

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

The UK Parliament returns from recess on 6 June 2016.

**Due to the Jewish festival of Shavuot,
the next issue of MEMO will be published on Tuesday 14 June 2016.**

Immigration and Asylum

Press Releases

Home Secretary challenged for cutting benefits to Scottish Asylum Seekers
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/home-secretary-challenged-cutting-benefits-scottish-asylum-seekers>

Human trafficking laws now in force
<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Human-trafficking-laws-now-in-force-2511.aspx>

New Publication

House of Commons Home Affairs Committee: The work of the Immigration Directorates
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmhaff/22/22.pdf>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **News**

One in 11 UK asylum seekers is in Scotland

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/one-in-11-uk-asylum-seekers-is-in-scotland-1-4143986>

Councils demand more funding for child refugees care costs

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-36441803>

Up to 500,000 refugees could move to UK after 2020, warns new report

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14525132.Up_to_500_000_refugees_could_move_to_UK_after_2020_warns_new_report/?ref=mr&lp=3

Half a million refugees may end up in UK, pressure group claims

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-05-31/news/fears-that-500-000-refugees-will-end-journeys-in-britain-cnkhx5kwx>

Claims of mass refugee immigration to UK branded 'false and bogus'

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/may/31/claims-of-mass-refugee-immigration-to-uk-branded-false-and-bogus>

More than 2,500 refugees and migrants have died trying to cross the Mediterranean to Europe so far this year, UN reveals

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/05/31/more-than-2500-refugees-and-migrants-have-died-trying-to-cross-t/>

Are Christian converts seeking asylum getting a raw deal?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-36430880>

Asylum claims from Christian converts being rejected if they cannot recite the Ten Commandments

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/05/asylum-claims-from-christian-converts-being-rejected-if-they-can/>

Christian convert asylum seekers 'asked to name colour of Bible cover' as MPs warn claims are assessed on 'trivia'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/christian-convert-asylum-seekers-asked-to-name-colour-bible-cover-mps-warn-claims-assessed-trivia-a7065956.html>

NHS nurse 'denied British citizenship because he volunteers for the Red Cross'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/nhs-nurse-denied-british-citizenship-because-he-does-voluntary-work-a7064686.html>

Deportation family can stay until August

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-36414545>

Highland family to stay until August but 'not allowed to work'

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/highland-family-to-stay-until-august-but-not-allowed-to-work-1-4141847>

Welcome to our new young Scots

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/blogs/2983_welcome_to_our_new_young_scots

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Australian family in Scotland win deportation reprieve

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14525042.VIDEO_Australian_family_in_Scotland_win_deportation_reprieve/

Australian family fighting deportation from Scotland win partial reprieve

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/may/30/australian-family-in-scotland-win-reprieve-from-deportation>

Australian family threatened with deportation from Scotland win reprieve

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/australian-family-threatened-with-deportation-from-scotland-win-reprieve-a7056956.html>

MP attacks immigration policy as another family face deportation from the Highlands

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/political_news/14533406.MP_attacks_immigration_policy_as_another_family_face_deportation_from_the_Highlands/

Another Home Office farce to make your blood boil: Canadian family who run Monarch of the Glen shop are ordered to leave Britain... but a convicted Iraqi child abuser and an Albanian killer can stay

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3620001/The-Home-Office-farce-make-blood-boil-Hard-working-family-run-Monarch-Glen-shop-ordered-leave-Britain-convicted-Iraqi-child-abuser-Albanian-killer-stay.html>

UK schools with large numbers of EU migrant pupils 'perform better'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/uk-schools-with-large-numbers-of-eu-migrant-pupils-perform-better-a7060106.html>

Migrants from EU bad for NHS, schools and housing, say voters

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/migrants-from-eu-bad-for-nhs-schools-and-housing-say-voters-0cx2lrtpg>

Baby left stranded without mother in Jungle red tape

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/baby-left-stranded-without-mother-in-jungle-red-tape-7mm6g9pr7>

Two boatloads of migrants do not an invasion make

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/30/two-boatloads-albanian-migrants-not-an-invasion-britain>

Scotland declares war on human traffickers as tough new law means vile crime can be punished with life sentences

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scotland-declares-war-human-traffickers-8090097#8bTmalsVQ7vdMZ1h.97>

Thousands of slaves are being kept in Britain, report warns

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-06-01/news/thousands-of-slaves-are-being-kept-in-britain-report-warns-jqzgb8fz>

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Equality

Scottish Parliament Question

Gypsy/Traveller Sites

Mary Fee: To ask the Scottish Government what progress it has made on enforcing the (a) minimum site standards and (b) core rights and responsibilities for Gypsy/Traveller site tenants. (S5W-00185)

Reply from Kevin Stewart: The Scottish Government does not have a formal enforcement role, but expects all local authority and Registered Social Landlord Gypsy/Traveller Sites to meet the minimum site standards, and have tenancy agreements that reflect the core rights and responsibilities, by 30 June 2018. We will continue to work with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers) and others to assess progress in meeting the standards, and to develop ways of collecting robust data on the quality of sites.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-00185&ResultsPerPage=10>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Question

Religious Hatred: Islam

Baroness Tonge [HL233] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, and if so when, they intend to instigate an independent inquiry into Islamophobia in politics at all levels.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Everyone in Britain has the right to feel safe and at ease in the place where they live. There is no place for hatred against people because of their race, gender, ethnic origin, faith, sexual orientation, age or disability. This includes anti-Muslim attacks which are unacceptable in Britain. The Government is already taking a number of steps to counter Islamophobia and does not intend to carry out an independent inquiry. We fund Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks) to encourage reporting of these crimes and to support victims. We have also set up the first cross Government Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group to raise awareness of Islamophobic attacks. In addition, the police began to disaggregate hate crime by religion in April 2016. This will help the police to build community trust, target their resources and enable the public to hold them to account.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-23/HL233/>

Press Release

European Commission and IT Companies announce Code of Conduct on illegal online hate speech

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/fundamental-rights/news/160531_en.htm

New Publications

Code of Conduct on Countering Illegal Hate Speech Online

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

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

New Publications (continued)

European Court of Justice ruling in the case of a Muslim employee who was banned from wearing a headscarf in the workplace

... Conclusion

The fact that a female employee of Muslim faith is prohibited from wearing an Islamic headscarf at work does not constitute direct discrimination based on religion within the meaning of Article 2(2)(a) of Directive 2000/78/EC if that ban is founded on a general company rule prohibiting visible political, philosophical and religious symbols in the workplace and not on stereotypes or prejudice against one or more particular religions or against religious beliefs in general. That ban may, however, constitute indirect discrimination based on religion under Article 2(2)(b) of that directive.

Such discrimination may be justified in order to enforce a policy of religious and ideological neutrality pursued by the employer in the company concerned, in so far as the principle of proportionality is observed in that regard.

In that connection, the following factors in particular must be taken into account:

- the size and conspicuousness of the religious symbol,
- the nature of the employee's activity,
- the context in which she has to perform that activity, and
- the national identity of the Member State concerned.

To read the full judgement see

<http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=179082&pageIndex=0&doclang=en&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=360758>

News

NHS: BME staff 'more likely to be bullied than white colleagues'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/health-36427577>

Black NHS staff more likely to be bullied and harassed than white colleagues, report finds

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/02/black-nhs-staff-more-likely-to-be-bullied-and-harassed-than-whit/>

Senior EU lawyer backs workplace ban on Muslim headscarves

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/31/senior-eu-lawyer-backs-workplace-ban-on-muslim-headscarves>

EU's top judge backs workplace ban on headscarves

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/eus-top-judge-backs-workplace-ban-on-headscarves-a7058251.html>

Companies can ban religious symbols, EU lawyer rules

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-06-01/news/companies-can-ban-muslim-headscarves-eu-lawyer-rules-dx2vcnk3j>

Bans on religious clothing at work are absurd

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/bans-on-religious-clothing-at-work-are-absurd-ncwrwldm7>

Black NHS staff more likely to be bullied than white colleagues

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/02/black-nhs-staff-more-likely-bullied-than-white-colleagues>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

White lawyers three times more likely to be appointed as recorders

<http://www.theguardian.com/law/2016/jun/02/white-lawyers-three-times-more-likely-appointed-recorder>

Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Microsoft sign EU pledge to combat online hate speech 'within 24 hours'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3617758/EU-links-Twitter-tech-firms-combat-hate-speech.html>

Strathclyde Uni blasted for sick "Scooby Jew and Gas Chamber" pub quiz team name coined by Student Union official

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/strathclyde-uni-blasted-sick-scooby-8097560#y8KxsluR6KLKXSAE.97>

Standing up for hate

<http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-trending-36427153>

'No Catholics' in Christian bookshop

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/no-catholics-in-christian-bookshop-mms0q5tqr>

BBC criticised by MPs and job applicants over training placements for ethnic minority applicants only

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/03/bbc-criticised-by-mps-and-job-applicants-over-training-placement/>

SDL demo met with large counter-protest in Glasgow

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-36452039>

Scottish Defence League demonstration attracts larger counter protest

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14536929.Scottish_Defence_League_demonstration_attracts_larger_counter_protest/?ref=mr&lp=4

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Law Officer appointments

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Law-Officer-appointments-2513.aspx>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Ramadan 2016: David Cameron's message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ramadan-2016-david-camerons-message>

Other UK Parliament and Government Press Releases (continued)

Foreign Secretary's Ramadan message 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretarys-ramadan-message-2016>

New Publications

MEMO+ The UK Government Legislative Programme 2016

http://www.scojec.org/memo+/2016/16v_uk_legislative_programme.pdf

MEMO+ European Union Referendum 2016

http://www.scojec.org/memo+/2016/16vi_eu_referendum.pdf

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Bills in Progress UK Parliament

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/modernslaverytransparencyinsupplychains.html>

Student Support (Non-Interest-Bearing Finance) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/studentsupportnoninterestbearingfinance.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

** closes this week!

Shami Chakrabarti Inquiry into antisemitism and other forms of racism, including islamophobia, within the Labour Party (closing date 10 June 2016)

<http://www.labour.org.uk/index.php/chakrabarti>

Draft Code of Practice for Stop and Search (closing date 15 July 2016)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/organised-crime-and-police-powers-unit/stop-and-search>

Police Powers to Search Children and Young People for Alcohol (closing date 15 July 2016)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/organised-crime-and-police-powers-unit/under18search>

Developing black and minority ethnic talent: issues faced by businesses (closing date 22 August 2016)

<https://bisgovuk.citizenspace.com/lm/baroness-mcgregor-smith-review>

Police Scotland: local policing (consultation open during the whole year)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8LMB9WX>

Consultations (continued)

The rise of anti-Semitism (closing date not listed)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/inquiry2/>

Suicide and BME Communities in North East Glasgow (closing date not listed)

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BME_suicide_NorthEastGlasgow

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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

Refugee Festival Scotland

14-26 June throughout Scotland

Refugee Festival Scotland is an annual Scotland-wide programme of arts, cultural, educational, heritage and sports events, coordinated by Scottish Refugee Council. For detailed information about events see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/refugee_festival_scotland

Child Refugees, Past and Present - Practitioners Event

14 June 2016 in Glasgow (9.30-2.30)

GRAMNet knowledge-exchange workshop for practitioners working with child refugees, and academic researchers, especially historians. For information see or contact David Wright David.Wright@glasgow.ac.uk

Child Refugees, Past and Present - Public Event

14 June 2016 in Glasgow (3.00-5.00)

GRAMNet talk on child refugees in history. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/h2kfmxn> or contact David Wright David.Wright@glasgow.ac.uk

Make sectarianism a history lesson

14 June 2016 in Glasgow

X-change Scotland training day to support and inspire practitioners and group leaders to challenge sectarianism while promoting empathy within groups. For more information contact sos@xchangescotland.org / 0141 237 2430

How the UK Parliament Works

15 June 2016 in Glasgow (2pm)

GramNet and UK Houses of Parliament Outreach and Engagement Service event to find out how the UK Parliament works, and how to raise issues that you want heard by policy makers at Westminster. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jfg9u55>

Immigrants to Scotland: 1945 to the Present

16 June 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.45)

ESRC conference to explore the cultural diversity of Scotland's refugee and migrant groups since 1945. For information and to book see <http://tinyurl.com/jg36dvv>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Celebrating Solidarity' – Refugee Festival Scotland Launch

18 June 2016 in Glasgow (12.00-4.00)

Show solidarity with refugees across Scotland at a gathering for all the family to launch Refugee Festival Scotland 2016, featuring live music, dance, arts and crafts, sports and games, face painting and free food. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zr2qfxl> or contact festival@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Being Roma in Glasgow

18 June 2016 in Glasgow (6pm)

Glasgow Anew discussion on the Roma experience in Glasgow. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hknmn2o>

Who Cares in Dundee?

20 June 2016 in Dundee (12.00-6.00)

Opportunity to view the work done by national and local agencies and ask questions about their work. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hw4q695> or contact John Clark john_d_clark@btinternet.com

GRAMnet Research Open Day 2016

21 June 2016 in Glasgow (10.00-1.00)

GRAMNet event for postgraduate research students with an interest in issues around refugees, asylum and migration. For information and to book see <http://tinyurl.com/ha9vmjn>

Working Together in Faith Refugee information and advocacy

21 June 2016 in Edinburgh (10.30-3.30)

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees conference to provide information about the current humanitarian refugee catastrophe and explores practical ways in which local faith groups can make an effective difference. For information and to register see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/working-together-in-faith-registration-25160800632> or contact Sabine Chalmers schalmers@churchofscotland.org.uk or David Bradwell dbradwell@churchofscotland.org.uk

The Immigration Bill 2015/16: impact on asylum seekers and migrants, and consequences for Scottish services

22 June 2016 in Glasgow (5.30-7.00)

GRAMnet and Scottish Detainee Visitors event to explore immigration legislation that will make changes to support for asylum seekers, and which has major implications for human rights and discrimination law. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/j8t9m48>

'Meet the Artists' of Transit Zone

23 June 2016 in Glasgow (5.30-6.30)

Scottish Refugee Council open discussion with photographer Iman Tajik and cinematographer Frederik Subei about their exhibition and film Transit Zone which gives an insight into what life is like for refugees in the makeshift camps of Calais. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jxrqebc>

Are open borders the way to deal with the 'migration crisis'?

23 June 2016 in Glasgow (6.00-7.30)

GRAMNet and Open Borders Scotland discussion about ways of responding to the 'migration crisis' in Europe today. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zhl3dwr>

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.parliament.scot/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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