

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Questions

UK Visas and Immigration: Telephone Services

Julian Lewis [17393] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason callers to the International Enquiry Service of UK Visas and Immigration are charged £1.37 per minute.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office sets fees at a level that ensures it has sufficient resources to control migration for the benefit of the UK. Income from fees helps provide the resources necessary to operate the immigration system. The remainder is provided through general taxation. The Home Office aims to reduce the overall contribution of funding that comes from general taxation and increase the proportion of income generated from fees. We estimate that about 60 per cent of immigration system costs will be recovered through fees, a slight increase from last year. The remainder of the costs will be met by the UK taxpayer.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

To ensure that the system is fair and equitable, the government believes it is right that those who use and benefit directly from the UK immigration system make an appropriate contribution towards meeting the costs, thereby reducing the cost to the UK taxpayer. Customers can access a range of information on our application processes for free through our pages on gov.uk.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-23/17393/>

UK Visas and Immigration: Email

Julian Lewis [17394] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy for the free email service offered by the International Enquiry Service automatically to acknowledge safe receipt of messages sent to it by enquirers.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The International Enquiry Service currently handles approximately 12,000 emails a week and continues to answer all emails within the published service standards. All email enquiries receive an auto response which states "Your email has been submitted - We have received your email. You will receive a response within one working day."

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-23/17394/>

UK Visas and Immigration: Telephone Services

Julian Lewis [17397] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy not to levy telephone charges for enquirers to the International Enquiry Service in addition to the standard rate until such time as the free alternative methods of contacting the organisation are working reliably.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office will continue to charge for telephone calls to the International Enquiry Service. Customers can access a range of information on our application processes for free through our pages on gov.uk. The Home Office works closely with the Government Digital Service to review and improve our guidance on gov.uk.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-23/17397/>

Visas

Baroness Hamwee [HL3957] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 25 November (HL3549), how many of the family reunion visas scheduled were granted on the basis of exceptional compelling compassionate circumstances outside the Immigration Rules, broken down by country and year.

Reply from Lord Bates: The number of applications for Family Reunion Visas that were subsequently issued Outside of the Immigration Rules can be found in the table below.

It is not possible to give a breakdown by country or nationality.

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Number of applications granted outside the rules	77	30	18	12	137

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-26/HL3957/>

Overseas Students: Visas

Kirsten Oswald [16379] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what regulations on prior knowledge of English apply to applicants for Tier 4 visas where the student's principal purpose in entering the UK is to study English as a foreign language.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from James Brokenshire: International students whose principal purpose for coming to the UK is to study English can use the Tier 4 (General) route of the points-based system or the short-term student route.

Applicants who wish to study a course below degree level under Tier 4 (General) must demonstrate that they are competent in English language at a minimum of level B1 in all four components (speaking, listening, reading and writing) on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Those who wish to study a course at degree level or above must demonstrate they are competent at a minimum of level B2 in all four components.

Applicants who wish to study under the short-term student route are not required to demonstrate a prior knowledge of English language. English language courses may be studied for up to 11 months under this route.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-16/16379/>

Visas: Migrant Workers

Chi Onwurah [17426] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 17 November 2015 to Question 15161, whether native speaker language fluency is classified as a skill for the purposes of the work visa system; and how the work visa system can assist a UK business seeking a person with Russian native speaker language fluency.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Tier 2 of the Points Based System for immigration - the skilled work route - has been reserved for graduate occupations since 2011. Fluency in a foreign language does not increase the skill level of the occupation. UK businesses wishing to employ a Russian speaker may do so under Tier 2 if the position is graduate level and other Tier 2 criteria, including an appropriate salary and an ability to speak English, are met. Unless the role is on the shortage occupation list, they will need first to have tested the resident labour market to ensure there is no suitably qualified resident worker available.

The Government has commissioned the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to advise on restricting Tier 2 to genuine skills shortages and jobs which require highly-specialised experts, but with sufficient flexibility to include high value roles and key public service workers. The MAC is looking at selection criteria such as, but not limited to, salaries, particular attributes, economic need and skills level. The MAC is not due to report until December and we do not yet know what its findings and recommendations will be. We await the report with interest and will consider it carefully before making any significant changes to the Tier 2 route.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-24/17426/>

Visas: Carers

Lord Ouseley [HL3675] To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they are giving to relaxing visa restrictions for those seeking to come to Britain as carers in order to tackle nursing and care home staffing shortages.

Reply from Lord Bates: Tier 2 of the Points Based System for immigration - the skilled work route - has been reserved for graduate occupations since 2011. Carers do not qualify for entry to the UK under this route and sponsors are therefore unable to bring in workers from outside the EEA to fill such roles.

While the Government acknowledges that care work requires certain skills, it should be possible to source those skills from the resident workforce. The care sector, like others, needs to reduce its dependency on migration and develop a

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

sustainable strategy for tackling high vacancy and turnover rates by doing more to attract, train and retain resident workers.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-18/HL3675/>

Refugees

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL3900] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they are having with the Scottish Government, Welsh Government, and the Northern Ireland Executive, in order to enable the welcoming of the maximum number of refugees.

Reply from Lord Bates: The UK Government is discussing and engaging closely with the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Executive to ensure that each is able to welcome refugees who will be resettled under the Syrian resettlement programme. We are also represented on the task forces in each of the devolved administrations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-25/HL3900/>

Refugees

Stephen Timms [18221] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of how many refugees will be resettled in the UK under the vulnerable persons programme in (a) 2015, (b) 2016, (c) 2017, (d) 2018, (e) 2019 and (f) 2020.

Reply from Richard Harrington: The programme is driven by need, and the number resettled in a particular period will de-pend on a range of factors. This includes the number of referrals we have received from UNHCR and the number of confirmed places we have received from local authorities that are suitable for the specific needs of those who have been accepted for resettlement. Rather than a monthly or yearly target we acknowledge that some months we will resettle more or less than others because it is based on the need in the region at that time and the progress of those people through the system.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-30/18221/>

Refugees: Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross

Paul Monaghan [14983] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugee families she expects to be relocated to Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross constituency; where such families will be housed; and what steps the Government is taking to ensure that such families have access to education for their children.

Reply from James Brokenshire: With regard to the resettlement of 20,000 Syrians that the Prime Minister announced on 7 September, this is a voluntary scheme whereby local authorities sign up to accept refugees on a voluntary basis and there is no expectation on any particular local authority.

We are working closely with those local authorities that have indicated they wish to be involved as well as with the Local Government Association and with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities. We do not disclose the details of where refugees are resettled upon their arrival in the UK under the Government resettlement schemes as this may undermine the privacy and recovery of this vulnerable group of people.

The Home Office alongside other departments and the Local Government Association and the Convention of Scottish Authorities will work with individual local authorities who are volunteering to take Syrian refugees to secure

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UK Parliament Questions (continued)

appropriate accommodation.

The Government has committed to investing £7 billion on new school places over the next six years, and in the last Parliament funding for school places doubled to £5 billion to create 445,000 additional places. Local Authorities are allocated funding for school places based on their own local data on school capacity and pupil forecasts, in which they take account of factors including rising birth rates, housing development, trends in internal migration and migration to England from elsewhere in the United Kingdom and from overseas. We continue to work with Local Authorities to make sure that every child has a school place.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-05/14983/>

Refugees: Children

Lord Greaves [HL3987] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of (1) the number of unaccompanied refugee children who are waiting at or near Calais and other Channel ports on the European mainland in the hope of crossing to England, and (2) how many of those are dependents or close relatives of persons who are living in the UK.

Reply from Lord Bates: The management of the migrant camps in Calais is the responsibility of the French Government. The UK Government does not routinely assess the numbers of migrants (including children) in Calais, or hold a breakdown of their ages. EU asylum rules oblige Member States to bring together close family members, including children. For a refugee child to be reunited with family members in the UK, a claim must first be lodged with the French authorities. The French and UK Governments are actively encouraging and assisting migrants in the Calais area to claim asylum in France.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-26/HL3987/>

Refugees: Syria

Wayne David [17821] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what security checks her Department carries out on refugees from Syria who are admitted to the UK.

Reply from John Hayes: The Syrian nationals admitted to the UK under the UNHCR Resettlement Programme are some of the most vulnerable displaced people and they are taken directly from the region.

We take security extremely seriously in cases referred to us for resettlement, working closely with the UNHCR who have their own robust identification processes in place. When refugees arrive in the UK they have been through a thorough two-stage vetting process to ensure we know who is entering the country. This includes the taking of biometric data, documentation verification and interviews. Potential resettlement cases are screened and considered by the Home Office for suitability for entry to the UK: we retain the right to reject individuals on security, war crimes or other grounds. For reasons of national security, we cannot provide further information on the details of the screening process itself.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-26/17821/>

Refugees: Syria

Douglas Carswell [18255] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to prevent recently arrived Syrian refugees on the Vulnerable Persons

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Relocation Scheme from relocating to different areas of the UK from where they were originally located by that

Reply from Richard Harrington: Local authorities provide those resettled under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme with a comprehensive support package which is tailored according to the individuals needs. We encourage refugees to remain where they have been resettled to take advantage of this offer, however, they are free to relocate within the UK if they choose to do so.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-30/18255/>

Refugees: Syria

Stephen Timms [18222] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to ensure that Syrian refugees who are resettled in the UK as part of the vulnerable persons programme do not lose contact with family who are not also resettled in the UK.

Reply from Richard Harrington: The Syrian refugees being resettled in the UK are, wherever possible, resettled with their immediate family members. It is up to the individuals concerned to decide how best to maintain contact with their family members who are not in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-30/18222/>

Refugees: Syria

Douglas Carswell [18254] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Syrian refugees will qualify for (a) indefinite leave to remain and (b) UK citizenship after five years of residence.

Reply from Richard Harrington: Syrians who are resettled under the Syrian Resettlement Scheme are given a five year humanitarian protection visa. At the end of the 5 years they can apply for settlement (indefinite leave to remain) and if granted they can apply for UK citizenship 12 months later. Each application for settlement and citizenship is decided in accordance with our guidance for these routes.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-30/18254/>

Refugees: Syria

Wayne David [17822] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department carries out of the needs of Syrian refugees who are admitted to the UK to ensure they receive the support they need.

Reply from Richard Harrington: The UNHCR identifies refugees for potential resettlement under the Syrian VPR scheme using their vulnerability criteria. Once our security processes have been completed, a full medical assessment is conducted by the International Organisation for Migration in the host country. Local Authorities are provided with case details of all referrals so they can consider whether they have the infrastructure and support networks needed to ensure appropriate care and integration of refugees.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-26/17822/>

Refugees: Syria

Douglas Carswell [18248] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what

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criteria are used for selection of Syrian refugees to come to the UK, outside the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme.

Reply from Richard Harrington: Syrians in need of protection are predominantly resettled through the Syrian Resettlement Scheme which has been expanded to resettle up to 20,000 during this Parliament. This is in addition to those resettled through our global resettlement schemes: Gateway and Mandate. Individuals resettled through Gateway and Mandate must be UNHCR recognised refugees who are judged by UNHCR to be in need of resettlement. Individuals resettled under Mandate must have a family member in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-30/18248/>

Refugees: Syria

Rushanara Ali [17523] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugees from Syrian have been accepted into the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme to date.

Reply from Richard Harrington: The Government has committed to resettling 20,000 Syrian refugees in the lifetime of this Parliament. The Prime Minister has said that we want to see 1,000 refugees brought to the UK by Christmas. The first charter flights arrived earlier this month and represent a significant upscaling of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme. We will not be giving a running commentary on numbers. Details are published in the regular quarterly immigration statistics. The statistics published on 26 November include the number of arrivals from July to the end of September 2015.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-24/17523/>

Refugees: Syria

Douglas Carswell [18256] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what weight will be given to the security situation in Syria at such a time as Syrian refugees who have entered the UK due to the present crisis in that country become eligible for indefinite leave to remain of UK citizenship.

Richard Harrington: Syrians who are resettled under the Syrian Resettlement Scheme will be able to apply for indefinite leave to remain and UK citizenship at the expiration of their five year humanitarian protection visa. Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis in line with our guidance which considers the ongoing need for protection, including the security situation in Syria at the date of decision, as well as the individual's behaviour.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-30/18256/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Kate Osamor [17457] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 22 October 2015 to Question 10915, what the longest recorded time is for which a woman without any outstanding criminal offences was held in immigration detention since 2010.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The longest time that a woman without any outstanding criminal offences has been held in immigration detention since 2010 is 588 days. The individual concerned was subsequently removed from the country. Detention can be prolonged where individuals fail to comply with the re-documentation and/or removal processes, or submit very late, or multiple, applications or appeals.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the length of detention 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/2015-11-24/17457/>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre: Alarms

Kate Osamor [17458] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) average and (b) longest recorded waiting time was between a detainee at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre sounding the emergency alarm in their room and an officer arriving to assist them in each of the last three years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The information requested on waiting times is not collected centrally by either the Home Office or Serco so this information cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-24/17458/>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre: Hospitals

Kate Osamor [16551] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many women taken to hospital from Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre have been handcuffed in transit in each of the last six months.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Provisional management information showing the number of women who have been handcuffed when taken to hospital from Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre over the requested period is detailed in the table below:

Month	Number of Handcuffed Hospital Moves
May	0
June	0
July	0
August	0
September	1
October	6

The increased figure in October 2015 was not due to any change in policy. These cases have been reviewed by the Home Office Use of Force Monitor to ensure that the use of handcuffs was appropriate. The review established that each case had been subject to an individual risk assessment, in accordance with standard policy, and that handcuffs were used on the basis of that outcome of that assessment.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-17/16551/>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre: Pregnant Women

Kate Osamor [16596] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what provisions are in place to safeguard the welfare of pregnant women in Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Pregnant women are not normally detained. The only exceptions to this general rule are where removal is imminent and medical advice does not suggest the woman's baby is due before the expected

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removal date.

Fitness to travel by air is assessed on a case by case basis using guidance from the International Air Transportation Association (IATA). The guidance states that for a single, uncomplicated pregnancy, travel could be appropriate without a medical certificate up to 37 weeks.

Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre has a dedicated Care Suite that offers enhanced care to vulnerable and pregnant women, staffed by a dedicated female member of staff. Midwives from NHS Bedford Hospital Trust visit the centre once a week and the centre's GP or nurses can be accessed 7 days a week and can refer any specific concerns to the ante natal clinic, Early Pregnancy Unit in hospital or other appropriate service if necessary. The centre also has a Pregnancy Liaison Officer who provides a range of support and welfare services to pregnant detainees.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-17/16596/>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre: Hunger Strikes

Kate Osamor [16553] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many women detained in Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre went on hunger strike in 2015.

Reply from James Brokenshire: For the period 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2015 provisional management information shows that 84 women were recorded as refusing food or fluid at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre (IRC).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-17/16553/>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre: Hunger Strikes

Kate Osamor [16876] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many women held in Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre have refused to eat for one or more consecutive days in 2015.

Reply from James Brokenshire: For the period 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2015 provisional management information shows that 84 women were recorded as refusing food or fluid at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-18/16876/>

Press Release

MEPs to discuss permanent relocation scheme and list of safe countries of origin

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20151130IPR05304/html/MEPs-to-discuss-permanent-relocation-scheme-and-list-of-safe-countries-of-origin>

New Publications

Migration Statistics Quarterly Report, November 2015

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/migration-statistics-quarterly-report/november-2015/rft-table-1.xls>

Code of practice on illegal immigrants and private rented accommodation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/right-to-rent-landlords-code-of-practice/code-of-practice-on-illegal-immigrants-and-private-rented-accommodation>

Immigration and Asylum New Publications (continued)

Demographics of Young Migrants in the UK

<http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/migobs/Briefing-Youth%20Demographics.pdf>

This is Still About Us: Why Ethnic Minorities See Immigration Differently

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/Race%20and%20Immigration%20Report%20v2.pdf>

Latin Americans migrating from Europe to the UK: barriers to accessing public services and welfare

<http://www.lawrs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Latin-Americans-migrating-from-Europe-to-the-UK.pdf>

Protecting stateless people from arbitrary detention: toolkit

http://www.statelessness.eu/sites/www.statelessness.eu/files/ENS_Detention_Toolkit.pdf

Protecting stateless people from arbitrary detention: personal stories

http://www.statelessness.eu/sites/www.statelessness.eu/files/ENS_detention_Testimonies.pdf

News: Refugee Crisis

Isle of Bute gives Syrians a warm Scottish welcome as refugees arrive on island to build new lives

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/isle-bute-gives-syrians-warm-6957224>

Family who fled for their lives from Syria thank city residents

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14114735.Family_who_fled_for_their_lives_from_Syria_thank_city_residents/

Bute's Syrians can thrive – like the Zavaronis

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4633232.ece>

Sympathy for Syrians docking in windy Bute

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4633049.ece>

Red tape stalls archbishop's refugee cottage

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Society/article1641560.ece

Syria air strikes: Government resists calls to house more refugees after starting bombing campaign

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/syria-air-strikes-government-resists-calls-to-house-more-refugees-after-starting-bombing-campaign-a6760261.html>

Refugee crisis: Coalition of MPs want relatives of asylum seekers to be allowed to settle in UK

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/refugee-crisis-coalition-of-mps-want-relatives-of-asylum-seekers-to-be-allowed-to-settle-in-uk-a6755066.html>

Immigration minister James Brokenshire says plan to grant relatives of refugees asylum in UK is not 'sustainable'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/immigration-minister-james-brokenshire-says-plan-to-grant-relatives-of-refugees-asylum-in-uk-is-not-a6756341.html>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Other Immigration and Asylum News

Government 'has given up on cutting record immigration'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4629766.ece>

UK cabinet in fresh spat over immigration

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/dec/02/uk-cabinet-spat-immigration-theresa-may-ally>

George Osborne denies net immigration rise needed to achieve budget surplus

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/dec/01/george-osborne-denies-net-migration-rise-needed-to-achieve-budget-surplus>

Osborne reliant on rising immigration levels to achieve budget surplus

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/dec/01/osborne-reliant-on-rising-immigration-levels-to-achieve-budget-surplus>

Osborne 'banks on migration to boost economy': Theresa May ally's damning claim over Chancellor's surplus plans

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3341170/Migration-DOUBLE-Cameron-s-tens-thousands-target-tackle-deficit-amid-claims-PM-given-borders.html>

A third of new households will be created by migration

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4632057.ece>

Half of new homes needed to cope with migrant influx

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/12032152/new-homes-housing-crisis-migrants.html>

Migrants will get half of new homes built over the next five years: Report says nearly 100,000 properties a year are needed to cope with demand

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3345461/Migrants-half-new-homes-built-five-years-Report-says-nearly-100-000-properties-year-needed-cope-demand.html>

Immigration centre firms face £10,000 fine if detainee dies from self-harm

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/dec/03/immigration-centre-firms-10000-fine-detainee-dies-self-harm>

Labour and SNP call for 28-day time limit on immigration detention

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14115801.Labour_and_SNP_call_for_28_day_time_limit_on_immigration_detention/

How English councils are supporting unaccompanied child asylum seekers

<http://www.theguardian.com/social-care-network/2015/dec/04/how-english-councils-are-supporting-unaccompanied-child-asylum-seekers>

Immigration reforms clear the Commons despite Labour and SNP criticisms

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14116460.Immigration_reforms_clear_the_Commons_despite_Labour_and_SNP_criticisms/

Britons twice as hostile as French to Syrian refugees following Paris attacks, YouGov finds

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/britons-twice-as-hostile-to-syrian-refugees-than-french-following-paris-attacks-yougov-finds-a6755821.html>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Other Immigration and Asylum News

Immigration is good for growth, so why is the public so hostile to it?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/immigration-is-good-for-growth-so-why-is-the-public-so-hostile-to-it-a6759246.html>

Italian ambassador praises Scots refugee effort, calling on UK to make "decisive effort" in Mediterranean migrant crisis

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14116555.Italian_ambassador_praises_Scots_refugee_effort_calling_on_UK_to_make_quot_decisive_effort_quot_in_Mediterranean_migrant_crisis/

Mass migration 'will wreck the dream of a high-wage Britain': Top economist says large numbers of unskilled workers is 'damaging' for job prospects

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3345332/Mass-migration-wreck-dream-high-wage-Britain-economist-says-large-numbers-unskilled-workers-damaging-job-prospects.html>

Tuition fee curbs for asylum seekers

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/Politics/article1642054.ece>

'No human being is illegal': linguists argue against mislabeling of immigrants

<http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/dec/06/illegal-immigrant-label-offensive-wrong-activists-say>

Non-EU patients 'should be charged for GP services'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/health-35007243>

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Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Question

Muslim Community

Ken Macintosh: To ask the Scottish Government what steps it has taken to promote positive and supportive attitudes toward the Muslim community following the Paris attacks. (S4W-28626)

Reply from Alex Neil: The Scottish Government continues to have a high level of engagement with Scotland's Muslim communities and has been actively engaging with the Muslim communities, including the Muslim Council of Scotland, to hear their concerns and send a strong message on this issue. The Scottish Government is aware Police Scotland was alerted to a suspected arson of a portacabin used as a temporary mosque in Auchinairn, Glasgow which occurred early in the morning on 17 November 2015. This is under investigation and Police Scotland is pursuing leads to find those responsible. We have been clear that the actions of individuals with extremist views do not represent Islam as a religion and that the Muslim community should not have to apologise for this distortion of their faith. The First Minister, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Minister for Europe and International Development visited Glasgow Central Mosque on 15 November 2015 to meet with members of the Muslim community and provide a message of reassurance. The Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages also visited Inverness Mosque on 17 November 2015 to meet with the community there. The Minister for Community

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Question (continued)

Safety and Legal Affairs joined an event featuring a number of community and faith leaders at the Mosque on 20 November 2015. The Scottish Government continues to support Scottish Interfaith Week to highlight the importance of dialogue and building relationships between communities of all faiths and none. The Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform spoke at the launch of the week on 22 November 2015.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-28626&ResultsPerPage=10>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-15004 Stewart Maxwell: BEMIS Celebrates Scotland's Winter Festivals 2015-16—That the Parliament welcomes the multicultural celebrations facilitated by BEMIS Scotland as part of the Year of Food and Drink 2015 and Winter Festivals; notes that BEMIS Scotland and its network of community organisations work to support the development of the ethnic minority voluntary sector across the country; understands that a programme of events involving 65 such organisations took place to mark St Andrew's Day and that further activities are planned for over the winter festival period, which will culminate in a range of events during Burns' weekend in January 2016; acknowledges what it sees as the role that Scotland's diverse multicultural communities play in enhancing the cultural landscape, and looks forward to the event, BEMIS Celebrates Burns, which is scheduled to take place on 25 January 2016 as part of the Celtic Connections festival and will aim to celebrate Scotland's diversity.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-15004&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Marion Fellows (799) Lanarkshire Muslim Welfare Society – That this House congratulates Lanarkshire Muslim Welfare Society for being awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service for 2015 in the Lanarkshire Lieutenancy; recognises the extensive work the Society does offering advice and the use of its facilities; and further recognises the beneficial impact of the Society's work in the community.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/799>

Press Release

Family Portrait: The Scots Italians 1890-1940 exhibition

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Family-Portrait-The-Scots-Italians-1890-1940-exhibition-1fdd.aspx>

News

As a Muslim woman I was never fearful in Britain. But today I'm afraid

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/dec/01/muslim-woman-britain-paris-attacks>

Community Relations

News (continued)

How Britons welcomed black soldiers during WWII, and fought alongside them against racist GIs

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-two/12035018/Revealed-How-Britons-welcomed-black-soldiers-during-WWII-and-fought-alongside-them-against-racist-GIs.html>

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Equality

Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee

“Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland” (Scottish Housing Regulator Report): evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10242&i=94260#ScotParIOR>

Press Release

Insights into key equality outcomes across Scotland

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Insights-into-key-equality-outcomes-across-Scotland-1fe5.aspx>

New Publication

Scottish Surveys Core Questions 2013

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00490184.pdf>

News

New scheme to improve diversity in Glasgow museums

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14111897.New_scheme_to_improve_diversity_in_Glasgow_museums/

'Where are the brown people?': authors slam lack of diversity in UK publishing

<http://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/nov/30/authors-slam-lack-diversity-in-uk-publishing-nikesh-shukla-jon-mcgregor>

River City star urges more ethnic minority roles

<http://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/culture/tv-radio/river-city-star-urges-more-ethnic-minority-roles-1-3967468>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Question

Religious Hatred

Ken Macintosh: To ask the Scottish Government whether there has been a quantifiable rise in anti-Muslim activity or violence in Scotland following the Paris attacks. (S4W-28624)

Reply from Alex Neil: The Scottish Government recognises that international events, including the rise of the so-called Islamic State and the terror attacks recently in Paris, have negatively impacted on Scotland's faith communities, especially Scottish Muslim communities who can face increased levels of prejudice in the aftermath of such events. This is completely unacceptable and such bigotry and prejudice have no place in Scotland. Police Scotland has issued guidance and advice following the attacks in Paris and has highlighted that, while the overall threat level in the UK is severe, people in Scotland remain safe to go about their day to day business. We are fully committed to working with Police Scotland and others to ensure that incidents of hate crime which are motivated by religious hatred, whether online or in public, are investigated appropriately.

The Scottish Government is in the process of establishing an independent advisory group, chaired by Dr Duncan Morrow, which will engage with communities on the issue of hate crime, prejudice and community cohesion, with a view to presenting initial findings to ministers in 2016.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-28624&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Questions

Schools: Religion

Patrick Grady [902423] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to tackle religious intolerance in schools.

Reply from Nick Gibb: Religious intolerance in schools is unacceptable. 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 faiths and beliefs. Schools should be places where we promote the understanding of other cultures for example, through the National Curriculum programme for citizenship, which includes teaching about the diverse range of identities in the UK and the importance of respecting others.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-24/902423/>

Religious Hatred: Islam

Sadiq Khan [17630] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Muslim women reported being the victim of abuse or hate crime in each police authority area in England and Wales in (a) 2013, (b) 2014 and (c) 2015; and how many such reports (i) have been investigated, (b) resulted in prosecution and (c) resulted in a conviction.

Reply from Mike Penning: The Home Office does not hold the requested information. While the Home Office collects information on the number of recorded hate crimes by police force area, we cannot tell from these data the religion or the sex of the victim.

The Home Office does not hold information on prosecutions; these figures are the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice.

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

I refer the Right Honourable Member to my answer of 3 November in response to question 13254. In the future, we intend to collect a breakdown of religion-based hate crime data from the police to help forces build community trust, target their resources and enable the public to better hold them to account.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-25/17630/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Religious Hatred: Islam

Baroness Tonge [HL3873] To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are being taken in the UK to safeguard moderate Muslims from Islamophobic crime, in the light of the recent terrorist attacks around the world.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Government takes the safety of the Muslim and all other communities extremely seriously, and deplores all forms of hate crime. We are concerned by reports of increased attacks against Muslims in recent weeks, and we are working with the police and community groups on monitoring the situation and taking appropriate action where required.

The police constantly review events and potential threats to ensure everything is being done to protect our communities from terrorism, hate crime and the impact of public protest.

After the attacks in Paris the police have increased their presence on some streets and at some locations, and they will be intensifying their approach at events in big cities. Officers are working closely with London's communities and businesses to provide advice and reassurance. Government officials are also speaking to community organisations such as Tell MAMA to ensure that we are aware of the current issues around anti-Muslim hatred and to ensure that we increase reporting of it.

The Government is committed to tackling hate crime. That is why we have announced a new cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan. This will be taken forward in partnership with the communities that it seeks to protect, and will include a range of actions across Government. We have also announced that from 2016, police forces will be expected to record data on hate crimes against Muslims and members of other religious groups, to allow us to properly assess the scale of the problem we are facing.

Our Counter-Extremism Strategy, published in October, outlines how we will further protect British Muslims, including communities worried about Neo-Nazi groups who may be planning crimes such as attacks on Muslims.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-24/HL3873/>

Paris Attacks: Violence Against Muslims

The Lord Bishop of St Albans: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to prevent violence against Muslims and other minority groups following the attacks in Paris on 13 November.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport and Home Office (Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon): My Lords, the Government take the safety of all our citizens and communities very seriously; indeed, this is at the core of counterextremism strategy. Following the tragic events in Paris, we are working to take all necessary action: police have increased their presence at important locations and events; advice has been

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

given to places of worship; and we are working with organisations such as Tell MAMA to confront anti-Muslim hatred. The Prime Minister has also announced new funding for the security of mosques.

The Lord Bishop of St Albans: I thank the Minister for his reply and am grateful for all that Her Majesty's Government are doing already. Perhaps I may focus on one particular area. Since those terrible events on 13 November in Paris, some of our national newspapers have run some very disturbing stories about the treatment of British Muslims and minority groups, such as asylum seekers, here. Does the Minister agree that, in modern, democratic Britain, there is no place for misleading headlines and scurrilous cartoons designed to demonise minority groups? Many of us on these Benches have been involved in face-to-face meetings during the past three weeks with members of the Muslim community, who are deeply dismayed and angry at what has happened. What are Her Majesty's Government doing to counter such unhelpful stories and narratives and to strengthen community relations between minorities and the wider British public?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: I agree with the right reverend Prelate that, at a time which is very sensitive, to see the headlines that we have seen in certain newspapers is, frankly, appalling. They do not help and they certainly do not add community cohesion. Notwithstanding the freedoms of press that we enjoy, it is important that we see responsible press reporting. On what steps we have taken, perhaps I may first say how greatly encouraged I have been by the efforts on the part of the communities themselves, particularly the Muslim community, and their reaction to the Paris attacks. Let it be clear that no Government of whatever colour, previously or today, have ever asked any community or faith group to apologise for their faith, and that should be on record. However, what is required is that all communities come together to condemn such atrocities as we have seen in Paris and elsewhere around the world. The Muslim community has been at the forefront at that, not just here in Britain but across the globe—I am sure that many noble Lords will have seen the advert which was taken out by many Muslim community leaders and mosques condemning the actions in Paris and saying quite clearly, "Not in our name".

Lord Singh of Wimbledon: My Lords, the Minister will be aware of numerous attacks on Sikhs as a result of mistaken identity. While hate crimes against the Muslim community have been monitored by every police force in the country, not a single penny is being spent on monitoring hate crimes against Sikhs. The American Government are well aware of this problem which Sikhs suffer from and are taking steps to monitor that hate crime. When will the British Government catch up?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Let me assure the noble Lord that the British Government take all hate crime seriously. That is why, in October, the Prime Minister announced a new hate crime initiative, which will be published in January, against all forms of hatred and bigotry. On the recording of anti-Muslim hatred, all religious hate crime and bigotry from anywhere in the country will be recorded officially by all police forces across England and Wales from April next year.

Lord Paddick: My Lords, following the London bombings in 2005 there was a similar increase in Islamophobic hate crime. The then most senior Muslim officer in the UK said that this, "can lead to these communities completely retreating and not engaging at a time when we want their engagement and support". What guidance have the Government given to police forces on engagement with Muslim communities in order to maintain their trust and confidence?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Lords, the noble Lord referred to the tragic events of 7/7. In Britain today, no community, including the Muslim community, has retreated. We are a thriving democracy — multifaith and

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

multicultural—where we celebrate the diversity of our country as a strength. However, the noble Lord is right to ask what the police are doing. We are working hand in glove with the police to ensure that reassurance is conveyed to all communities, irrespective of whatever faith they may be, that the police, the Government and all of us stand with them against all forms of bigotry. ...

Lord Morgan: My Lords, is this not a two-way affair? I recently chaired a committee on student radicalism in our universities and I was saddened and appalled at how the Islamic societies there form themselves into self-created ghettos. I would like to discuss this with the Minister, and perhaps the noble Lord, Lord Bates, as well. They isolated themselves from, and in many ways were hostile to, the outside student community, not to mention sexual minorities and women groups. Muslims should not be attacked, obviously, but should not also they make their own positive commitment to community integration?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The noble Lord referred to a report, which I have seen, and he is right to say that. No one needs to see division within our communities wherever they may be, including within a university setting or elsewhere. That said, the noble Lord will also recognise that the Muslim community, as I have said, has been at the forefront of condemning not only the actions in Paris but elsewhere globally. It is a strength of our country that, in the face of such bigotry, venom and vicious attacks against humanity, we come together, irrespective of our backgrounds or faith, to say we stand together against all bigotry, united as a nation. We should commend all groups which have done just that.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/151201-0001.htm#15120143000484>

Castes: Discrimination

The following three questions all received the same answer

Lord Avebury [HL3663] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the compatibility of their decision to delay the publication of their feasibility study regarding establishing baseline data to evaluate the effectiveness of caste legislation with their commitment to open government.

Lord Avebury [HL3664] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether it is now possible to establish baseline data that could be used to determine whether the law on caste discrimination is working effectively.

Lord Avebury [HL3665] To ask Her Majesty's Government what further consideration they have given to whether amending the Equality Act 2010 to include the word "caste" would change or clarify the legal position, given the provisions already in place in section 9(5)(a) of that Act.

Baroness Williams of Trafford: This Government has been giving consideration to the legal position on caste discrimination in light of the *Tirkey v Chandhok* Employment Appeal Tribunal judgment which suggests there is an existing legal remedy for claims of caste-associated discrimination under the 'ethnic origins' element of Section 9 of the Equality Act 2010.

Our consideration of the research report commissioned by the coalition Government, designed to determine the feasibility of conducting a national survey to quantify the extent of caste discrimination in Britain, is part of this process.

We remain mindful of the Open Government Action Plan published by the Coalition Government in 2013, to the extent that this concerns the results of commissioned research.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-18/HL3663/>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-18/HL3664/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-18/HL3665/>

Castes: Discrimination

Lord Lester of Herne Hill [HL3647] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the feasibility study of 2014 on caste discrimination.

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are currently considering the conclusions and recommendations of the caste feasibility study as part of our wider consideration of the implications of the *Tirkey v Chandok* tribunal judgments. We will keep the House informed of further developments on this matter.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-17/HL3647/>

Press Release

Racism will not disappear from football stadiums 'by magic,' warns UNESCO report

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52687#.VI2-sN8rKnY>

News

Anti-Islam hate crimes triple in London after Paris attacks

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-34995431>

Targeting of London Muslims triples after Paris attacks

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/dec/04/attacks-against-london-muslims-triple-in-wake-of-paris-attacks>

Attacks on Muslims in London tripled in weeks following Paris attacks

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/attacks-on-muslims-in-london-tripled-in-weeks-following-paris-attacks-a6760631.html>

Hate crimes against Muslims have more than tripled in the wake of the Paris terror attacks to more than 70 reported incidents a week in London

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3346045/Hate-crimes-against-Muslims-tripled-wake-Paris-attacks.html>

Anti-Muslim prejudice 'is moving to the mainstream'

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/05/far-right-muslim-cultural-civil-war>

Police release CCTV after 'Islamophobic' attempted arson attack on Finsbury Park mosque

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/police-release-cctv-after-islamophobic-6924402>

Extra security for Scotland's Jewish school after parents express fears

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14118351.Extra_security_for_Scotland_s_Jewish_school_after_parents_express_fears/

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Jewish school hires security guard after rise in anti-semitic attacks

<http://www.thenational.scot/news/jewish-school-hires-security-guard-after-rise-in-anti-semitic-attacks.10657>

Trial by Twitter

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/Magazine/article1637870.ece>

Islamophobia claim after teacher 'called boy, 14, a terrorist'

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/article1641822.ece>

Riba investigates architect's allegations of institutional racism

<http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2015/dec/03/riba-investigates-architects-allegations-of-institutional-racism>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

First Minister's St Andrew's Day message

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/First-Minister-s-St-Andrew-s-Day-message-1fcc.aspx>

Ministers welcome Chief Constable appointment

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Ministers-welcome-Chief-Constable-appointment-1fee.aspx>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Debate

Scotland and Malawi Relations

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm151130/debtext/151130-0-0004.htm#1512011000002>

Parliamentary Questions

Students: Finance

Gordon Marsden [17805] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what assessment he has made of the effect of replacing maintenance grants with loans on students from faith backgrounds which discourage the accrual of interest.

Reply from Joseph Johnson: The Government expects to publish an Equality Analysis of the changes to student support for the 2016/17 academic year alongside the regulations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-26/17805/>

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Faith Schools [England and Wales]

Lord Storey [HL3918] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how the religious character of a faith school will be maintained if the school is converted into an academy.

Reply from Lord Nash: When a faith school becomes an academy it retains its religious character by virtue of Section 6 of the Academies Act 2010. The academy's religious character is protected through provisions within the academy's funding agreement with the Secretary of State and the academy trust's articles of association. Once a faith school becomes an academy any change to its religious character would only take place with the consent of the relevant religious body and the Secretary of State.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-25/HL3918/>

Press Release

Greg Clark: Chanukah message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/greg-clark-chanukah-message>

New Publication

Female Genital Mutilation - July-Sept 2015, Enhanced Dataset

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB19113>

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New Publication

Growing older in Scotland: health, housing and care

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/uploads/Scotland/Scotland_Research/Growing%20older%20in%20Scotland_Final.pdf

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Other News

Young Muslim writers awards: celebrating a more diverse creative voice

<http://www.theguardian.com/culture/2015/dec/04/young-muslim-writers-awards-celebrate-creativity-of-schoolchildren>

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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>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/94494.aspx>

Revised Explanatory Notes

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Criminal%20Justice%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill35AENS042015Rev.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Criminal%20Justice%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill35AENS042015Rev.pdf)

Scottish Parliament Information Centre Briefing

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_15-76_Criminal_Justice_Scotland_Bill_Stage_3.pdf

**** Education Bill**

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

Stage 2 consideration of amendments, Education and Culture Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10245&i=94292#ScotParlOR>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/94549.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>

Stage 1 evidence session, Health and Sport Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10247&i=94315#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>

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament (continued)

** Immigration Bill

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

Report Stage, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm151201/debtext/151201-0002.htm#15120141000002>

Bill as brought to the House of Lords from the Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2015-2016/0079/15079.pdf>

Updated Explanatory Notes

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2015-2016/0079/en/15079en.pdf>

First Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/151202-0001.htm#15120253000436>

Scotland Act 1998 (Amendment) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/scotlandact1998amendment.html>

** Scotland Bill

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

Order of Consideration Motion, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/151201-0001.htm#15120143000486>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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>

Race equality in the UK (closing date 18 December 2015)

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/projects-and-publications/europe/cerd.html>

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>

Consultations (continued)

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

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

Primary care for new migrants (no closing date given)

<https://newmigrantsinprimarycare.wordpress.com/survey/>

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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

Healthier Scotland Engagement Fund

closing date 11 December 2015

Grants of up to £500 (or exceptionally up to £1,000) to help small voluntary organisations and community groups run an event or engagement activity to gather views about the future of health and social care services in Scotland from people who would not normally participate in a consultation of this nature. For information see

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

**** Action grants to support transnational projects to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance**

closing date: 2 February 2016

Applications should focus on best practices to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance, training and capacity building for strengthening criminal responses to hate crime and hate speech, and empowering and supporting victims of hate crime and hate speech.

For full information see

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/calls/2015_action_grants/just_2015_rrac_ag_en.htm

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** *this week!***

Equality in procurement for minority ethnic businesses

7 December 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 12.30)

West of Scotland Regional Equality Council event to raise awareness on public sector procurement, tendering processes and advantageous methods of engaging with public sector bodies. For information contact Bushra Iqbal biqbal@wsrec.co.uk / 0141 337 6626

**** *this week!***

Inclusion Fundamentals

9 December 2015 in Kirkcaldy (9.30 – 4.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities seminar on the basics for understanding and meeting the

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

diverse needs of people of different protected characteristics. For information see <http://www.fifevoluntaryaction.org.uk/news.asp?id=6569>

** *this week!*

The changing face of racism – Scotland

12 December 2015 in Edinburgh (11.00 – 6.00)

Scotland Against Criminalising Communities and the Islamic Human Rights Commission conference looking at the problems of state Islamophobia and racism. For information see <http://www.irr.org.uk/events/the-changing-face-of-racism-scotland/>

**** New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees**

Tuesday 15 December 2015 in Glasgow

Wednesday 3 February 2016 in Glasgow

Thursday 17 March 2016 in Glasgow

Wednesday 25 May 2016 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an introduction to the issues and legal systems affecting people seeking safety in Scotland. For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7951.

Discrimination Law in 2016

25 January 2016 in Edinburgh (9.55 – 4.00)

Equality and Human Rights Commission conference to provide an updated overview of discrimination cases in the UK through presentations from experts in the field. Fee £75 but free places may be available to voluntary organisations and individuals on application. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/16i_ehrc.pdf or contact Kyle Mulholland 0141 228 5925 / equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com

**** Working with Interpreters**

Tuesday 22 March 2016 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an understanding of how to communicate clearly and effectively with people when working with interpreters. For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7951.

**** Facilitating events with Interpreters**

Tuesday 22 March 2016 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an understanding of how to communicate clearly and effectively when facilitating events with interpreters. For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7951.

**** Engaging Hard to Reach Groups**

Thursday 21 April 2016 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training about engaging with hard to reach groups For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7951.

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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

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services

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

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

BBC Democracy Live http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm

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The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. <http://www.bemis.org.uk/>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://onescotland.org/>

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