refugees.

Furthermore, representatives from the UK Home Office attend the refugee task force, which last met on Wednesday 23 September. The most recent weekly teleconference between Home Office officials, local government officials and Scottish Government ministers and officials took place on 25 September.

**Alison McInnes:** I share the minister's view that the UK should take more refugees than is currently planned. Has the Scottish Government assessed councils' capacity to take more refugees, and does he believe that the capacity is there for us to take more than Scotland's so-called fair share of what we both agree is a pitifully small number for the UK as a whole? If so, has he told the UK Government that our Government is willing to provide for more than our fair share, in order to boost the overall UK number?

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** I acknowledge the member's interest over a number of years in refugees and those who seek asylum in this country.

In the three years that I have been in government, I have never before seen such a good effort as has been made by local authorities, the Scottish Government and the UK Government—particularly the Home Office—to work seamlessly together to co-ordinate our efforts across this important issue. That is positive. The response from local authorities has been overwhelming.

On the detail of the capacity in each local authority area, I know that the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities is collating that information. It would be wrong to breach any of the confidences that COSLA has shared with me, but I can say that I am confident that, if refugees were to arrive tomorrow, we would be in a good place to provide them not only with appropriate accommodation but with the appropriate wraparound services. I am happy to keep the member up to date on that.

As for increasing the number of refugees that we will take beyond the roughly 10 per cent that is regarded as being our fair share of the UK number, it should be said that, if we can do more, the Scottish Government has never been found wanting in its response to refugees.

**Claire Baker:** Although the UK Government has committed to taking 20,000 refugees over five years, the minister will know that there have been calls for a front-loading of the number of refugees. Has the minister discussed with the UK Government the possibility of Scotland front-loading the number of refugees we are looking to support?

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** ... the Scottish Government does not disagree with her proposal. I discussed the issue with the minister with responsibility for Syrian refugees; he is actively considering it and the Home Office is thinking about it. I do not think that I would breach any confidences if I said that the Home Office understands that this will not be a 4,000-a-year or 5,000-a-year job. It is thinking about how it can immediately help. We would be happy to consider any assistance that Scotland can provide, including taking people immediately,

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10121&i=93415#ScotParlOR>

## Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

### Refugee Crisis

**Willie Coffey:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on its response to the refugee crisis. (S4O-04650)

**Reply from the Minister for Europe and International Development (Humza Yousaf):** The First Minister convened a refugee summit earlier this month to bring together a wide range of stakeholders. At that summit, she announced the setting up of a task force, which I chair and which has now met three times and established two sub-groups—one is looking at refugee accommodation and the other at refugee integration. Both those sub-groups met for the first time last Tuesday.

The Scottish Government has made available an initial £1 million to ensure that services across Scotland are prepared to deal with the arrival of refugees. The response from local authorities has been positive and we are ready to assist refugees as soon as they arrive.

**Willie Coffey:** Will the minister give us a further update on any numbers that have been agreed by local authorities and on whether any additional central support has been requested to assist with issues that might arise, such as language difficulties?

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** The member makes an important point. The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities is collating that information, as I mentioned in a previous answer. We need to give it the appropriate time to do that.

The refugee emergency summit was convened just over three weeks ago, so we are moving at a heck of a pace, but Willie Coffey is right to say that local authorities will have to think about the financial pressures that they are already under and the financial pressures of taking in refugees. The tone of the discussions between the Home Office and local authorities, in which the Scottish Government is also involved, has been positive and constructive from all sides.

There will be gaps in service provision in particular local authority areas. Glasgow has a lot of expertise and has the integration services, but that is not the case for local authorities across Scotland. Where gaps exist, the Scottish Government, the Home Office and local authorities will work together to plug them.

**Alex Johnstone:** Since we previously experienced a comparable refugee crisis, the structure of public housing in Scotland has changed significantly. Will the minister undertake to ensure that, when the decisions are made about where refugees will be housed, we will avoid two key errors—first, housing too many people all in the same place and, secondly, creating a situation in which local authorities are forced to provide housing in pressured areas where there are already people who have been on the waiting list for a long time, who might feel alienated by the process?

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** I thank Alex Johnstone for raising a couple of important points. It is important to recognise that, when refugees arrive here, they will have the same rights as anybody else under the homelessness legislation that we have. The points that Mr Johnstone makes are well understood by the task force that I convene. We do not want, in effect, to create ghettoisation, which we know is not conducive either to the refugees or to the communities in which they end up being housed. We are aware of that and would like refugees to be dispersed across a wider area.

I have been overwhelmed by local authorities across Scotland offering to take in their share of refugees. We understand that we will have to work closely with communities before refugees even arrive, to ensure that there is community buy-in, so the points about housing and housing pressures are well made. The refugee task force is conscious of the issue.

**Stuart McMillan:** Is the minister open to considering the use of accommodation that is

## Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

not local authority or social rented accommodation in dealing with the situation?

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** There have been plenty of offers of accommodation, and the Government's preference is to work with local authorities to find the most suitable accommodation. If we can manage to do that within existing social housing stock, that will be the preference not just for the Government but for all the partners that are involved in the ministerial task force.

There have been generous and kind offers, and at the moment we are exploring and collating as much information as possible. I can tell Mr McMillan that, if specific offers have come in to him, he should forward them on to us. We will keep an open mind on all those issues.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10121&i=93416#ScotParIOR>

### Immigration Bill (Duties on Landlords)

**John Finnie:** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the Home Office regarding proposals in the forthcoming Immigration Bill for landlords to carry out checks of tenants' immigration status and evict undocumented migrants. (S4O-04628)

**Reply from the Minister for Housing and Welfare (Margaret Burgess):** The Minister for Immigration, James Brokenshire, wrote to the First Minister on 13 August advising that the United Kingdom Government would be introducing its Immigration Bill in September. Following that, Home Office officials met Scottish Government officials on 19 August. I have written to the Minister for Immigration setting out my significant concerns about the measures in the Immigration Bill and the lack of adequate consultation with my officials and housing stakeholders in Scotland.

**John Finnie:** The proposal is clearly at odds with our approach in Scotland. It will encourage suspicion and discrimination and undermine our efforts to strengthen tenants' rights. I was delighted to hear the First Minister say yesterday that she would not only oppose the repeal of the Human Rights Act 1998 but refuse to consent to it. Will the Scottish Government take the same stand with this proposal and prevent this draconian and xenophobic scheme from being imposed in Scotland?

**Reply from Margaret Burgess:** The Scottish Government is very much opposed to what the UK Government proposes in relation to landlords and immigration. However, as it stands, UK ministers will be able to extend the eviction measures to Scotland through secondary legislation. It would allow them to amend, revoke or repeal any act or order made by the Scottish Parliament. I have written to the Minister for Immigration making clear my concerns and urging him to amend the Immigration Bill to require the UK Government to seek the consent of this Parliament before it extends the legislation to Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10104&i=93284#ScotParIOR>

### Refugee Task Force

**Jim Eadie:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the progress of its refugee task force. (S4O-4655)

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** The Scottish Government refugee taskforce, chaired by myself and bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to co-ordinate Scotland's humanitarian and practical response, has now met three times, most recently last week (Wednesday 23 September 2015). The taskforce has established two subgroups which met for the first time last Tuesday. The accommodating refugees subgroup is jointly chaired by the Minister for Housing

## Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

and Welfare and Cllr Harry McGuigan, COSLA Spokesperson for Community Wellbeing. The integration subgroup is chaired by John Wilkes, Chief Executive, Scottish Refugee Council. The response from local authorities has been positive and we are ready to assist refugees as soon as they arrive.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4O-04655&ResultsPerPage=10>

### Refugees: Housing

**Hugh Henry:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to ensure that Disclosure Scotland will have the resources required to ensure that the checks to be carried out on people planning to offer a space in their home to refugees are carried out expediently, and whether it plans to issue guidelines to (a) Disclosure Scotland and (b) local authorities about the process. (S4W-27493)

**Reply from Alex Neil:** The Scottish Government is committed to the provision of quality housing for all our residents, including refugees who come to Scotland. Disclosure checks may be required on individuals with whom unaccompanied children are placed. We will monitor impact on Disclosure Scotland and assess requirements on an ongoing basis. The taskforce will provide leadership in this area and will work over the coming weeks and months to ensure Scotland provides a welcome to a proportionate share of the refugees who come to the UK.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-27493&ResultsPerPage=10>

### Refugees: Housing

**Hugh Henry:** To ask the Scottish Government what information it has regarding what the additional cost will be to local authorities to house refugees and what (a) support and (b) other resources it will provide to help them meet this. (S4W-27495)

**Reply from Margaret Burgess:** The First Minister has established the refugee taskforce, which brings together Scottish Government ministers, Scottish and UK Government officials, COSLA, local government and a range of key stakeholders to coordinate and establish Scotland's capacity in a range of matters such as housing, language support, social services and health services, including psychological support. Under the existing Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme, through which Syrian refugees have already been brought into the UK, the Home Office has met a range of costs associated with settling refugees, including some housing and associated costs. To date these costs have been agreed directly between the Home Office and the local authorities contracted under the scheme. Ongoing housing costs are met by the refugees themselves who are eligible for employment and for mainstream social security benefits. The refugee taskforce will continue to consider the costs to local authorities of accommodating refugees and how these should be met.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-27495&ResultsPerPage=10>

### Supporting Palestinian Refugees

**Claudia Beamish:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on its position in supporting Palestinian refugees. (S4O-4656)

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** Scotland has a strong record in welcoming, supporting and integrating refugees from across the globe. Our strategy *New Scots: Integrating Refugees in Scotland's Communities* provides the framework for supporting refugees who have made a home in Scotland. In July 2014 I wrote to the Home Secretary calling on the UK to help ease the refugee crisis in Gaza

## Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

and the West Bank at that time, and confirming that Scotland would be willing to accept Palestinian refugees.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4O-04656&ResultsPerPage=10>

## Scottish Parliament Motion

### **S4M-14425 Alison McInnes: Aberdeen University's Shining Lights Scholarships—**

That the Parliament welcomes the introduction of the Shining Lights scholarship programme at the University of Aberdeen; understands that its purpose is to support students with refugee status who wish to study in the UK; further understands that the programme will initially offer support to four refugees; notes that the funding will cover tuition fees, year-round accommodation and support for living costs, and will be available for undergraduate and taught postgraduate degrees; believes that members of the public can make private donations to the fund to allow more refugees to take up this scholarship, and congratulates University of Aberdeen students, staff and senior management on taking the initiative to support young people under what it considers difficult circumstances.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-14425&ResultsPerPage=10>

## UK Parliament Questions

### **Student Visas**

**The Earl of Dundee** [HL2324] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to distinguish between the number of overseas students with Tier 4 visas and the number of migrants in all other categories in immigration statistics.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** International students are included in net migration statistics that are produced by the independent Office for National Statistics (ONS). In line with the internationally agreed UN definition, these statistics define a migrant as someone changing their normal place of residence for more than a year. Students are therefore included in the same way as other migrants. Other countries, such as the United States, Canada, and Australia also include students in their net migration figures. Like other migrants, students who stay for longer than 12 months have an impact on communities, infrastructure and services while they are here, so it is right that they are included in the net migration count. The ONS estimates that in the year ending March 2015 there was a difference of 96,000 in the number of non-EU students coming to and leaving the UK. Therefore student emigration, or the lack of it, is a key driver of overall net migration.

We have an excellent offer for international students, and as a result we remain the second most popular destination in the world for international higher education students. The latest figures show that visa applications sponsored by universities were now 17% higher than they were in 2010, and the corresponding figure for Russell Group universities was 33%. The Home Office publishes statistics on entry clearance visa grants broken down by category in table vi\_04 (Entry clearance visas tables volume 4) within the 'Immigration Statistics' release, and in the Visas topic. Data for numbers of entry clearance visas granted for study (Tier 4 & pre-PBS equivalent) are separately identified. An example summary table from the Visas topic, identifying data for students, is provided below.

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Entry clearance visas granted by reason (excluding visitor and transit visas)							
Year	Total issued(1)	Work	Study	Student visitors (2)	Family	Dependant joining or accompanying	Other
YE June 2010	616,650	154,615	320,183	41,859	50,240	15,407	34,346
YE June 2011	616,413	158,261	304,568	55,082	49,263	15,001	34,238
YE June 2012	520,073	147,377	214,219	68,990	44,424	12,782	32,281
YE June 2013	501,608	144,503	204,410	72,473	33,710	11,649	34,863
YE June 2014	538,504	159,231	218,239	78,075	35,664	11,362	35,933
YE June 2015	538,663	168,544	216,769	64,181	35,245	10,930	42,994
Change: latest year	+159	+9,313	-1,470	-13,894	-419	-432	+7,061
Percentage change	+0%	+6%	-1%	-18%	-1%	-4%	+20%

[h4] Table notes

(1) Excluding visitor and transit visas

(2) Student visitors are allowed to come to the UK for 6 months (or 11 months if they will be studying an English Language course) and cannot extend their stay. For consistency and comparability over time student visitor visas have been excluded from study-related totals.

A copy of the latest release, "Immigration Statistics April to June 2015", is available from the Library of the House and the Home Office website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

Similarly the Office for National Statistics figures on international migration to the UK (those changing their usual residence for 12 months or more) separately identify those whose main reason for migration is to study. The ONS figures are published as part of the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report, and are available from the Library of the House. The latest edition is available at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/migration-statistics-quarterly-report/august-2015/stb-msqr-august-2015.html>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-17/HL2324/>

### Council Housing: Immigrants

**Lord Beecham** [HL1864] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the estimated cost to local authorities of complying with their duty to support (1) failed asylum seekers and their children, and (2) evicted tenants deemed not to have the right to rent.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Home Office support any failed asylum cases involving children. Local authorities are only required to provide support to failed asylum seekers with children in rare circumstances, for example

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

if a family member has an exceptional need. No estimate of the cost of such support has been made.

Landlords taking new tenants are required to conduct a right to rent check and the Government proposes to provide landlords with new powers to evict illegal migrants in the forthcoming Immigration Bill.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL1864/>

### Immigration: Young People

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL2363] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the past five years, what percentage of applicants aged between 18 and 25 have been granted leave to remain in the United Kingdom on compassionate grounds; and how many applicants are still waiting for a decision.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** People in all immigration application routes have the potential to be granted leave to remain on compassionate grounds. There is no formal application category for 'compassionate grounds'. The Home Office therefore cannot determine the percentage of applicants between 18 and 25 who have been granted leave to remain in the United Kingdom on compassionate grounds or how many applicants are still waiting for a decision.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-17/HL2363/>

### Refugees

**Lord Blencathra** [HL2318] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to set out the steps and timescale by which the refugees currently in Hungary, Austria, Italy, and Germany would have the unfettered right to move to the United Kingdom.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The United Kingdom does not participate in the border aspects of the Schengen acquis and continues to operate border controls with other EU Member States. Individuals granted refugee status in another Member State will therefore be subject to the same entry clearance requirements as third country visa nationals resident in the EU if they wish to enter the United Kingdom. Free movement rights can only be obtained once a refugee becomes a citizen of an EU country. This process varies from Member State to Member State.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-17/HL2318/>

### Refugees

**Lord Eames** [HL2114] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have formulated guidelines for voluntary charitable organisations involved in the settlement of Syrian and other refugees in the United Kingdom; and if not, whether they plan to do so.

**Reply from Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government is seeking a solution to the crisis in Syria and contributing over £1billion of humanitarian aid. We are proposing that the UK resettles 20,000 Syrian refugees over the rest of this Parliament. The Home Office, local authorities and civil society partners are leading work on resettlement.

The Minister for Syrian Refugees and the Minister for Civil Society recently hosted a roundtable discussion with leading charities to agree with our partners how best to harness the strong desire expressed by the public, and a range of organisations, to welcome Syrian refugees to the UK. This was part of the wider co-ordination and cross-government work that the Home Office is leading.

There are currently no plans to formulate any formal guidelines for charities but we have provided further information via GOV.UK and charity websites on how



## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

members of the public and civil society organisations can contribute to helping Syrian refugees.

We will continue to work with leading charities to support a coordinated effort.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-09/HL2114/>

### Asylum: Finance

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL2298] To ask Her Majesty's Government what payments were made to asylum seekers who were not entitled to state benefits in (1) 2000, (2) 2010, and (3) 2014.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The Home Office does not recognise or use the term 'state benefits'. We have therefore provided information on payments made under Section 4 and Section 95 of the Asylum Act 1999.

	Under S95	Under S4
Calendar Year	£m	£m
2014	66.4	11.3
2010	25.8	

Disaggregating the costs of subsistence payments made under S4 in 2010 would incur disproportionate costs.

Disaggregating the S4 or S95 costs in 2000 would incur disproportionate costs.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-16/HL2298/>

### Immigration: Appeals

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL2365] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to offer to those waiting in the immigration and asylum appeal process (1) the right to work after six months, and (2) an automatic right to engage in voluntary work at the beginning of the process.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** We have no plans to reduce the time asylum seekers have to wait to take up employment or voluntary work. Volunteering can be undertaken at any stage of the asylum process and we support asylum seekers who engage in this positive contribution to the community, providing such activities do not amount to voluntary work or employment.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-17/HL2365/>

### Immigrants: Detainees

**Louise Heeley** [10189] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate she has made of the number of victims of trafficking who were detained in immigration detention since (a) January 2015 and (b) June 2015.

**Reply from Richard Harrington:** Individuals who have been identified as victims of trafficking by the competent authorities are normally considered suitable for detention in only very exceptional circumstances, which include cases where there is a risk of public harm. This data is not collected centrally and accurate figures are not available.

Once a person is detained their continued detention remains under review by the Home Office at least at monthly intervals, and earlier in response to any change of circumstances that might have a material effect on their detention.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-09-14/10189/>

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

### **Human Trafficking Law passed**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Human-Trafficking-Law-passed-1ddc.aspx>

### **Renewed calls for return of Post Study Work Visa**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Renewed-calls-for-return-of-Post-Study-Work-Visa-1dc3.aspx>

### **Help for refugees**

<https://firstminister.gov.scot/help-for-refugees/>

### **£300k to help refugees in Europe**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/-300k-to-help-refugees-in-Europe-1dd7.aspx>

### **Strong support for refugees across Scotland**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Strong-support-for-refugees-across-Scotland-1dc4.aspx>

### **Scottish aid bound for refugees**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Scottish-aid-bound-for-refugees-1da6.aspx>

### **'Right to rent' plan raises rogue landlord fears**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/-Right-to-rent-plan-raises-rogue-landlord-fears-1d9d.aspx>

### **The Advocate General's opinion to the Court of Justice of the European Union proposing that the Commission's action against the United Kingdom concerning allowances for children should be dismissed**

<http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2015-10/cp150114en.pdf>

### **Managing the Refugee Crisis: Budgetary measures under the European Agenda on Migration**

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-15-5729\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5729_en.htm?locale=en)

### **Science for refugees**

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/2015/20151006\\_1\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/2015/20151006_1_en.htm)

## **New Publication**

### **A place to call home: Community Asset Ownership in the African Diaspora Community**

<http://locality.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/A-Place-to-Call-Home-exec-summary.pdf>

## **News: Scottish Politics**

### **MSPs approve human trafficking law**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-34410634>

### **Holyrood votes for bill to tackle human trafficking**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/holyrood-votes-for-bill-to-tackle-human-trafficking-1-3904700>

## **Immigration and Asylum**

### **News: Scottish Politics** (continued)

#### **Scottish Parliament passes new laws to tackle human trafficking**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/13798299.Scottish\\_Parliament\\_passes\\_new\\_laws\\_to\\_tackle\\_human\\_trafficking/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/13798299.Scottish_Parliament_passes_new_laws_to_tackle_human_trafficking/)

#### **Scottish Parliament passes new laws to tackle human trafficking**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/13798512.Scottish\\_Parliament\\_passes\\_new\\_laws\\_to\\_tackle\\_human\\_trafficking/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/13798512.Scottish_Parliament_passes_new_laws_to_tackle_human_trafficking/)

#### **Humza Yousaf tells of heartbreak over refugees**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/humza-yousaf-tells-of-heartbreak-over-refugees-1-3908392>

#### **Scottish minister Humza Yousaf helps Syrian refugees on Greek island**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-34447677>

#### **Humza Yousaf describes 'heartbreaking' scenes on Greece refugees visit**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/13804745.Humza\\_Yousaf\\_describes\\_heartbreaking\\_scenes\\_on\\_Greece\\_refugees\\_visit/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/13804745.Humza_Yousaf_describes_heartbreaking_scenes_on_Greece_refugees_visit/)

#### **'We must help these poor people': MSP Humza Yousaf vows to help refugees after solidarity mission leaves him visibly shaken**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/we-must-help-poor-people-6575143>

#### **Humza Yousaf describes 'heartbreaking' scenes on Greece refugees visit**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/13804728.Humza\\_Yousaf\\_describes\\_heartbreaking\\_scenes\\_on\\_Greece\\_refugees\\_visit/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/13804728.Humza_Yousaf_describes_heartbreaking_scenes_on_Greece_refugees_visit/)

#### **Scottish Government minister describes 'heartbreaking' scenes on Greece refugees visit**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/scottish-government-minister-describes-heartbreaking-scenes-on-greece-refugees-visit-1.903463>

#### **Syrian refugees to arrive in Scotland by Christmas**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-34418496>

#### **Hundreds of Syrian refugees given Scots sanctuary by Christmas with first arrivals this month**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/13798609.Hundreds\\_of\\_Syrian\\_refugees\\_given\\_Scots\\_sanctuary\\_by\\_Christmas\\_with\\_first\\_arrivals\\_this\\_month/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/13798609.Hundreds_of_Syrian_refugees_given_Scots_sanctuary_by_Christmas_with_first_arrivals_this_month/)

#### **Scottish government gives £300,000 to Syrian refugee aid effort**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-34416076>

#### **Scottish Government to provide £300,000 for humanitarian aid for refugees arriving in Europe**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/13797747.Scottish\\_Government\\_to\\_provide\\_300\\_000\\_for\\_humanitarian\\_aid\\_for\\_refugees\\_arriving\\_in\\_Europe/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/13797747.Scottish_Government_to_provide_300_000_for_humanitarian_aid_for_refugees_arriving_in_Europe/)

#### **We have room... for Syrian doctors: Scottish Government considers allowing refugee med students to study here**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/room-syrian-doctors-scottish-government-6538177>

## Immigration and Asylum

### News: Scottish Politics (continued)

**SNP chief Nicola Sturgeon backtracks on her vow to give a home to Syrian refugees**  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3250573/SNP-chief-Nicola-Sturgeon-backtracks-vow-home-Syrian-refugees.html>

**MSP Humza Yousaf wants more collaboration in refugee crisis response**  
[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/13788638.MSP\\_Humza\\_Yousaf\\_wants\\_more\\_collaboration\\_in\\_refugee\\_crisis\\_response/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/13788638.MSP_Humza_Yousaf_wants_more_collaboration_in_refugee_crisis_response/)

### News: UK Politics

**Theresa May: High immigration levels prevent 'cohesive society'**  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-34450887>

**Refugee crisis: David Cameron says Europe must get better at sending migrants home**  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/refugee-crisis-david-cameron-says-europe-must-get-better-at-sending-migrants-home-10513581.html>

**£100m for migrants but British response 'pitiful'**  
<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/100m-for-migrants-but-british-response-pitiful-1-3896417>

**Britain commits another £100m as EU tensions rise over refugee relocation plan**  
[http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/13779648.Britain\\_commits\\_another\\_100m\\_as\\_EU\\_tensions\\_rise\\_over\\_refugee\\_relocation\\_plan/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/13779648.Britain_commits_another_100m_as_EU_tensions_rise_over_refugee_relocation_plan/)

**Europe 'must close its doors or risk far-right backlash'**  
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/europe/article4566487.ece>

### News: Other Organisations

**Rabbis urge David Cameron to speed up refugee scheme**  
<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/sep/21/rabbis-david-cameron-refugees-kindertransport>

**Auschwitz survivors call on EU governments to do more to help refugees**  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/germany/11885469/Auschwitz-survivors-call-on-EU-governments-to-do-more-to-help-refugees.html>

**Refugee crisis: Archbishop of Canterbury offers Syrians sanctuary at Lambeth Palace**  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugee-crisis-archbishop-of-canterbury-offers-syrians-sanctuary-at-lambeth-palace-10511132.html>

### News: Background and Comment

**Refugee crisis: Glasgow becomes first UK city to accept new cohort of Syrian asylum seekers**  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugee-crisis-glasgow-becomes-first-uk-city-to-accept-new-cohort-of-syrian-asylum-seekers-a6676966.html>

**Refugees are coming to Scotland. Here's how you can help make them welcome**  
[http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/13802173.Refugees\\_are\\_coming\\_to\\_Scotland\\_Here\\_s\\_how\\_you\\_can\\_help\\_make\\_them\\_welcome/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/13802173.Refugees_are_coming_to_Scotland_Here_s_how_you_can_help_make_them_welcome/)

## **Immigration and Asylum News: Background and Comment** (continued)

**David Cameron's vow to take in just 12 refugees a day is 'embarrassing' and 'completely out of touch with public opinion'**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/david-camersons-vow-to-take-in-just-12-refugees-a-day-is-embarrassing-and-completely-out-of-touch-10514606.html>

**First of 20,000 Syrian refugees arrive in UK**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/22/first-of-20000-syrian-refugees-arrive-in-uk>

**Britain faces £150m cost for EU migrant crisis**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/11886920/Britain-faces-150m-cost-for-EU-migrant-crisis.html>

**Here's what we really think about migrants**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4564815.ece>

**Refugee crisis could provide Europe with a huge economic opportunity**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/columnists/simonnixon/article4565848.ece>

**A third of Britons have helped refugees in some way, poll finds**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/24/a-third-of-britons-have-helped-refugees-in-some-way-poll-finds>

**Refugee crisis: the tug of war between hospitality and prejudice**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/21/refugee-crisis-the-tug-of-war-between-hospitality-and-prejudice>

**Revealed: the public's extraordinary response to the Syrian refugee crisis – and how it shames David Cameron**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugee-crisis-the-true-extent-of-the-british-publics-extraordinary-response-revealed-10514341.html>

**Starving, alone, afraid: children sent ahead in hope of asylum**

[http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/world\\_news/Europe/article1612238.ece](http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/world_news/Europe/article1612238.ece)

**Kent struggles with refugee children who arrive alone – 'we've used up every foster carer we have'**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/26/young-refugees-problems-uk>

**We have to make hard choices on Syrian refugees**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/thunderer/article4573648.ece>

**This five point plan for settling refugees could prevent another tragedy like Aylan Kurdi's death**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/this-five-point-plan-for-settling-refugees-could-prevent-another-tragedy-like-aylan-kurdis-death-10484449.html>

**Migration is now a major fear for over half of Britons: Issue of shoring up borders sees six point rise in a month**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3255577/Migration-major-fear-half-Britons-Issue-shoring-borders-sees-six-point-rise-month.html>

## **Immigration and Asylum News: Background and Comment** (continued)

**“Refugees are the responsibility of the world... Proximity doesn't define responsibility.”**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52126#.VhAHZBOqqko>

**The middle-class reality of housing a refugee**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11908507/The-middle-class-reality-of-housing-a-refugee.html>

**Hearing Echoes Of The Past, Jews Are On The Front Line Of The European Refugee Crisis**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/hearing-echoes-of-the-past-jews-are-on-the-frontline-of-the-european-immigrant-crisis\\_560d6c3fe4b076812701104b](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/hearing-echoes-of-the-past-jews-are-on-the-frontline-of-the-european-immigrant-crisis_560d6c3fe4b076812701104b)

**Seeing refugee crisis at first hand is 'terrifying'**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/seeing-refugee-crisis-at-first-hand-is-terrifying-1-3906632>

**Millions of Britons have supported refugee relief**

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/2776\\_millions\\_of\\_britons\\_have\\_supported\\_refugee\\_relief](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2776_millions_of_britons_have_supported_refugee_relief)

## **News: Other Immigration and Asylum**

**Britain throws open its doors to foreign medics**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4564973.ece>

**Migration to Britain sees one of the largest shifts in the developed world, says OECD report**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11881723/Migration-to-Britain-sees-one-of-the-largest-shifts-in-the-developed-world-says-OECD-report.html>

**Requests for asylum at highest level since 2009**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4568414.ece>

**Official figures show an astonishing 558,000 migrants came to Britain last year a leap of 24% in just 12 months**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3244811/International-migration-Britain-jumps-24-year-558-000-highest-rise-world.html>

**Why is the Government trying to deport a frail, disabled couple fleeing war-torn Libya?**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/why-is-the-government-trying-to-deport-a-frail-disabled-couple-fleeing-war-torn-libya-10513862.html>

**No place to go: the undocumented children facing deportation from the UK**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/sep/25/undocumented-children-facing-deportation-from-uk>

**38,000 migrant children starting school this year creating a 'perfect storm' for primaries forced to absorb the new intake**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3249726/38-000-migrant-children-starting-school-year-creating-perfect-storm-primaries-forced-absorb-new-intake.html>

**Magistrate resigns over asylum seeker court fee**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leicestershire-34389274>

## Immigration and Asylum

### News: Other Immigration and Asylum (continued)

**Magistrate resigns after paying destitute asylum seeker's court fine**

<http://www.theguardian.com/law/2015/sep/29/magistrate-nigel-allcoat-resigns-after-paying-destitute-asylum-seekers-court-fine>

**Magistrate quits after being suspended for paying a penniless asylum seeker's fine out of his own pocket**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11898194/Magistrate-quits-after-being-suspended-for-paying-a-penniless-asylum-seekers-fine-out-of-his-own-pocket.html>

**Nigel Allcoat: 'I was doing my duty as an ordinary British person'**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11908371/Nigel-Allcoat-I-was-doing-my-duty-as-an-ordinary-British-person.html>

**Jimmy Thoronka: Home Office rejects application to stay in UK**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/oct/01/jimmy-thoronka-home-office-rejects-application-uk-sierra-leone>

**Commonwealth Games sprinter loses bid to stay in UK**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11906243/Commonwealth-Games-sprinter-loses-bid-to-stay-in-UK.html>

**UK student visa policy could shut out future leaders, says thinktank**

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/oct/01/uk-student-visa-policy-world-leaders-thinktank>

**New legislation will support all children arriving in Scotland alone and separated from their parents**

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/2775\\_new\\_legislation\\_will\\_support\\_all\\_children\\_arriving\\_in\\_scotland\\_alone\\_and\\_separated\\_from\\_their\\_parents](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2775_new_legislation_will_support_all_children_arriving_in_scotland_alone_and_separated_from_their_parents)

**Church hails new human trafficking legislation as "powerful deterrent to atrocious crime"**

[http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/recent/church\\_hails\\_new\\_human\\_trafficking\\_legislation\\_as\\_powerful\\_deterrent\\_to\\_atrocious\\_crime](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/church_hails_new_human_trafficking_legislation_as_powerful_deterrent_to_atrocious_crime)

[TOP](#)

## Community Relations

### News

**Integration made simple: look to black Britain**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/21/black-communities-role-models-khalid-mahmood-pakistani>

**The Only Way is Ethics: The media shouldn't artificially 'balance' its coverage of Islamic issues**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/the-only-way-is-ethics-the-media-shouldnt-artificially-balance-its-coverage-of-islamic-issues-10510251.html>

**Breakdown of Glasgow's ethnic minority population**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/13787603.Breakdown\\_of\\_Glasgow\\_s\\_ethnic\\_minority\\_population/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/13787603.Breakdown_of_Glasgow_s_ethnic_minority_population/)

## Community Relations

### News (continued)

**How the hijab – and H&M – are reshaping mainstream British culture**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/sep/28/hijab-h-and-m-mainstream-culture-great-british-bake-off-diversity>

**Bake Off's Nadiya, the hometown heroine making young British Muslims proud**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/tvandradio/great-british-bake-off/11909538/Bake-Off-Nadiya-the-hometown-heroine-making-young-British-Muslims-proud.html>

**Faith schools illegally denying places to many children – report**

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/oct/01/faith-schools-illegally-denying-places-to-many-children-report>

**Faith schools 'are failing to comply with pupil admissions rules'**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/faith-schools-are-failing-to-comply-with-pupil-admissions-rules-a6673566.html>

**Fear of Muslims tearing British society apart – Welby**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11906982/Fear-of-Muslims-tearing-British-society-apart-Welby.html>

**Religious sensitivity enters office fridge**

[http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk\\_news/article1615171.ece](http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/article1615171.ece)

**Call to ban 'offensive' sausage rolls and ham sandwiches from office kitchens**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/weird-news/call-ban-offensive-sausage-rolls-6575234>

[TOP](#)

## Equality

### Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee

**Evidence session: Race, Ethnicity and Employment**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10130&i=93484#ScotParlOR>

### New Publications

**Review of equality and human rights law relating to religion or belief**

[http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/publication\\_pdf/RR97\\_Review%20of%20equality%20and%20human%20rights%20law%20relating%20to%20religion%20or%20belief.pdf](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/RR97_Review%20of%20equality%20and%20human%20rights%20law%20relating%20to%20religion%20or%20belief.pdf)

**The Runnymede School Report Race, Education and Inequality in Contemporary Britain**

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/The%20School%20Report.pdf>

**Explaining levels of wellbeing in BME populations in England**

<http://www.leadershipacademy.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Explaining-levels-of-wellbeing-in-BME-populations-in-England-FINAL-18-July-14.pdf>



## Equality

### New Publications (continued)

#### Activism, Participation and Security among Roma and Sinti Youth

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/187861?download=true>

## News

#### Humza Yousaf: We need to work to make this a more equal world

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/opinion/13787605.Humza\\_Yousaf\\_We\\_need\\_to\\_work\\_to\\_make\\_this\\_a\\_more\\_equal\\_world/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/opinion/13787605.Humza_Yousaf_We_need_to_work_to_make_this_a_more_equal_world/)

#### Research shows diversity in film has not improved in almost a decade

<http://www.theguardian.com/film/2015/sep/23/research-diversity-film-not-improved-gender-race-sexuality>

[TOP](#)

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**S4M-14399 John Finnie: Hate Crime Week 2015**—That the Parliament notes that the 2015 Hate Crime Week campaign will run from 10 to 17 October; welcomes this initiative to tackle such crime; acknowledges that a hate crime is any criminal offence committed against a person or property that is motivated by a hatred of someone's perceived race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability; recognises what it sees as the valuable work carried out by Hate Free Highland and other organisations that aim to eliminate such crime from all aspects of Highland life; welcomes the official statistics that show a general decline in hate crime across the country, but is deeply concerned that these still record a 20% increase in disability hate crime, and congratulates Victim Support, Nil By Mouth, Values Into Action Scotland, the Scottish Consortium on Learning Difficulties, Inclusion Scotland, Enable and the many other community and national organisations whose work, it believes, continues to challenge people who fail to see the great value of every citizen of Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-14399&ResultsPerPage=10>

### UK Parliament Question

#### Religious Hatred

**Baroness Tonge [HL2278]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to prevent attacks on Muslims and their places of worship in the light of the recent statistics from the Metropolitan Police Service showing an increase of 70 per cent in such attacks since July 2014.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The Government takes the security of the Muslim and all other communities extremely seriously, and deplores all forms of hate crime. The Government is committed to stamping this out to ensure the safety and security of all our communities. Our new Counter-Extremism Strategy, due to be published later this year, will outline how we will further protect British Muslims, including communities worried about poisonous far right extremists who may be planning crimes such as attacks on mosques.

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament Question (continued)

Ensuring that there is effective security at crowded places and potentially vulnerable sites, such as mosques, remains a priority for the Government. We work with the police to ensure the safety and security of all communities, and considerable advice and guidance has already been provided to mosques, madrassahs, synagogues, and other religious sites; for example, we have drawn upon the expertise of Bradford Council of Mosques and the Community Security Trust to develop security guidance for all mosques in the light of the 2014 incursions by Britain First.

The Department for Communities and Local Government also chairs a cross-Government working group on anti-Muslim hatred, which includes community organisations and representatives, to consider and develop initiatives to seek to combat hate crime.

Police forces continue to be alert to combating and responding to crimes being committed against members of the Muslim community, and to taking appropriate steps to safeguard people and property. Monitoring of the security situation and specific threats to communities remains under regular review, and if there is a need to consider additional measures to ensure the security of the Muslim or any other community, then these will be undertaken as and when it is appropriate to do so.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-16/HL2278/>

## Press Releases

**Hate and intolerance must be combated more strongly as social climate worsens**

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/press-release/2015/hate-and-intolerance-must-be-combated-more-strongly-social-climate-worsens>

**Employment Appeals Tribunal Ruling**

An Employment Appeals Tribunal has ruled that a limited company can bring a claim of direct discrimination under the Equality Act 2010, rejecting the argument that protection from discrimination under the Act is limited to individuals.

**To read the full transcript see**

[http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKCAT/2015/0054\\_15\\_0506.html](http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKCAT/2015/0054_15_0506.html)

## New Publications

**Antisemitism - Overview of data available in the European Union 2004-2014**

[http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-2015-antisemitism-update\\_en.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2015-antisemitism-update_en.pdf)

**Promoting respect and diversity - Combating intolerance and hate**

[http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-2015-paper-colloquium\\_en-0.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2015-paper-colloquium_en-0.pdf)

## News

**Is racial discrimination a widespread problem in Scotland?**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/is-racial-discrimination-a-widespread-problem-in-scotland-1-3907427>

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### News (continued)

**Auschwitz: School trips are helping children fight discrimination at home**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/auschwitz-school-trips-are-helping-children-fight-discrimination-at-home-a6674351.html>

**'Low caste' woman awarded £183,000 compensation in discrimination case**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11882926/Low-caste-woman-awarded-183000-compensation-in-discrimination-case.html>

**Ofcom criticises Fox News for calling Birmingham no-go zone for non-Muslims**

<http://www.theguardian.com/media/2015/sep/21/ofcom-criticises-fox-news-for-calling-birmingham-no-go-zone-for-non-muslims>

**Mail on Sunday apologises for 'Muslim gangs' attack immigration van story**

<http://www.theguardian.com/media/2015/sep/20/mail-on-sunday-apologises-for-muslim-gangs-attack-immigration-van-story>

**It's time the media treated Muslims fairly**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/sep/23/media-muslims-study>

**School refuses to give Muslim pupils day off on religious holiday of Eid al-Adha**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/school-refuses-to-give-muslim-pupils-day-off-on-religious-holiday-of-eid-al-adha-10515098.html>

**Gaelic teacher speaks out about gypsy repression**

<http://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/books/gaelic-teacher-speaks-out-about-gypsy-repression-1-3899385>

**Black people shouldn't have to pretend to be white to have a good night out**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/sep/30/black-dstrkt-london-women-clubs>

**Roles in UK for black and minority ethnic actors worse than ever, claims David Oyelowo**

<http://www.theguardian.com/film/2015/sep/28/roles-uk-black-minority-ethnic-actors-worse-than-ever-claims-david-oyelowo>

**Discrimination claims in Employment Tribunals: the Scottish perspective**

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/uploads/Equality%20Bulletin%20ET%20statistics%20article%20Final%2030%20September%2015.pdf>

**Pupils join forces to write anti-sectarian song**

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/education/pupils-join-forces-to-write-anti-sectarian-song-1-3908662>

[TOP](#)

## Scottish Devolution

### Scottish Parliament Devolution (Further Powers) Committee

**Changing Relationships: Parliamentary Scrutiny of Intergovernmental Relations**

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_ScotlandBillCommittee/Reports/DFPS042015R08.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ScotlandBillCommittee/Reports/DFPS042015R08.pdf)

[TOP](#)

## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Parliamentary Question

#### **Meat labelling**

**Tavish Scott:** To ask the Scottish Government what agency or body is responsible for labelling meat as non-stun. (S4W-27489)

**Reply from Richard Lochhead:** There is currently no agency responsible for labelling meat as non-stun. The labelling of meat for human consumption is governed by European Commission Regulation 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to customers. Meat producers must provide information to customers which conforms with that Regulation. At present, there is no requirement for member states to require the inclusion of information on non-stunning of animals, and any such labelling would be a commercial matter for food business operators, retailers and their assurance schemes. Following an EU consultation exercise published on 28 May 2015, the European Parliament and Council of ministers will further consider the labelling of meat slaughtered without stunning as part of the discussion on the EU Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2012-2015.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-27489&ResultsPerPage=10>

### Press Release

**Publication of 2014/15 Members expenses information**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/92550.aspx>

### New Publication

**The European Convention on Human Rights in the United Kingdom**

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB\\_15-59\\_The\\_European\\_Convention\\_on\\_Human\\_Rights\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_Kingdom.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_15-59_The_European_Convention_on_Human_Rights_in_the_United_Kingdom.pdf)

### News

**Church welcomes new cross-party group on religious freedom**

[http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/recent/church\\_hails\\_new\\_scottish\\_parliament\\_cross-party\\_group\\_on\\_religious\\_freedom](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/church_hails_new_scottish_parliament_cross-party_group_on_religious_freedom)

[TOP](#)

## Other UK Parliament and Government

### Parliamentary Questions

#### **Islam: Legal Systems**

**The Lord Bishop of St Albans** [HL2190] To ask Her Majesty's Government when the undertaking by the Home Secretary, made in a speech on 23 March, to set up an independent investigation into the application of Shari'a law in Britain will be fulfilled; and when that investigation is expected to report.

**Lord Bates:** Sharia councils may be working in a discriminatory and unacceptable way. That is why, as part of the forthcoming Counter-Extremism Strategy,

## Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Government will commission a full, independent investigation to assess to what extent Sharia is being applied in a manner that is unacceptable. The review will commence following the appointment of an independent chair. The Terms of Reference for the review and its duration will be determined at that point. We will act on any evidence of its application which is outside of the law.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-14/HL2190/>

*The speech referred to above can be read at*

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

### Ministers of Religion: Registration

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Douglas Carswell** [10154] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of her Department's plans for a proposed national register of faith leaders in countering extremism.

**Douglas Carswell** [10155] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has under its proposal for a national register of faith leaders to (a) vet faith leaders from outside the UK before or after their arrival in the UK, (b) subject faith leaders already in the UK to the same level of vetting as applies to those entering the UK, (c) exclude teachers or priests from any particular religion or denomination from the requirement to register and (d) deal with faith leaders entering the UK or already resident here who are believed to be a threat to national security.

**Reply from Karen Bradley:** The Government will publish its Counter-Extremism strategy in the near future. There are no plans for a national register of faith leaders.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-09-14/10154/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-09-14/10155/>

## Press Release

**Black History Month 2015: David Cameron's message**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/black-history-month-2015-david-camerons-message>

[TOP](#)

## New Publications

**Scottish Parliamentary election May 2016: Non-party campaigners**

[http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/193038/Scottish-parliamentary-election-May-2016-non-party-campaigners.pdf](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/193038/Scottish-parliamentary-election-May-2016-non-party-campaigners.pdf)

**Religion in Scots Law on Education**

<https://www.humanism.scot/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Chapter-4-Education-v.1.pdf>

[TOP](#)

## Other News

**'FGM risk' girl returns from Sudan after Kent legal bid**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-34447630>

**Schoolgirls need protection from forced marriage, Ofsted warned**

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/sep/26/ofsted-forced-marriage>

**Forced marriage in Britain: It nearly happened to me**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/11899171/Forced-marriage-in-Britain-It-nearly-happened-to-me.html>

**Churches' influence in schools under examination**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/13787750.Churches\\_influence\\_in\\_schools\\_under\\_examination/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/13787750.Churches_influence_in_schools_under_examination/)

**Toys R Us faces bizarre race row over children's dolls after selling white family of five for £3 more than 'ethnic' alternative**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3257187/Toys-R-faces-bizarre-race-row-children-s-dolls-selling-white-family-five-3-ethnic-alternative.html>

[TOP](#)

## Bills in Progress

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Scottish Parliament**

**Community Justice Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/88702.aspx>

**\*\* Criminal Justice Bill**

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

Proposed amendments

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_Bills/Criminal%20Justice%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill35ML3S042015.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Criminal%20Justice%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill35ML3S042015.pdf)

Justice Committee: Stage 2 consideration of amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10119&i=93387#ScotParlOR>

**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>

Revised Explanatory Notes

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_Bills/Human%20Trafficking%20Bill/SPBill57AENS042015Rev.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Human%20Trafficking%20Bill/SPBill57AENS042015Rev.pdf)

Proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/92628.aspx>

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee Report

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_SubordinateLegislationCommittee/Reports/DPLRS042015R53.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_SubordinateLegislationCommittee/Reports/DPLRS042015R53.pdf)

## Bills in Progress Scottish Parliament (continued)

### Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill (continued)

Stage 3

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10123&i=93459#ScotParlOR>

Stage 3 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10123&i=93460#ScotParlOR>

Bill as passed

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_Bills/Human%20Trafficking%20Bill/SPBill57B4S042015.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Human%20Trafficking%20Bill/SPBill57B4S042015.pdf)

### Transplantation (Authorisation of Removal of Organs etc.) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/89893.aspx>

## Bills in Progress UK Parliament

### Child Victims of Human Trafficking (Central Government Responsibility) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/childvictimsofhumantraffickingcentralgovernmentresponsibility.html>

### Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/illegalimmigrantscriminalsanctions.html>

### Immigration Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/immigration.html>

### Scotland Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/scotland.html>

### UK Borders Control Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/ukborderscontrol.html>

[TOP](#)

## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* closes this week!**

**Countering Extremism** (closing date 8 Oct)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2015/150827-new-inquiry-countering-extremism/>

**Transplantation (Authorisation of Removal of Organs etc.) (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 12 October 2015)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/91986.aspx>

**Syrian Refugee Crisis** (closing date 12 October 2015)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/international-development-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/inquiry-name/>

## Consultations (continued)

**Mediterranean migration inquiry** (closing date 21 October 2015)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/mediterranean-migration/>

**\*\* Race Equality in Scotland** (closing date 25 October 2015)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QNVWS85>

**Smart Borders Package** (closing date 29 October 2015)

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/2015/20150729\\_01\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/2015/20150729_01_en.htm)

**\*\* Human Rights Inquiry** (closing date 18 November 2015)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/92604.aspx>

**\*\* Introduction of diversity succession planning for board appointments** (closing date 29 November 2015)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0048/00486751.pdf>

**\*\* Charity Trustee Guidance** (closing date 18 December 2015)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/about/our-work/consultations/open-consultations>

**Hate Crime Reporting in Scotland** (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/amina-hatecrime>

**Experiences and opinions about having been a volunteer** (no closing date given)

<http://survey.bupnet.de/index.php/survey/index/sid/738838/newtest/Y/lang/en>

**Experience and practice about working with young volunteers** (no closing date given)

<http://survey.bupnet.de/index.php/survey/index/sid/454824/newtest/Y/lang/en>

**Creating A Fairer Scotland: What Matters To You?** (no closing date given)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00479666.pdf>

[TOP](#)

## Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

## Funding Opportunities

**\*\* new or updated this week**

**Fairer Scotland Engagement Fund**

**Deadline for applications: 12 October 2015**

Voluntary Action Fund grants to help small voluntary organisations and community groups in Scotland with income under £25,000 to run an event or engagement activity to gather views on how we can create a Fairer Scotland. Grants of up to £300 (or exceptionally up to £500 for a larger event) are available to support an event or engagement activity with a group of five or more people to discuss how we can create a Scotland where people are healthier, happier and treated with respect, and where opportunities, wealth and power are spread more equally.

<http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/fairer-scotland-engagement-fund>

[TOP](#)



**\*\* this week!**

### **Black History Month**

1-31 October 2015 in various locations

For the full programme of activities see

[http://www.crer.org.uk/BlackHistory/BHM2015\\_web.pdf](http://www.crer.org.uk/BlackHistory/BHM2015_web.pdf)

**\*\* this week!**

### **Fairer Scotland**

7 October 2015 in Inverness (1.30 – 5.00)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fairer-scotland-planning-event-inverness-tickets-18178512420>

14 October 2015 in Midlothian (5.30 – 9.00)

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fairer-scotland-planning-event-midlothian-tickets-18178524456>

20 October 2015 in Dumfries (1.30 – 5.00)

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fairer-scotland-planning-event-dumfries-tickets-18178531477>

29 October 2015 in Stornoway (1.30 – 5.00)

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fairer-scotland-planning-event-stornoway-tickets-18178557555>

5 November 2015 in Dundee (5.30 – 9.00)

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fairer-scotland-planning-event-dundee-tickets-18178566582>

10 November 2015 in Inverclyde (5.30 – 9.00)

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fairer-scotland-planning-event-inverclyde-tickets-18178573603>

17 November 2015 in Glasgow (5.30 – 9.00)

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fairer-scotland-planning-event-glasgow-tickets-18178575609>

Voluntary Action Fund events to hear, discuss, prioritise, and take action on ideas to create a Fairer Scotland, and make people's lives better. This is your chance to think about and prioritise ideas that will help make Scotland a fairer place to live and make a real impact on Scotland's future. For information see the relevant weblink above.

**\*\* this week!**

### **15 Days of Action: Young People's Event**

8 October 2015 in Glasgow (11.00)

British Institute of Human Rights event for young people between the ages of 11 and 18 to find out how the Human Rights Act works and what it means about how we should be treated by people who have power over us. For information see

<https://www.bihar.org.uk/Event/15-days-of-action-young-peoples-event-glasgow>

**\*\* this week!**

### **15 Days of Action: Community Event**

9 October 2015 in Arbroath (10.00)

British Institute of Human Rights event to debate current media and political issues, including the future of the Human Rights Act. For information see

<https://www.bihar.org.uk/Event/15-days-of-action-full-day-community-event-arbroath>

### **Working With People Affected By Forced Marriage**

12 October 2015 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 4.00)

Training to demystify forced marriage and help delegates to gain the knowledge they need to provide appropriate support to those affected. For information see

<http://tinyurl.com/nq29vuo>

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **\*\* Ada Lovelace Day**

13 October in Glasgow (1.00 – 4.00)

Strathclyde University celebration of the achievements of women in science, technology, engineering and maths. For information contact Annie McLaughlin [annie.mclaughlin@strath.ac.uk](mailto:annie.mclaughlin@strath.ac.uk) or see <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ada-lovelace-day-at-strathclyde-tickets-18650262437>

### **Launch: GRAMNet Film Series 2015/2016**

14 October 2015 in Glasgow (5.30 for 6.00)

Hidden Stories film series organised by GRAMNet (Glasgow Refugee, Asylum and Migration Network) and BEMIS Scotland to reveal the often untold, surprising knowledge of migratory movements. Screenings are accompanied by forums and Q&A for everyone to share their views and thoughts in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. For information, including the full programme, see <http://bemis.org.uk/PDF/gramnet-film-series-2015-2016.pdf>

### **\*\* Introduction to Asylum Support for Beginners**

20 October 2015 – online webinar

Asylum Support Appeals Project webinar for people with no or limited experience working with asylum seekers, to provide an overview of the asylum support system. For information and to register see <https://asaproject.clickmeeting.com/intro-to-asylum-support/register>

### **Ethnic Minority Parent Workshops: Parental Involvement and Engagement**

21 October 2015 in Glasgow (10.30 – 12.30)

22 October 2015 in Edinburgh (10.30 – 12.30)

BEMIS / Gathered Together Gathered Together workshops to help parents understand and be more involved in their children's education and what happens in schools. For information see <http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/ethnic-minority-parent-workshops/> or contact [gtevents@bemis.org.uk](mailto:gtevents@bemis.org.uk) / 0141 548 8047.

### **Section 4 Support: How to Win Appeals**

21 October 2015 Online Webinar (10.00 – 11.30)

Asylum Support Appeals Project webinar to discuss the eligibility criteria for section 4 support, examine some of the most common grounds of appeal and provide hints and tips on how to prepare successful appeals. For information see <https://asaproject.clickmeeting.com/section-4-appeals/register>

### **Further Submissions, JR and Asylum Support: What You Need to Know**

22 October 2015 Online Webinar (10.00 – 11.30)

Asylum Support Appeals Project webinar for delegates with experience of asylum support casework and legal practitioners to explore the issue of how access to asylum support is affected when an asylum seeker's further submissions have been refused, and steps are being taken towards judicial review of this decision. For information see <https://asaproject.clickmeeting.com/further-subs-asylum-support/register>

### **Ethnic Minority Parent Workshops: Post 16 Education and Choices**

28 October 2015 in Glasgow (10.30 – 12.30)

29 October 2015 in Edinburgh (10.30 – 12.30)

BEMIS / Gathered Together Gathered Together workshops to help parents understand and be more involved in their children's education and what happens in schools. For information see <http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/ethnic-minority-parent-workshops/> or contact [gtevents@bemis.org.uk](mailto:gtevents@bemis.org.uk) / 0141 548 8047.

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **Ethnic Minority Parent Workshops: Mother tongue – at home and school**

4 November 2015 in Glasgow (10.30 – 12.30)

5 November 2015 in Edinburgh (10.30 – 12.30)

BEMIS / Gathered Together Gathered Together workshops to help parents understand and be more involved in their children's education and what happens in schools. For information see <http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/ethnic-minority-parent-workshops/> or contact [gtevents@bemis.org.uk](mailto:gtevents@bemis.org.uk) / 0141 548 8047.

### **Organising an activity to mark Holocaust Memorial Day**

6 November 2015 in Glasgow (1.00 – 4.00)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust workshop for people interested in organising an activity to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January 2016. For information contact 020 7785 7029 / [enquiries@hmd.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hmd.org.uk) or see <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hmdt-workshop-glasgow-tickets-17792785701?ref=ebtn>

### **Organising an activity to mark Holocaust Memorial Day: young people**

7 November 2015 in Glasgow (12.00 – 3.00)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Youth Champions workshop for people aged 14 to 24 who are interested in organising an activity to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January 2016. For information contact 020 7785 7029 / [enquiries@hmd.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hmd.org.uk) or see <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hmdt-youth-workshop-glasgow-tickets-17792908067?ref=ebtn>

### **Ethnic Minority Parent Workshops: Children's Rights in Scotland**

11 November 2015 in Glasgow (10.30 – 12.30)

12 November 2015 in Edinburgh (10.30 – 12.30)

BEMIS / Gathered Together Gathered Together workshops to help parents understand and be more involved in their children's education and what happens in schools. For information see <http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/ethnic-minority-parent-workshops/> or contact [gtevents@bemis.org.uk](mailto:gtevents@bemis.org.uk) / 0141 548 8047.

[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/>

## Useful Links (continued)

**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/>

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