

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with **BEMIS - empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities**. It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.*

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Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month, and that the Scottish and UK Parliament and Government websites been redesigned, so that links published in back issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on these websites, copy details from MEMO into the relevant search facility.

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The Scottish Parliament returns from recess on 26 October 2015.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-14578 Christina McKelvie: Starting Again ... A New Life in Scotland Photography Exhibition – That the Parliament welcomes the upcoming photographic exhibition, Starting Again ... A New Life in Scotland, which opens on 26 October 2015 at the Mitchell Library in Glasgow; considers that this exhibition by Conor Ashleigh, a documentary photographer, gives concrete details about refugee families' real lives when they have arrived in Glasgow; believes that it shows an example of the massive positive response to the refugee crisis across Scotland; congratulates the British Red Cross for its contribution on what it considers a matter of great importance in the current international issues that Scotland has to face, and wishes all involved well as this exhibition proceeds.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-14578&ResultsPerPage=10>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

UK Parliament Debates

Immigration

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm151019/halltext/151019h0001.htm#15101914000001>

Post-Study Work Visa (Scotland)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm151020/halltext/151020h0001.htm#15102038000002>

UK Parliament Questions

Immigration Bill: Families

David Burrowes [12169] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the results of the Family Test applied to the policies proposed in the Immigration Bill.

Reply from James Brokenshire: In accordance with the public sector equality duty, the Home Office has conducted an equality assessment of all policies in the Immigration Bill. The additional Family Test is designed to support strong and stable family relationships among those families legally resident in the United Kingdom. The Immigration Bill is designed to ensure that people in the UK illegally cannot work and access services. Any impact on people while they are in the United Kingdom illegally which results from the Immigration Bill is temporary, until the point of their departure, and as such the Family Test is not engaged.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-15/12169/>

Immigration Controls

David Amess [10953] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent representations she has received on proposals that Tier 2 visa immigrants from outside the European Economic Area must be earning £35,000 or more to qualify for indefinite leave to remain in the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office has received various representations on the £35,000 settlement threshold for Tier 2 (the skilled worker category) since it was announced in 2012. The Government announced in 2012 that from 6 April 2016 Tier 2 visa holders who apply for settlement in the UK will be required to meet a minimum annual salary requirement of £35,000. Prior to the announcement, both the Home Office and the independent Migrant Advisory Committee carried out a consultation on the changes. PhD level roles and those in shortage will be exempt from the £35,000 threshold.

The Home Office published a full impact assessment on the changes to Tier 2 settlement rules when they were laid before Parliament on 15 March 2012, which includes details of relevant consultation. The impact assessment is available on the gov.uk website at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/117957/impact-assessment-tier2.pdf

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-09/10953/>

Visas: Applications

Peter Kyle [11442] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many visa applications to her Department's super premium service have been rejected in the last 12 months.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from James Brokenshire: Please see the information given below. Between 1 October 2014 and 30 September 2015 the super premium service refused 6 cases.

Case Priority	First Case Outcome	No. Of Cases
Super Premium Service	Granted	385
Super Premium Service	Refused	6

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-12/11442/>

Immigration

Thangam Debbonaire [11524] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) shortest, (b) longest and (c) mean period of time was for deciding applications for family reunion in each of the last five years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The minimum*, maximum and average processing times for family reunion visa applications are set out in the table below.

Endorsement	Period	Average processing time	Minimum processing time	Maximum processing times
FAMILY REUNION	2010 Q2	48	0	541
	2010 Q3	47	0	589
	2010 Q4	39	0	570
	2011 Q1	37	0	416
	2011 Q2	45	0	777
	2011 Q3	49	0	600
	2011 Q4	50	0	456
	2012 Q1	48	0	331
	2012 Q2	48	0	320
	2012 Q3	52	0	490
	2012 Q4	45	0	321
	2013 Q1	44	0	360
	2013 Q2	45	0	314
	2013 Q3	48	0	1184
	2013 Q4	44	0	226
	2014 Q1	43	0	330
	2014 Q2	41	0	286
	2014 Q3	38	0	419

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

	2014 Q4	48	0	543
	2015 Q1	30	0	357
	2015 Q2	44	1	178

*Minimum processing times: The cases taking zero days to process were mainly those where a decision on the main applicant was taken on the same day as a newly dependant child's application, where the child's application was added to the Home Office caseworking system on the day of that decision. (e.g. where the child is born after the main applicant has submitted a visa application and a decision is also required on the child).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-13/11524/>

Immigrants: Health Services

Alison Thewliss [11042] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many visa applicants in (a) Scotland, (b) Glasgow and (c) Glasgow Central constituency have been liable for the Immigration Health Surcharge since that charge's introduction.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Since its introduction in April, the Immigration Health Surcharge has collected more than £100 million in income for the NHS. The Home Office does not hold the necessary management information to determine how many visa applicants have been liable to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge by geographical location in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-09/11042/>

Immigration: Applications

Kate Osamor [11578] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken was to respond to a new application for indefinite leave to remain in the last 12 months.

Reply from James Brokenshire: In line with published data, statistics are available for the 12 month period from 31 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. In that period the average time it took to issue the first substantive Home Office response to a new application for indefinite leave to remain was 14 calendar days.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-13/11578/>

Immigration

Roger Mullin [11408] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will conduct a review of the process for applying for leave to remain in the UK to improve it for applicants.

Reply from James Brokenshire: UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) is committed to continuous improvement in the service it gives to applicants. Current initiatives include greater use of online applications and payments and the development of new digital services. Further opportunities to improve the service for example, working more closely with sponsors (employers and educational institutions) to provide support to customers are under consideration. In April 2015 UKVI as a whole achieved the Customer Service Excellence accreditation which is testament to its focus and progress in this area.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-12/11408/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Nurses: Migrant Workers

Baroness Masham of Ilton [HL2581] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Migration Advisory Committee's recommendation that nurses should not be added to the shortage occupation list, what they expect will be the impact of changes to the immigration rules on the running of hospitals, care homes, and care in the community.

Reply from Lord Prior of Brampton: On 15 October 2015, the Home Secretary announced that the Tier 2 restrictions will be temporarily changed for nurses so that they can be recruited from outside the European Economic Area (EEA).

Nurses will be added to the Government's Shortage Occupation List (SoL) on an interim basis. The temporary rule change, which will apply to applications considered from December, will mean that nurses from outside the EEA who apply to work in the United Kingdom will have their applications for nursing posts prioritised.

The change is designed to ease pressure on health and care services ahead of the busy winter period and at a time when the Government is introducing tough new controls on agency spending. It will help improve continuity of care for patients and maintain safe staffing levels.

The Home Secretary has also asked the Migration Advisory Committee to carry out a review of the evidence about whether nurses should remain on the SoL and to report back to the Home Office by 15 February 2016.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-13/HL2581/>

Refugees

Yvette Cooper [11740] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been resettled in the UK through the Mandate scheme in each of the last five years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Information on the number of people resettled in the UK from 2010 up to and including 2014 under the Mandate Scheme is shown in the following table.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of people resettled in the UK in Table as_19 of the Immigration Statistics release .The latest publication (Immigration statistics, April to June 2015) is available on the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2015>

Refugees (and others) resettled under the Mandate Scheme, including dependants, 2010 to 2014	
Year	Number
2010	49
2011	22
2012	54
2013	32
2014	14

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-13/11740/>

Refugees: National Insurance

Thangam Debonnaire [11528] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions,

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

what assessment he has made of the number of people who do not receive a national insurance number within 28 days of being granted refugee status.

Reply from Priti Patel: No assessment has been made of the number of people who do not receive a National Insurance number (NINo) within 28 days of being granted refugee status.

For those granted leave to remain as a result of a successful asylum claim, a joint fast track NINo application process operates between DWP and the Home Office. This process is applicable to the principal family member and the NINo is allocated 2 days after the receipt of the application; this process has been in place since 2005.

The current year to date processing time for all NINo applications is 11.3 days.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-13/11528/>

Immigration: Syria

Thangam Debbonaire [11525] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for family reunion made by Syrian nationals have been (a) received, (b) decided, (c) granted and (d) refused in each of the last five years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The numbers of applications for family reunion visas from Syrian nationals received, decided, granted and refused in each of the last five years is set out in the table below.

ReportYear	Applications	Issued	Refused	Withdrawn	Lapsed
2010	44	26	6	0	0
2011	56	45	8	0	2
2012	250	134	45	4	0
2013	930	619	64	12	0
2014	1172	980	209	16	3

Source: PRAU 14.10.15

Footnote: Applications may be decided in subsequent periods and therefore do not equal the total of issued, refusals, withdrawn and lapsed. For example some applications in 2014 may be decided in 2015.'

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-13/11525/>

Refugees: Syria

Vicky Foxcroft [11162] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the oral statement by the Prime Minister on 7 September 2015, Official Report, column 23, how many Syrian refugee families have been granted asylum in the UK to date.

Reply from James Brokenshire: 437 Syrian refugee families have been granted asylum since 2006. This figure is based on main asylum claimants who claimed asylum from 1 October 2006 to August 2015, with 1 or more dependant linked to their asylum claim that was under the age of 18. This does not include individuals from the current resettlement programme, which will take 20,000 by the end of this Parliament.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-09/11162/>

Asylum

Ian Lucas [11804] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

carry out a review of asylum dispersal areas in the UK with a view to expanding the number of such areas.

Reply from James Brokenshire: In accordance with the provisions of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, senior Home Office officials are working closely with providers and local authorities to widen existing dispersal areas.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-14/11804/>

Asylum: Syria

Thangam Debbonaire [11523] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications made by Syrian nationals in each of the last three years were refused on the grounds that the applicant could be returned to a safe third country.

Reply from James Brokenshire: In the last three years, the numbers of Syrian nationals (main applicants only) refused asylum on third country grounds were as follows:

26 in 2012

99 in 2013

66 in 2014

The Home Office publishes annual and quarterly data on asylum applications and initial decisions; this is available in Table as_01 (Asylum data tables Volume 1) of the quarterly Immigration Statistics release.

A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics April – June 2015, is available from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-13/11523/>

Deportation: Syria

Thangam Debbonaire [11526] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Syrian nationals have been returned to third countries under the Dublin Regulations in each of the last three years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The number of Syrian nationals transferred to third countries because those States are responsible for examining their asylum claims under the Dublin Convention and the later Dublin II and Dublin III Regulations, is shown in the table below.

Year Transfers

2012 22

2013 35

2014 25

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-13/11526/>

Undocumented Workers

Gavin Newlands [10897] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) large and (b) small businesses have been found to have employed illegal migrants between 2010 and 2015.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office does not hold information on the size of businesses found to have employed illegal migrant workers. I can inform you that between the financial years 2010-11 and 2014-15 a total of 8,632 civil penalties were issued to employers who employed illegal migrants. The same employer may have received more than one penalty during this period.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-09/10897/>

Immigrants: Rented Housing

Gavin Newlands [10901] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of her Department's landlords' checking service before the right to rent scheme is rolled out nationally.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Government has carried out an evaluation of phase one of the Right to Rent scheme in Birmingham, Walsall, Sandwell, Dudley and Wolverhampton. This includes assessment of the implementation of the Landlords Checking Service. The findings of the evaluation were published on 20 October and will inform extension of the scheme. The evaluation can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/evaluation-of-the-right-to-rent-scheme>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-09/10901/>

Housing: Refugees

Margaret Ferrier [11272] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what discussions his Department has had with local authorities on their capacity to house refugees.

Reply from Richard Harrington: The Government is working closely with the Local Government Association and local authorities already supporting the expanded resettlement scheme to help identify and promote the range of housing options that can be used by local housing authorities to house vulnerable Syrian refugees.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-12/11272/>

Housing: Refugees

Mark Pritchard [11283] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what funding the Government plans to allocate to local authorities for housing Syrian refugees; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Richard Harrington: Under the expanded Vulnerable Persons scheme, local authorities' costs for the first year of a Syrian refugees resettlement are funded from the Overseas Development Assistance budget. To ensure that local authorities can plan ahead we will also provide additional funding to assist with costs incurred in future years (2 to 5). The Government is working closely with the Local Government Association and individual councils on the details of how funding arrangements for years 2 to 5 will operate.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-12/11283/>

Asylum: Housing

Ian Lucas [10758] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what criteria she applies when determining the selection of areas as asylum dispersal areas.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Asylum seekers are housed according to their individual needs and where there is available and appropriate accommodation. Agreements between the Government and local authorities are voluntary and have been in place since the previous Labour Government legislated for them in 1999.

We review this regularly, working closely with local authorities to ensure that the

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impact of asylum dispersals are considered and acted upon. This includes formal monitoring existing arrangements and the impact on local services and community cohesion.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-09/10758/>

Asylum: Housing

Ian Lucas [11405] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) asylum seekers are dispersed and (b) refugees are resident in each (i) local authority and (ii) parliamentary constituency.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office publish figures on the number of asylum applicants living in dispersed accommodation (under Section 95), by local authority, in the quarterly Immigration Statistics release. The latest release for April-June 2015 is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2015>

Figures on Section 95 support by local authority (including those in dispersed accommodation) are published in table as_16q, in volume 4 of the Asylum data tables:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/455576/asylum4-q2-2015-tabs.ods

We are unable to provide the number of refugees living in each Local Authority and parliamentary constituency, as once refugee status has been granted the individual is not required to keep the Home Office updated on their current location.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-12/11405/>

Asylum: Finance

Diana Johnson [11928] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect on claimants of the reduction in section 95 support for asylum seeker families and children.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Asylum seekers and their dependants receive a package of support from the taxpayer if they are destitute. The support provided usually consists of accommodation, with no charge for rent or utility costs, and a weekly cash allowance. The level of the cash allowance was reduced from 10 August 2015, but the Government remains satisfied that it is sufficient to meet the essential living needs of all supported families.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-14/11928/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Kate Osamor [10914] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons the Government has decided not to impose a time limit on detention of immigrants.

Reply from James Brokenshire: It is not possible to detain someone indefinitely under immigration powers. In order to detain an individual pending removal there must be a reasonable prospect of removal in a reasonable timeframe.

Each case is determined on its own merits. The introduction of an arbitrary time limit could lead to the release of foreign criminals and illegal immigrants even when their removal is imminent.

We always detain people for the least time necessary. Published statistics show that, in the year to June 2015, over 90 per cent of individuals leaving detention

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had been detained for four months or less.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-09/10914/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Kate Osamor [10915] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the longest recorded time is for which a person has been held in immigration detention since 2010.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The longest time a person has been detained in the immigration estate - a foreign criminal who who left detention and was returned to Algeria in Q1 2012 - was 2,319 days.

The individual in this case had accumulated 14 convictions from 32 offences committed between 1998 and 2004, including - but not limited to - convictions for firearms/ shotguns/offensive weapons, drug offences, offences relating to police/courts/prisons and theft. He was continuously non-compliant with the Home Office and Algerian authorities, using a false identity and nationality, which frustrated attempts to obtain travel documentation to facilitate his deportation. His continued non-compliance, deception and a history of absconding led to detention being prolonged.

This information does not include those held in prisons solely under Immigration Act powers.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of people detained in the United Kingdom for immigration purposes, within the Immigration Statistics release on the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-09/10915/>

Detention Centres

Lord Avebury [HL2385] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to publish the short-term holding facility rules.

Reply from Lord Bates: In light of commitments made during the passage of the Immigration Act 2014 to make Rules in respect of short term holding facilities (STHFs), the Government intends to consult on the short term holding facility rules once Stephen Shaw CBE's report into detainee welfare in detention is published. Mr Shaw has completed this review and has submitted his report to the Home Office. His findings are being carefully considered before the report is published by laying it before Parliament, alongside the Government's response to its recommendations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-05/HL2385/>

Detention Centres: Health Services

Paul Blomfield [12015] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he made of the effect of NHS England taking over responsibility for commissioning health services within the immigration detention estate in England on the adequacy of health provision within that estate.

Ben Gummer: In 2014 Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessments were carried out at all Immigration Removal Centres to ascertain the needs of the detainees, which in turn informed the quality and standard of services commissioned by NHS England, from 1 September 2014, to meet those needs.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

National standards have been developed, against which health care providers are measured as part of contract management. A suite of indicators of performance are now in place to support this and to provide national data to demonstrate improvements in service delivery and outcomes.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-15/12015/>

Asylum: Deportation

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2297] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers were deported from the United Kingdom in (1) 1990, (2) 2000, (3) 2010, and (4) 2014, on reaching the age of 18.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Home Office does not keep electronic records on removals going as far back as 2000. Records of removals on the Immigration Database only go back to 2006. In 2010, 132 failed asylum seekers were removed after reaching the age of 18. In 2014, 151 failed asylum seekers were removed after reaching the age of 18.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-16/HL2297/>

Undocumented Migrants: Deportation

Gavin Newlands [10895] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average amount of time taken to deport a person living illegally in the UK was in 2014-15.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Data on the average amount of time taken to deport a foreign national offender from UK in 2014-15 is contained in figures published quarterly by the Home Office link below:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-09/10895/>

Human Trafficking

Kate Osamor [10788] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the performance of (a) the police and (b) her Department in responding to human trafficking; and what steps she is taking to improve the way reports of human trafficking are dealt with.

Reply from Karen Bradley: The Government has set out its plan for responding to human trafficking in the Modern Slavery Strategy. The Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group (IDMG) on Modern Slavery oversees implementation of the strategy, supported by a quarterly Strategy Board, a monthly stakeholder meeting, and a Modern Slavery Threat Group that is chaired by Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer, the National Policing Lead for Modern Slavery. The IDMG's 2015 report will be published shortly and will provide a detailed assessment of the scale and nature of the threat, what the Government has done to respond and our priorities for future work. In addition, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner will each year publish a report on his work and on progress being made on tackling modern slavery. As part of our wider strategy, the Government is committed to strengthening the way in which we identify and refer potential victims of trafficking into the National Referral Mechanism. As part of this, the Home Office is piloting reforms to the National Referral Mechanism in West Yorkshire and the South West.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-09/10788/>

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Human Trafficking

Kate Osamor [10912] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of victims of human trafficking who applied for asylum were successful in their application between 2010 and 2015.

Reply from Karen Bradley: Between 01/01/2010 and 30/09/2015 1,200 applications for asylum were submitted by individuals recognised as victims of human trafficking by the National Referral Mechanism. Of those, 782 individuals (65.2%) were successfully granted some form of leave to enter/remain in the UK as a result of their asylum application.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-09/10912/>

Human Trafficking

Diana Johnson [11424] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government's overseas posts are taking to warn women applying for entry to the UK about the dangers of sex trafficking and exploitation.

Reply from James Brokenshire: All Entry Clearance Officers undertake mandatory modern slavery training which covers sex trafficking and exploitation, and advises on the particular threats faced by women.

We are determined to work with key source countries to try to prevent individuals from becoming victims in the first place and are working through international organisations, such as the EU, UN and the Santa Marta group, to highlight the issue of modern slavery and create a global consensus that action must be taken to end modern slavery.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-12/11424/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Caroline Lucas (561) Family reunification for refugees – That this House notes that refugees have a legal right under UK and international law to be reunited with their families; further notes that refugees seeking reunion are often faced with extreme levels of stress and anxiety, which are only worsened by separation and isolation from their loved ones who remain frequently in desperate and dangerous circumstances overseas; recognises that family reunification provides a safe and legal route of entry to the UK at a time of deepening concern that the Government is failing to respond appropriately to the refugee crisis by not taking-in a fair and proportionate share of refugees, both from within the EU and outside; notes that reports from the British Red Cross find that family reunion cases are not straightforward, that only those refugees with specialist legal support are successful in their applications, and that the costs are unaffordable for the vast majority of refugees; is concerned that reunification cases are inaccurately and unfairly treated as straightforward immigration cases; calls for the Government to reform and widen the definition of family under the reunion rules so that it includes children over 18 years of age, siblings, grandparents and adopted children, and allows for adults abroad to be reunited with children in the UK; urges the Government to find innovative and flexible ways for family members to apply for reunion overseas so that they are not put in harm's way; and further calls for the Government to reinstate legal aid for family reunion cases as a matter of urgency.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/561>

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

Making asylum fingerprinting rights compliant

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2015/making-asylum-fingerprinting-rights-compliant>

New Publication

Destitute and asylum-seeking women in the West Midlands: Immigration issues and charity support related to housing and subsidy

http://www.hope-projects.org.uk/PDFs/Destitute_and_asylum-seeking_women_in_the_West_Midlands.pdf

News

SNP accuses UK Ministers of "missed opportunity" to do right thing on Syrian refugee crisis

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/13882466.SNP_accuses_UK_Ministers_of_missed_opportunity_to_do_right_thing_on_Syrian_refugee_crisis

PM says bishops wrong on refugees but announces aim of 1000 Syrians in UK by Christmas

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/13879682.PM_says_bishops_wrong_on_refugees_but_announces_aim_of_1000_Syrians_in_UK_by_Christmas/

David Cameron rebukes Church of England bishops over refugee letter

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/oct/19/david-cameron-rebukes-church-of-england-bishops-over-refugee-letter>

EU scheme for 160,000 refugees finds places for less than a thousand

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/11952284/EU-scheme-for-160000-refugees-finds-places-for-less-than-a-thousand.html>

Church of England to hand mansion over to refugees

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11948641/Church-of-England-to-hand-mansion-over-to-refugees.html>

Right to Rent: Controversial new checks on tenants' immigration status to be rolled out despite major concerns

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/right-to-rent-controversial-new-checks-on-tenants-immigration-status-to-be-rolled-out-despite-major-a6701686.html>

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Community Relations

UK Parliament Debate

Black History Month

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm151021/halltext/151021h0001.htm#15102161000003>

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Equality

Press Release

Diversity profiles published to encourage police forces to become more representative

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/diversity-profiles-published-to-encourage-police-forces-to-become-more-representative>

New Publication

Police officer diversity (England and Wales)

<https://www.police.uk/city-of-london/cp/performance/diversity/>

News

Theresa May condemns lack of diversity in police forces

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34600290>

Theresa May: police forces are 'too white'

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/oct/21/theresa-may-criticises-police-chief-bernard-hogan-howe-stop-search-race-record>

Police chief with no black officers open to positive discrimination

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/oct/22/police-chief-no-black-officers-open-positive-discrimination>

Police forces much whiter than the communities they serve, analysis finds

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/oct/22/police-forces-ethnic-makeup-population-figures>

What is UK police recruitment like for ethnic minorities?

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/oct/22/what-is-uk-police-recruitment-like-for-ethnic-minorities>

The four charts that expose the 'incredible' lack of diversity in Britain's police

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/the-four-charts-that-expose-the-incredible-lack-of-diversity-in-britains-police-force-a6704161.html>

Theresa May attacks lack of black police officers

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3283806/Theresa-May-odds-police-supremo-stop-search.html>

Football Association to invest £1.4m to develop more ethnic minority coaches

<http://www.theguardian.com/football/2015/oct/21/football-association-invest-ethnic-minority-coaches>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions

Recruitment: Discrimination

Greg Mulholland [11627] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of anonymising job applications in tackling discrimination in the jobs market.

Reply from Priti Patel: The department has made no specific assessment of the effectiveness of anonymising job applications in tackling discrimination in the jobs market.

Early discussions are currently taking place between DWP and large employers through employer roundtables about the scope for reforming recruitment policy through anonymised applications.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-13/11627/>

Schools: Islam

Stephen Timms [11927] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent advice she has given to schools on tackling Islamophobia.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Department for Education's policy is to tackle all forms of discrimination, extremism, hate crime and bullying. All schools are required to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faith and beliefs. Our guidance published in November 2014 says that British values include accepting that others of different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour. The guidance can be found online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-fundamental-british-values-through-smsc>.

All publicly funded schools are required to promote community cohesion and teach a broad and balanced curriculum. The curriculum provides many opportunities to foster tolerance and understanding. As part of the history curriculum, pupils could learn about different cultures, and about how different groups have contributed to the development of Britain. The citizenship programme of study sets out a requirement for pupils to be taught about 'the diverse national, regional, religious, and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding'. PSHE can teach young people about the rights and responsibilities of living in a diverse community and how to respect others.

All forms of bullying are unacceptable and all schools are required to have in place a behaviour policy with measures to tackle bullying and they are held to account by Ofsted. Inspectors will look at records and analysis of bullying, discriminatory and prejudicial behaviour, either directly or indirectly, including racist, disability and homophobic bullying, use of derogatory language and racist incidents.

We have made clear in advice to schools that where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it should be investigated and acted on. If the misbehaviour could be criminal or poses a serious threat to a member of the public, the police should always be informed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-14/11927/>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination (continued) **New Publication**

Eurobarometer on Discrimination 2015: General perceptions, opinions on policy measures and awareness of rights

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/factsheet_eurobarometer_fundamental_rights_2015.pdf

News

Sikh lives matter in Britain too — whether Sikh or Muslim, racists don't discriminate

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11410809/Sikh-lives-matter-in-Britain-too-whether-Sikh-or-Muslim-racists-dont-discriminate.html>

Scots Muslim pupils suffer Islamophobic abuse

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/13890827.Scots_Muslim_pupils_suffer_Islamophobic_abuse/

We must beware complacency about prejudice in schools

http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/13890798.We_must_beware_complacency_about_prejudice_in_schools/

Beyond the shocking videos, Islamophobia is a daily reality for many British Muslims

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/oct/22/shocking-videos-islamophobia-abuses-prejudice>

The fight against Islamophobia is going backwards

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/oct/19/islamophobia-government-engagement-muslims-anti-hatred-taskforce>

Want to create more extremists? Ignore the Islamophobia people like me face every day

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/want-to-create-more-extremists-ignore-the-islamophobia-people-like-me-face-every-day-a6705556.html>

Lengthy jail term for Angus man who yelled racist and religious abuse at police

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/local/angus-the-mearns/lengthy-jail-term-for-angus-man-who-yelled-racist-and-religious-abuse-at-police-1.906387>

'Staff and pupils used anti-Semitic abuse' at 'Trojan horse' link academy

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3285133/Staff-pupils-used-anti-Semitic-abuse-Trojan-horse-link-academy.html>

It's not only Muslims who are the victims of 'racialised' Islamophobia in Scotland

<http://www.thenational.scot/news/its-not-only-muslims-who-are-the-victims-of-racialised-islamophobia-in-scotland.8415>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

News

Minister Humza Yousaf the only Scot on UK Asian power list

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/13883895.Minister_Humza_Yousaf_the_only_Scot_on_UK_Asian_power_list/

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Other UK Parliament and Government

House of Commons Procedure Committee

Government proposals for English votes for English laws Standing Orders: interim report

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmproced/410/410.pdf>

Press Release

FGM mandatory reporting duty comes into force

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fgm-mandatory-reporting-duty-comes-into-force>

New Publication

English Votes for English Laws: An Explanatory Guide to Proposals

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/441848/English_votes_for_English_laws_explanatory_guide.pdf

News

Moderate Muslims must 'own' extremism, says Cameron

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/moderate-muslims-must-own-extremism-says-cameron-1-3921752#axzz3p5xk4WYs>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Burial and Cremation Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/92664.aspx>

Community Justice Bill

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

Criminal Justice Bill

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

Bills in Progress **Scottish Parliament** (continued)

Education Bill

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

Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/90125.aspx>

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>

Committee Stage, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmpublic/immigration/151020/am/151020s01.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmpublic/immigration/151020/pm/151020s01.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmpublic/immigration/151022/am/151022s01.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmpublic/immigration/151022/pm/151022s01.htm>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0074/amend/psc0742010m.1-4.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0074/amend/psc0742210m.1-7.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>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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

Human Rights Inquiry (closing date 18 November 2015)

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

Tomorrow's BBC (closing date 5 November 2015)

<https://consultations.external.bbc.co.uk/bbc/future-ideas>

Shaping the work of your Human Rights Commission (closing date 20 November 2015)

<http://scottishhumanrights.com/application/resources/documents/SP%20Consultation%20Document.docx>

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

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

**** Burial and Cremation Bill** (Closing date 4 December 2015)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_LocalGovernmentandRegenerationCommittee/Inquiries/CfE.pdf

Charity Trustee Guidance (closing date 18 December 2015)

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

Scotland's Census 2021 – Topic Consultation (closing date 15 January 2016)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0048/00487152.pdf>

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>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Fairer Scotland Engagement Fund

Deadline for applications extended to 16 November 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>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** 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

**** this week!**

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 / 0141 548 8047.

**** this week!**

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.

**** Thriving or surviving?**

30 October 2015 in Glasgow (three sessions: 11.00-12.30, 1.00 – 2.30, 3.00 – 4.30)

Bemis Scotland and 4Children consultation workshop to give your views on what it is like to be a parent or carer. For information contact Liz McConnell liz.mcconnell@bemis.org.uk or see <http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/event/thriving-or-surviving-consultation/>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Fundraising Information Event

3 November 2015 in Glasgow (6.00 – 8.00)

Scottish Refugee Council event to share ideas for organising events or challenges to raise funds to support their work with refugees in Scotland. For information contact funding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/events/2786_fundraising_information_event

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 / 0141 548 8047.

Scotland Welcomes Refugees

4 November 2015 in Glasgow (11.00)

Positive Action in Housing AGM and conference to explore pioneering and practical grassroots initiatives designed to welcome those from refugee communities to this country. For information contact 0141 353 2220 / home@paih.org

**** The Third Sector - Assessing The Risks, Creating Solutions**

5 November 2015 in Edinburgh (8.30 – 12.30)

Conference looking at at some of the key areas of legal risk facing organisations in Scotland's third sector. For information see <http://www.burnesspaull.com/seminars/third-sector-assessing-risks-creating-solutions> or contact Elaine Creamer on 0131 473 6181 / elaine.creamer@burnesspaull.com

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 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 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 / 0141 548 8047.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** BEMIS at Skills Scotland**

18 November 2015 in Glasgow (5.15)

BEMIS information session about supporting children with their career and learning choices. For information contact Liz McConnell liz.mcconnell@bemis.org.uk or Patricia Crook patricia.crook@sds.co.uk or see <http://bemis.org.uk/events/1158-2/>

A 'Scottish Approach' to race equality?

18 November 2015 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 5.30)

Event to stock of approaches to race equality in Scotland and look forwards as a new Framework for Race Equality in Scotland is developed. For information see <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/625/273/A-Scottish-Approach-to-race-equality.html> or contact Nasar Meer nasar.meer@strath.ac.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/>

Useful Links (continued)

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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