

## 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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## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament Questions

#### Immigration: Applications

**Roger Mullin** [12275] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to ensure that assessments of applications for leave to remain in the UK provide sufficient personal consideration to meet the individual needs of applicants.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Immigration Rules provide designated routes through which individuals can choose to apply for leave to remain in the UK depending on their circumstances. The requirements of each route are set out in published guidance. It is for individuals to raise any grounds that they wish to be considered and provide any supporting evidence regarding their personal circumstances. Applications for leave to remain in the UK are considered on a case-by-case basis, including any claims about personal issues, in accordance with the relevant Immigration Rules and the Secretary of State's published guidance on the application of these.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-19/12275/>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Visas: Dependants

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

**Caroline Flint** [12547] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for Adult Dependent Relative visas were refused in (a) 2008, (b) 2009, (c) 2010, (d) 2011, (e) 2012, (f) 2013 and (g) 2014.

**Caroline Flint** [12548] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people entered the UK on an Adult Dependent Relative visa in (a) 2008, (b) 2009, (c) 2010, (d) 2011, (e) 2012, (f) 2013 and (g) 2014.

**Caroline Flint** [12544] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of people who left the UK as a result of failing to obtain an Adult Dependent Relative visa for a relative in (a) 2008, (b) 2009, (c) 2010, (d) 2011, (e) 2012, (f) 2013 and (g) 2014.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The requested information is not available. Applications from adult dependent relatives of a British Citizen or a settled person in the UK are included in the category 'Family: Other (for immediate settlement)' in the published entry clearance visa tables but cannot be identified separately. The latest published figures for the 'Family: Other (for immediate settlement)' category are given in the table below.

Entry clearance visa applications and resolution: Family: Other (for immediate settlement)							Withdrawn or lapsed
Year	Applications	Resolved	Granted	%	Refused	%	
2008	3,288	3,336	1,307	39%	1,987	60%	42
2009	2,619	2,596	1,148	44%	1,412	54%	36
2010	2,205	2,509	1,258	50%	1,224	49%	27
2011	1,837	1,857	1,109	60%	728	39%	20
2012	1,725	1,915	845	44%	1,045	55%	25
2013	1,218	1,563	488	31%	1,061	68%	14
2014	1,001	1,277	377	30%	881	69%	19

The Home Office publishes quarterly statistics on entry clearance visa applications and resolutions by category in table vi\_01\_q (Entry clearance visas tables volume 1) within the Immigration Statistics release. The published statistics do not distinguish between applications made and decided under the family Immigration Rules in force before and from 9 July 2012. Grants and other case resolutions do not necessarily correspond to an application made in the same period.

A copy of the latest release, "Immigration Statistics April to June 2015", is available from the Library of the House and from

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

Information on passenger arrivals does not separately identify adult dependent relatives. Information on emigration from the UK is the responsibility of the Office for National Statistics.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-20/12547/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-20/12548/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-20/12544/>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Immigrants: Dependants

**Seema Malhotra** [13308] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of allowing parents over the age of 65 to emigrate to the UK as adult dependants.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The family Immigration Rules implemented in July 2012 require non-European Economic Area national adult dependants, including parents and grandparents, to demonstrate that they require a level of long-term personal care that can only be provided in the UK by their sponsor here. The route now provides for those most in need of care, but not for those who would simply prefer to live in the UK, given the significant NHS and social care costs to which these cases can give rise. Adult relatives can continue to visit a family member in the UK for up to six months but must return home at the end of their visit.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-26/13308/>

### Immigration: Children

**Lord Falconer of Thorton** [HL2804] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many immigration and asylum cases in the years 2013–14 and 2014–15 have involved children as claimants in their own right; of those, how many received funding for legal help or representation; and in what percentage of these cases was the child represented.

**Reply from Lord Faulks:** The First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) received 15,134 in 2013-14 and 13,981 appeals in 2014-15 where the appellant stated they were below the age of 18 when their appeal was lodged.

Data on the number of child appellants who are in receipt of funding are not held centrally by HMCTS.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-20/HL2804/>

### Immigration: Appeals

**Lorde Lester of Herne Hill** [HL2703] To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they give to first-tier tribunals about what is a reasonable time to hear and determine asylum and immigration appeals.

**Reply from Lord Faulks:** Guidance is not given to the First-tier Tribunals about what is a reasonable time to hear and determine asylum and immigration appeals. The Tribunal Procedure (First-tier Tribunal) (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) Rules 2014 provide an overriding objective for the Tribunal to deal with cases fairly and justly including avoiding delay, so far as is compatible with proper consideration of the issues.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-19/HL2703/>

### Undocumented Migrants

**Andrew Percy** [13302] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the success of her Department's policies in supporting the UK Border Force to tackle illegal immigration into the UK.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Ensuring the security of the UK's borders and tackling illegal immigration is a priority for the Government. We keep all policies under review to ensure effectiveness.

The new Immigration Bill contains measures designed to reform the UK's immigration system, to prevent abuse and the flouting of the law by people who should not be here. The Bill will help secure the border, support working people,

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

clamp down on illegal immigration and protect our public services, and tackle the exploitation of low-skilled workers and increase sanctions for those involved in such practices.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-26/13302/>

### Refugees: Visas

**Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead** [HL3024] To ask Her Majesty's Government what has been their response to calls from UNICEF for the United Kingdom to allow refugees to apply for humanitarian visas in countries of origin and transit at United Kingdom embassies.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** There is no provision in our Immigration Rules for someone to be given permission to travel to the UK to seek asylum or humanitarian protection and Her Majesty's Government has no plans to extend the Immigration Rules to allow refugees to apply for humanitarian visas at any UK embassies.

We are focusing our efforts on resettling vulnerable people in need of international protection from the region, including 20,000 Syrians by the end of the Parliament. This provides refugees with a direct and safe route to the UK and uses established UNHCR processes. This is of course in addition to the £1.12 billion in humanitarian aid provided by the UK for those most in need in the region – more than any other country in the world except the United States.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-26/HL3024/>

### Refugees: Employment

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL2818] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the current migration situation, they will make changes to allow refugees to work in the United Kingdom immediately, or within six months, of arrival, in order to allow refugees to contribute to the British economy, and reduce pressure on refugees facing destitution.

### Refugees: Finance

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL2819] To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial support is available specifically for refugees who have been granted asylum in the United Kingdom, and are therefore ineligible for the weekly allowance for asylum seekers.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** Those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection, including those resettled under our three resettlement schemes, are entitled to work without restriction and have full access to the mainstream benefits system on the same terms as British citizens and other permanent residents in the UK. Asylum seekers are only permitted to work in the UK if their asylum claim has been outstanding for more than 12 months, providing the delay is not of their making. Employment is restricted to jobs on the shortage occupations list. We have no plans to reduce the time asylum seekers have to wait to take up employment.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-20/HL2818/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-20/HL2819/>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Refugees: Syria

**Alistair Carmichael** [11150] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Syrian refugees arrived in the UK through the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme in September 2015.

**Reply from Richard Harrington:** Since the first arrivals in March 2014 to the end of June 2015, 216 people were relocated to the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement scheme. Our statistics will be published quarterly and we will not be giving a running commentary on numbers. Our prime concern is the safety and protection of these very vulnerable people as they arrive in this country. We believe that the best way to protect their privacy and ensure their recovery and integration is to limit the amount of information about them that we make publicly available. The Prime Minister has said that we want to see 1,000 Syrian refugees brought to the UK by Christmas. The Government is working closely with local authorities, international delivery partners and the voluntary sector, putting in place the plans and structures to deliver this and ensuring the system is scaled up in a way that protects the interests of all concerned.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-09/11150/>

### Refugees: Syria

**Nicholas Brown** [13823] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether the Office for National Statistics plans to include in quarterly migration figures the number of Syrian refugees resettled in the UK under the Government's relocation scheme.

**Reply from Rob Wilson:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am replying to your Parliamentary Question asking whether the Office for National Statistics plans to include in quarterly migration figures the number of Syrian refugees resettled in the UK under the Government's relocation scheme (13823).

On 7 September the Prime Minister announced an expansion of the existing Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme, through which the UK are expected to resettle 20,000 Syrians in need of protection over the next 5 years. The Home Office already publish the number of refugees resettled under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme in their quarterly Immigration Statistics release. This data can be found in Table as\_19\_q, 'Refugees (and others) resettled, including dependants by country of nationality', in the asylum volume 4 tables

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/455576/asylum4-q2-2015-tabs.ods](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/455576/asylum4-q2-2015-tabs.ods).

Following the expansion of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme, these figures will appear in the year ending December 2015 dataset, which is published in February 2016. At present, the ONS obtains data from the Home Office on principal applicant asylum seekers and their dependants, in order to produce long-term international migration (LTIM) estimates. The ONS are working with the Home Office to also include the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme figures within the LTIM estimates. The first LTIM data to include figures from the expanded resettlement scheme will be published in May 2016 and cover the year ending December 2015. Given that the Home Office bulletin contains these figures, ONS will not separately identify the Syrian refugees in the LTIM data. However, it will signpost users to the Home Office bulletin.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-28/13823/>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Refugees: Syria

**Douglas Carswell** [13828] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether the benefits cap applies to Syrian migrants.

**Reply from Justin Tomlinson:** Syrians entering the UK under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme are able to work and have access to some benefits on arrival. Like other claimants they will be subject to the benefit cap.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-28/13828/>

### Asylum

**Andrew Smith** [10811] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the current average time taken is to process asylum applications from the point of initial screening interview to

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The current average time to process an asylum claim is 80 days, from the date of the screening interview to the date the substantive asylum interview has been concluded. This is down from a peak of 142 days in 2008.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-09/10811/>

### Asylum: Appeals

**Lord Green of Deddington** [HL2964] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 19 October (HL2532), which specific elements of European law require the right to challenge an adverse asylum decision via an effective remedy; and whether the nature of such a remedy is prescribed.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** Article 39 of the Asylum Procedures Directive requires that EU member states must provide an effective remedy before a Court or Tribunal in respect of a decision taken on a person's asylum application.

The nature of the remedy is not prescribed beyond requiring it to be before a Court or Tribunal.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-23/HL2964/>

### Asylum: LGBT People

**Lord Scriven** [HL2850] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the action plan sent to the National Asylum Stakeholder Forum following the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report in 2014 on asylum on grounds of sexual orientation has now been agreed and implemented in full.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** Following publication of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report last year and in consultation with key partners, UKVI produced and agreed an LGBTI 'Action Plan' to facilitate further improvements in the handling and management of asylum claims brought on the basis of sexual identity issues and to improve the training and guidance given to staff.

The key inspection recommendations have been reflected in this plan, specifically improving training and guidance to decision makers, improving claim recording mechanisms, ensuring policy compliance, and ensuring a consistent approach to explicit material and dealing with sexually explicit questioning. We continue to work with our partners in developing these strategies to ensure full implementation of the Chief Inspector's recommendations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-21/HL2850/>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Asylum: Children

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Lord Alton of Liverpool** [HL2689] To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have about the claim by the government of Italy that, of the 13,026 children who arrived unaccompanied in Italy in 2014, 3,707 disappeared after arriving; what assessment they have made of where those children are; and what consideration they are giving to the request of Save the Children that the United Kingdom should provide refuge for 3,000 unaccompanied children.

**Lord Alton of Liverpool** [HL2690] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with other European Union member states about children who have arrived in Europe unaccompanied or separated from family members; what assessment they have made of the vulnerability of such children; and what they are doing to ensure that those children are prioritised for security and shelter.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The UK recognises the need to provide protection to those fleeing persecution. However, it is an accepted principle that asylum seekers should seek protection in the first safe country they reach. In line with their international obligations, EU Member States have a responsibility to register and process all asylum claims made on their territory, including those made by unaccompanied children. This extends to providing adequate support and accommodation.

The Government has been consistently clear that we do not agree with the relocation of asylum seekers between Member States. We believe it will act as a pull factor, and that it does not address the cause of the problem but simply moves it around the EU. Making an exception for children makes little sense as they are on the territory of Member States who have duties to protect and support them.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-19/HL2689/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-19/HL2690/>

### Immigrants: Detainees

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Baroness Hamwee** [HL2668] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recommendation by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration in the report of the inquiry into the Use of Immigration Detention in the United Kingdom published in March 2015 that the wording of the Government's policy on the detention of individuals with mental illnesses should be changed to that which was in place before August 2010.

**Baroness Hamwee** [HL2669] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent to which medical professionals are using the definition of torture as defined in *R (EO & Ors) v SSHD* [2013] EWHC 1236 (Admin) when completing Rule 35 reports in respect of persons in immigration detention.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** Stephen Shaw CBE, the former Prisons and Probation Ombudsman for England and Wales, has recently submitted his review into the welfare of vulnerable immigration detainees, including those with mental health difficulties and those who claim to have been victims of torture. He has recently submitted his report to Ministers at the Home Office and Department of Health. His findings are being carefully considered. The report will be published in due course by laying it before Parliament, alongside the Government's response to the recommendations.

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Doctors working in immigration removal centres have been reminded of the need to use the definition of torture set out in the case of R (EO & Ors) v SSHD [2013] EWHC 1236 (Admin) when completing reports under Rule 35(3) of the Detention Centre Rules 2001.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-15/HL2668/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-15/HL2669/>

### **Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre: Pregnant Women**

**Kate Osamor** [13393] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many pregnant women are detained at Yarl's Wood.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Although we are now recording management information on the number of women who have disclosed their pregnancy to the Home Office, collection of data about the detention of pregnant women will be limited. We will not necessarily be aware that a woman is pregnant unless she chooses to make this known to us and a woman may not know herself that she is pregnant when she enters detention. It may not always be appropriate for healthcare professionals to disclose information that the patient has asked not to be disclosed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-26/13393/>

## Press Releases

### **Scotland ready to welcome Syrian refugees**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Scotland-ready-to-welcome-Syrian-refugees-1f04.aspx>

### **State of Play: Measures to Address the Refugee Crisis**

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-15-5958\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5958_en.htm?locale=en)

## New Publication

### **Trajectory and transience: Understanding and addressing the pressures of migration on communities**

[http://www.ippr.org/files/publications/pdf/trajectory-and-transience\\_Nov2015.pdf?noredirect=1](http://www.ippr.org/files/publications/pdf/trajectory-and-transience_Nov2015.pdf?noredirect=1)

## News

### **Scotland to host 'one third of refugees'**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4606367.ece>

### **Scotland set to welcome about 350 Syrian refugees before Christmas**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-34733662>

### **Scotland to take in 300 refugees before Christmas**

<http://beta.scotsman.com/news/politics/scotland-to-take-in-300-refugees-before-christmas-1-3938957>



# Immigration and Asylum

## News (continued)

**Hundreds of Syrian refugees expected in Scotland before end of year**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/hundreds-of-syrian-refugees-expected-in-scotland-before-end-of-year-1.908889>

**Scotland to take one-third of Syrian refugees arriving before Christmas**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/05/scotland-to-take-one-third-of-syrian-refugees-arriving-before-christmas>

**Syrian refugees to be given sanctuary on picturesque Scots island**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/13931591.Syrian\\_refugees\\_to\\_be\\_give\\_n\\_sanctuary\\_on\\_picturesque\\_Scots\\_island/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/13931591.Syrian_refugees_to_be_give_n_sanctuary_on_picturesque_Scots_island/)

**Council pleads for refugees to settle in Scotland away from glare of publicity**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/13948828.Council\\_pleads\\_for\\_refugees\\_to\\_settle\\_in\\_Scotland\\_away\\_from\\_glare\\_of\\_publicity/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/13948828.Council_pleads_for_refugees_to_settle_in_Scotland_away_from_glare_of_publicity/)

**Refugees found wandering M8 in Glasgow after spending days in lorries to get to UK**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/13949310.Refugees\\_found\\_wandering\\_M8\\_in\\_Glasgow\\_after\\_spending\\_days\\_in\\_lorries\\_to\\_get\\_to\\_UK/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/13949310.Refugees_found_wandering_M8_in_Glasgow_after_spending_days_in_lorries_to_get_to_UK/)

**UN warns Cameron not to turn his back on refugees as winter nears**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/07/europe-refugees-david-cameron-united-nations-warning>

**UN expects Europe's refugee flow to top one million in 2015**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/world\\_news/13947730.UN\\_expects\\_Europe\\_s\\_refugee\\_flow\\_to\\_top\\_one\\_million\\_in\\_2015/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/world_news/13947730.UN_expects_Europe_s_refugee_flow_to_top_one_million_in_2015/)

**Another 3 million refugees and migrants will arrive in Europe in 2016, EU says**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/eu-expecting-another-3-million-refugees-migrants-before-end-of-2016-a6722096.html>

**Migration crisis will see three million people arrive in EU by end of 2017**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/europe/article4605457.ece>

**Europe's migrant crisis likely to last for 20 years, says UK government minister**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/11977254/Warning-from-Justine-Greening-comes-as-new-EU-figures-say-three-million-migrants-could-arrive-in-next-two-years.html>

**Concern at ongoing use of temporary solutions to house people seeking protection in UK**

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/2790\\_concern\\_at\\_ongoing\\_use\\_of\\_temporary\\_solutions\\_to\\_house\\_people\\_seeking\\_protection\\_in\\_uk](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2790_concern_at_ongoing_use_of_temporary_solutions_to_house_people_seeking_protection_in_uk)

**Catholic church leader condemns 'slow' response to refugee crisis**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/04/catholic-church-leader-condemns-slow-response-to-refugee-crisis>

**Converts or not, letting them in is the Christian thing to do**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2015/nov/05/converts-or-not-letting-them-in-is-the-christian-thing-to-do>

## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

#### **Diane Abbott: economic migrants and refugees deserve equal sympathy**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/05/diane-abbott-refugees-economic-migrants-deserve-equal-sympathy>

#### **Immigration can help to ease our future pensions crisis**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/13931580.Immigration\\_can\\_help\\_to\\_ease\\_our\\_future\\_pensions\\_crisis/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/13931580.Immigration_can_help_to_ease_our_future_pensions_crisis/)

#### **Charity uses conference to highlight plight of refugees**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/13945720.Charity\\_uses\\_conference\\_to\\_highlight\\_plight\\_of\\_refugees/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/13945720.Charity_uses_conference_to_highlight_plight_of_refugees/)

#### **British Indians are a remarkable story of success**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/india/11981677/British-Indians-a-remarkable-story-of-success.html>

#### **For immigration to work, migrants should be encouraged to settle**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11972803/For-immigration-to-work-migrants-should-be-encouraged-to-settle.html>

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## Community Relations

### UK Parliament Questions

#### **Islam**

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch:** To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, as part of their counter-extremism strategy, they will encourage a national debate about the nature of Islam, including whether the Muslim tenet of abrogation remains valid today.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport and Home Office (Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon):** My Lords, the Government's approach and strategy to countering extremism is firmly based on further strengthening our relationships and work with the communities and organisations across the United Kingdom and together confronting, challenging and disrupting extremism in all its ugly guises.

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch:** ... some noble Lords may not be aware that abrogation means that, where there is contradiction in the Koran, its later and more violent verses outweigh its admirably peaceful early texts. Is the noble Lord aware that, together with some Koranic scholars, I have written a short summary of Islam, which I will send him, and that we are asking the *Guardian* newspaper to hold an open debate as to its accuracy? Secondly, given the seriousness of our domestic situation, could not the Government themselves sponsor a council of our Muslim leaders in which they could clarify the modern meaning of their religion and cast the extremists out of Islam?

**Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Lords, I look forward to receiving the noble Lord's summary of the great religion of Islam. Perhaps during his reflection he will also have noted that, with the exception of one verse in the holy Koran, every verse starts with the words: "In the name of God, the gracious, most merciful", which underlines the true sentiments and principle of that religion. The Government have very much been engaging in debate across Muslim communities. Indeed, the Prime Minister recently launched an engagement forum

## Community Relations

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

where he is meeting with people of all denominations from across the Muslim community and beyond to ensure that we confront extremism, as I said earlier, in all its ugly guises.

**Lord Lamont of Lerwick:** My Lords, does the Minister agree that while it is appropriate for the Government to sponsor good community relations and to promote British values in citizenship courses and in schools, and while it is right that civil society should debate the merits, perhaps, of each religion, surely it would be totally inappropriate for the state to be involved, as the noble Lord, Lord Pearson, has suggested, in a critique of one of the world's great religions, which is followed by 1.2 billion people throughout the world?

**Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Suffice it to say that I totally agree with my noble friend.

**Baroness Hussein-Ece:** My Lords, does the noble Lord think it is helpful or constructive that any religious text—be it from the Koran, the Old Testament or even the Hebrew scriptures; taken and quoted selectively—should be used in a negative, divisive and political way to put whole communities on trial?

**Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** I totally agree with the noble Baroness. No community should be on trial in our great country. There are extremists of every guise who take noble faiths and seek to hijack them. That is the challenge that we face within Islam today, but I am pleased to say that it is the Muslim communities of Britain and beyond who are at the forefront of challenging that.

**Lord Ahmed:** My Lords, what are the Government's views of the following comments: "Most Nigerians are generally bad people"; "Jewish bankers financed Hitler"; "Islam is a cancer"? What should be our response to a political party that holds such views?

**Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The views that the noble Lord has just articulated, which he is reporting to the House, are abhorrent, and I think I speak for the whole House.

**Baroness Mobarik:** My Lords, first, I was not aware that the noble Lord, Lord Pearson, was a scholar of Islamic theology. I do not profess to have any such expertise, but I am concerned that such a debate as he advocates could be divisive and further exacerbate the current rise in Islamophobia. I, like the vast majority of the 1.6 billion Muslims around the world, was taught that peace, compassion and obeying the law of the land are fundamental. To me, that is the nature of Islam. Does my noble friend the Minister agree that such a debate would be unhelpful for interfaith relations and social cohesion?

**Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** I agree with my noble friend. This Government, and indeed the previous coalition Government, have built on the previous opposition Governments' work in bringing communities together. It is about fighting hate in every guise in which it is found. I am therefore delighted that in October the Prime Minister himself announced—I am sure many noble Lords followed it—that, from April 2016, along with anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim crime will be recorded as a specific hate crime by all 43 police forces across England and Wales.

**The Lord Bishop of Sheffield:** My Lords, I strongly agree with the question raised by the previous speaker and the Minister's reply. Does the Minister agree that encouraging education and dialogue across a broad front should be a key part of our strategy, including: encouraging relationships not only between the faith communities but between all the faith communities and civil society; encouraging agencies such as the Islamic Society of Britain—which does such powerful good work in education in schools and other areas; raising the levels of religious literacy at all levels; further analysis of why people of faith do, in a minority of cases, resort to violence; and building on the excellent work of the noble Lord, Lord Sacks, in his recent book *Not in God's Name*?

**Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The right reverend Prelate raises a very important issue about education. I think that education is the cornerstone of all

## Community Relations

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

progressive societies. The Near Neighbours scheme, for example, run by the Church of England, is a great scheme which brings communities together, irrespective of faith and denomination, to ensure that good and sensible values—the prevailing values; we often talk about British values but ultimately they are the human values we all share—prevail in a modern, progressive Britain.

**Lord Rosser:** The Minister made reference to a comment by the Prime Minister. Does the Minister accept that the Prime Minister made a comment about sections of the Muslim community quietly condoning extremism, and that that risks causing division and fuelling resentment which will be counterproductive to the Government's recently published counter-extremism strategy, which quite rightly focuses on building cohesive communities?

**Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** I am sure the noble Lord has read the strategy; its foreword is by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is the one leading on this strategy of countering extremism. It is about bringing together people of all communities, of all faiths and none, to ensure that we can tackle extremism in all its ugly guises—whether it is those who seek to hijack a noble religion, as we currently find in the religion of Islam, or those who use race and religion to divide society. We must unite against all such extremism.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/151105-0001.htm#15110533000331>

## News

**The integrated school that could teach a divided town to live together**

<http://www.theguardian.com/news/2015/nov/05/integrated-school-waterford-academy-oldham>

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## Equality

### New Publication

**equality:online video: Article 14 European Convention on Human Rights**

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/devolved-authorities/commission-scotland/video-resources-commission-scotland/equality-online-episode-2>

## News

**SNP demands powers to make Scotland a 'world leader' on equality**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/snp-demands-powers-to-make-scotland-a-world-leader-on-equality-1.909188>

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# Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

## UK Parliament Questions

### Anti-Semitism

7. **John Mann:** What assessment he has made of the level of anti-Semitism in Scotland. [901903]

**Reply from the Secretary of State for Scotland (David Mundell):** Recorded incidents of anti-Semitism in Scotland are thankfully low, but I am not complacent. I echo the Prime Minister's view that tackling anti-Semitism goes right to the heart of what we stand for as a country. Whatever our politics and whatever our faith, we must seek to defeat it.

**John Mann:** Last week, 15 Scottish MPs attended a briefing by the all-party parliamentary group against antisemitism. Given the good will that clearly exists, will the Secretary of State talk to the Scottish Government about how the system of state-funded security in Jewish schools in England could be emulated in Glasgow?

**Reply from David Mundell:** I certainly will, and I am very happy to do so. I should also say to the hon. Gentleman that, despite the many robust exchanges that we have in the Chamber, all MPs from Scotland are united in the view that we cannot tolerate anti-Semitism.

**Kirsten Oswald:** The Secretary of State will know that, in my constituency, I represent Scotland's largest Jewish community. At the briefing that was mentioned by the hon. Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann), I was pleased to hear about the very good inter-community relations and positive support from Police Scotland that exist in my area. Will the Secretary of State join me in applauding our Scottish Jewish communities for their great contributions to our country, and in deploring anti-Semitism and discrimination wherever they occur?

**Reply from David Mundell:** Absolutely, and I commend the hon. Lady for the extent to which, during her short time as a Member of Parliament, she has already engaged with that important Jewish community in Scotland. I also commend the work of the Scottish Government in that regard. As I said earlier, this is a matter on which we are all united, supporting Jewish communities and not accepting anti-Semitism.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm151104/debtext/151104-0001.htm#15110440000025>

### Hate Crime

**Fiona Bruce** [12800] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how her Department plans to work in partnership with (a) communities and (b) other Government departments on tackling hate crimes and challenging extremism which leads to violence.

**Reply from Karen Bradley:** The Government's Counter-Extremism Strategy was published on 19 October. This sets out how all parts of government will work together to tackle all forms of extremism.

To defeat extremism, we must work in partnership with communities. The strategy sets out how we will develop a network of civil society groups and individuals who share our commitment to defeat extremism and protect communities.

The Prime Minister also recently announced that as the Government had promised in 2016 UK Police Forces across England and Wales will record Anti Muslim Hatred alongside other religious hate crime as a specific categorised offence.

The New Cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan is currently being developed by the Home Office in partnership with other Government departments, policing colleagues and external stakeholders.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-21/12800/>

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

#### Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

**Greg Mulholland** [13469] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 26 October 2015 to Question 12724, on the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group, how much (a) funding and (b) staffing resource is currently dedicated to that group.

**Greg Mulholland** [13487] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 26 October 2015 to Question 12724, on the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group, what the achievements of that group have been.

**Greg Mulholland** [13488] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 26 October 2015 to Question 12724, on the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group, if he will place in the Library a copy of all advice that group has submitted to Ministers of his Department.

**Reply from Marcus Jones:** Since 2012, the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group has advised Ministers on issues including training for journalists to tackle the negative portrayal of Muslims in the media; encouraging increased reporting and recording of anti-Muslim incidents and online abuse; supporting social media workshops to build the capacity of community organisations to promote positive narratives; and facilitating a number of regional road shows to engage communities on integration and tackling anti-Muslim hatred. The group also worked on the issue of disaggregation of anti-Muslim hate crime, as is done with anti-semitic hate crime. Last month, my Rt Hon Friend, the Prime Minister announced that police forces in England and Wales would be required to disaggregate religion based hate crime data.

The Working Group meets quarterly and uses this forum to advise Ministers on issues relating to anti-Muslim hatred rather than through official submissions.

The independent members of the Working Group volunteer their own time to take part in the group and can claim basic travel expenses for the meetings. As part of a broader role, one official in the Department provides secretariat support to the group and officials from across Government Departments attend quarterly meetings.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-26/13469/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-26/13487/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-26/13488/>

#### Hate Crime: Greater London

**Sadiq Khan** [13254] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incidents of each type of hate crime were recorded on public transport in London in each year since 2010.

**Reply from Mike Penning:** The Home Office does not hold the requested data centrally. While the Home Office collects data on the number of hate crimes recorded by the police in London, we cannot tell from these data whether they took place on public transport or not. Furthermore, data are also collected from the British Transport Police but we cannot tell from these data whether the offence took place in London or elsewhere.

Recognising that hate crime is a serious and persistent issue, the Government is committed to developing a new hate crime action plan, working in partnership with

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

communities to ensure we have strong measures to stop and respond to these deplorable crimes. In future, for the first time, the police will provide a breakdown in religion-based hate crime data to help forces build community trust, target their resources and enable the public to better hold them to account.

The most recently available figures for these police forces can be found in Hate Crimes, England and Wales, 2014/15, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2014-to-2015>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-23/13254/>

### UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Philippa Whitford (652) Anti-semitism and Palestine solidarity** – That this House notes with concern that the Community Security Trust recorded a doubling of anti-Semitic incidents across the UK in 2014 to 1,168; further notes that the pattern of these attacks reveals the single biggest contributing factor to have been anti-Semitic reaction to the armed violence between Israel and Gaza in July 2014; condemns all forms of racism and affirms that anti-Semitism has no place in campaigns of solidarity with Palestinians; calls for the adoption of all necessary measures to eliminate racism and anti-Semitism, while emphasising the democratic right to criticise the governments and policies of any and all states whilst ensuring this avoids spilling over into group-blame or racist stereotyping; further calls on all sides of the House to combat racism, and for hon. Members to make clear the distinction between the Jewish community and the decisions of politicians in the state of Israel; calls for comprehensive action to address the concerns of the Jewish community and to encourage responsible public debate and use of language around enhancing inter-communal co-operation and education; and calls on the Government to actively seek a just and stable resolution to the conflict that would bring the benefits of peace to both the Palestinian and Israeli people.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/652>

### New Publication

**Don't be a bystander to hate crime & bullying – be an eyewitness** (mobile phone apps)

<http://www.racecard.org.uk/runnymede-trust/blog/dont-be-a-bystander-to-hate-crime-bullying-be-an-eyewitness/>

### News

**Jewish student faced vile anti-Semitic abuse – including being called an 'oven magnet' – after speaking out against Hitler posters on campus**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3305211/Jewish-student-faced-vile-anti-Semitic-abuse-including-called-oven-magnet-speaking-against-Hitler-posters-campus.html>

**Chef who threw a Muslim pensioner's walking frame off a London bus during a racist rant has been jailed for 16 weeks**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3305610/Chef-threw-Muslim-pensioner-s-walking-frame-London-bus-racist-rant-jailed-16-weeks.html>

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### News (continued)

**#killallwhitemen row: charges dropped against student diversity officer**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/03/bahar-mustafa-charges-dropped-killallwhitemen-row>

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## Scottish Devolution

### UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

#### Scotland Bill

**The Secretary of State for Scotland (David Mundell):** The UK Government are delivering on their commitment to make the Scottish Parliament one of the most powerful devolved Parliaments in the world. Every deadline has been met in bringing forward new powers to the Scottish Parliament, and another milestone will be reached on 9 November when the Scotland Bill has its Report and Third Reading.

The Scotland Bill delivers the Smith Commission agreement in full. The agreement was reached by Scotland's five main political parties, and it means the Scottish Parliament will have control over around £11 billion of income tax revenues and responsibility over welfare benefits worth approximately £2.7 billion (by 2014-15 figures). For the first time, more than 50 per cent of the Scottish Parliament's budget will be funded from revenues raised in Scotland. ...

Work is continuing and both Governments aim to complete this work as soon as possible in order to give respective Parliaments time for due consideration of both the fiscal framework and the Scotland Bill. This is likely to be after both the UK spending review and the draft Scottish Budget. Since the Scotland Bill's introduction to Parliament in May 2015 it has been subject to healthy and productive scrutiny, including five days of debate in the House of Commons so far. During this time I have spoken to people from organisations representing the range of Scottish public life about the new powers the Bill contains, as have my ministerial colleagues. I have worked with the Scottish Government to seek their views, and committees of the UK and Scottish Parliaments have taken evidence and reported on the Bill's provisions.

**To read the full statement see**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm151102/wmstext/151102m0001.htm#1511022000003>

### Press Releases

**Scotland Bill 'still fails to deliver'**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Scotland-Bill-still-fails-to-deliver-1edd.aspx>

**Scottish Secretary: Scotland wins if Holyrood uses new powers well**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scottish-secretary-scotland-wins-if-holyrood-uses-new-powers-well>

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## New Publications

### **Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Social media fundamentals**

[http://www.oscr.org.uk/media/2070/2015-11-05\\_oscreadyssetgo\\_final.pdf](http://www.oscr.org.uk/media/2070/2015-11-05_oscreadyssetgo_final.pdf)

### **Northern Ireland Civil Service Interactive Human Rights Guide**

<http://www.nicshumanrightsguide.com/>

### **European Convention of Human Rights ECHR infographics**

Article 2 <http://rightsinfo.org/content/uploads/2015/10/article-2-print.pdf>

Article 3 <http://rightsinfo.org/content/uploads/2015/10/article-3-print.pdf>

Article 4 <http://rightsinfo.org/content/uploads/2015/10/article-4-print.pdf>

Article 5 <http://rightsinfo.org/content/uploads/2015/11/Article-5-print.pdf>

Article 6 <http://rightsinfo.org/content/uploads/2015/10/article-6-print.pdf>

Article 7 <http://rightsinfo.org/content/uploads/2015/11/article-7-print.pdf>

Article 8 <http://rightsinfo.org/content/uploads/2015/11/article-8-print.pdf>

Article 9 <http://rightsinfo.org/content/uploads/2015/10/article-9-print.pdf>

Article 10 <http://rightsinfo.org/content/uploads/2015/10/article-10-print.pdf>

Article 11 <http://rightsinfo.org/content/uploads/2015/10/article-11-print.pdf>

Article 12 <http://rightsinfo.org/content/uploads/2015/10/article-12-print.pdf>

Article 13 <http://rightsinfo.org/content/uploads/2015/10/article-13-print.pdf>

Article 14 <http://rightsinfo.org/content/uploads/2015/11/Article-14-print.pdf>

Protocol 1.1 <http://rightsinfo.org/content/uploads/2015/10/protocol-1-1-print.pdf>

Protocol 1.2 <http://rightsinfo.org/content/uploads/2015/10/protocol-1-2-print.pdf>

Protocol 1.3 <http://rightsinfo.org/content/uploads/2015/10/protocol-1-3-print.pdf>

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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>

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, Stage 1 consideration

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10178&i=93830#ScotParlOR>

#### **\*\* Community Justice Bill**

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

Justice Committee Stage 1 evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10176&i=93798#ScotParlOR>

## **Bills in Progress**

### **Scottish Parliament** (continued)

#### **Community Justice Bill (continued)**

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, Stage 1 consideration

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10178&i=93833#ScotParlOR>

#### **Criminal Justice Bill**

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

#### **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>

#### **Lobbying Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/93324.aspx>

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

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

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, Stage 1 consideration

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10178&i=93832#ScotParlOR>

## **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>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0074/amend/pbc0740611a.1-7.html>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmpublic/immigration/151105/am/151105s01.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmpublic/immigration/151105/pm/151105s01.htm>

## Bills in Progress

### UK Parliament (continued)

#### \*\* Scotland Bill

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

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0048/amend/psc0480211a.1-7.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0048/amend/psc0480311a.1-7.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0048/amend/psc0480411a.1-7.html>

#### UK Borders Control Bill

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

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

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

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

**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](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>

**Equality and Human Rights Commission 2016 - 2019 Strategic Plan** (closing date 18 December 2015)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/our-work/ehrc-consultations/2016-2019-strategic-plan-consultation?wssl=1>

**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>

## Consultations (continued)

**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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## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **Fairer Scotland**

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!**

### **Equalities and Citizenship in the Current International, National and Local Context Conference**

11 November 2015 in Kirkcaldy (10.00 – 2.00)

FRAE Fife conference to discuss the impact of international, national events, UK and the Scottish Government's approach to implementation of equality policies. For information see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/equalities-and-citizenship-in-the-current-international-national-and-local-context-conference-tickets-19165377159>

**\*\* this week!**

### **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.

**\*\* this week!**

### **Getting the best for your child**

14 November 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 3.15)

National Parent Forum of Scotland Annual Conference. For information and to book see <http://www.npfs.org.uk/conference/> or contact [conference@npfs.org.uk](mailto:conference@npfs.org.uk) / 0131 313 8842.

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **\*\* The needs of ethnic minority communities**

16 November 2015 in Perth (10.30 – 12.30)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/want-to-find-out-more-about-the-needs-of-ethnic-minority-communities-in-perth-tickets-19315289551>

17 November 2015 in Glasgow (10.00 – 12.00)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/want-to-find-out-more-about-the-needs-of-ethnic-minority-communities-in-glasgow-tickets-19315149131>

23 November 2015 in Aberdeen (1.30 – 3.30)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/want-to-find-out-more-about-the-needs-of-ethnic-minority-communities-in-aberdeen-tickets-19315535286>

27 November 2015 in Edinburgh (10.30 – 12.30)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/want-to-find-out-more-about-the-needs-of-ethnic-minority-communities-in-edinburgh-tickets-19315643610>

Opportunity to discuss some of the emerging themes from recent research into the needs of minority ethnic communities, respond to new statistics about local needs, learn more about issues affecting ethnic minority communities and hear the solutions identified by innovative service and support providers. For information contact Elspeth Parsons [elspeth@thelinesbetween.co.uk](mailto:elspeth@thelinesbetween.co.uk) / 0131 235 2012 or see relevant link above.

### **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](mailto:liz.mcconnell@bemis.org.uk) or Patricia Crook [patricia.crook@sds.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:nasar.meer@strath.ac.uk)

### **\*\* Female Genital Mutilation Seminar**

1 December 2015 in Glenrothes (2.00 – 4.00)

Multi-agency seminar aimed at professionals to raise awareness of issues surrounding FGM, including prevalence, consequences, legal aspects, and implications for practice. For information contact Lynda Dargie [lynda.dargie@fife.gov.uk](mailto:lynda.dargie@fife.gov.uk)

### **\*\* Inclusion Fundamentals**

9 December 2015 in Kirkcaldy (9.30 – 4.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities seminar on the basics for understanding and meeting the diverse needs of people of different protected characteristics. For information see <http://www.fifevoluntaryaction.org.uk/news.asp?id=6569>

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## Useful Links

**Scottish Parliament** <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/home.htm>

**Scottish Government** <http://www.gov.scot/>

## Useful Links (continued)

**UK Parliament** <http://www.parliament.uk/>

**GovUK (links to UK Government Departments)** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

**European Parliament** <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>

**One Scotland** <http://onescotland.org/>

**Scottish Refugee Council** <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

**Interfaith Scotland** <http://www.interfaithscotland.org/>

**Equality and Human Rights Commission** <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>

**Equality Advisory Support Service** <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com>

**Scottish Human Rights Commission** <http://scottishhumanrights.com/>

**ACAS** [www.acas.org.uk](http://www.acas.org.uk)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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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