

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-02322 Mary Fee: Renfrewshire Council Rehoming Refugees – That the Parliament notes that Renfrewshire Council will soon welcome unaccompanied children from the refugee camp at Calais; understands that the council is among the first in Scotland to work with the Home Office to take children arriving in the UK; congratulates the council for once again leading the way in rehoming refugees in Scotland after it was commended earlier in 2016 for rehoming more Syrian refugees than any other local authority in Scotland; considers that everyone has a moral duty to help individuals who are fleeing from warfare, particularly vulnerable children who are caught up in the humanitarian crisis in Europe; considers that Scotland should celebrate the culture, diversity and skills that refugees bring to the country, all of which enhances the rich fabric of society, and urges the UK Government to redouble its efforts in relation to rehoming Syrian refugees across the whole of the UK.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-02322>

S5M-02322.1 Ross Greer: Renfrewshire Council Rehoming Refugees – As an amendment to motion S5M-02322 in the name of Mary Fee (Renfrewshire Council Rehoming Refugees), after "local authority in Scotland;" insert "considers that a council that supports the humane treatment of refugees would not support their detention, and calls on Renfrewshire Council to refuse planning permission for a new detention centre near Glasgow Airport;"

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-02322.1>

UK Parliament Questions

Immigration

Philip Davies [50678] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many times DNA testing has been used in immigration cases in each of the last three years.

Reply from Robert Godwill: DNA testing is not carried out or required for immigration applications. Information regarding DNA tests submitted by applicants is not aggregated in national reporting systems. This information could only be obtained by a manual case by case review to collate the data, which would be disproportionately expensive.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-27/50678/>

Immigration

David Crausby [49226] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time was for a final decision on an indefinite leave to remain application in each of the last five years.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The service standard for application for ILR is 6 months or 182 days.

Year Despatched	Average Days to despatch
2011	73.26
2012	105.46
2013	91.44
2014	104.52
2015	67

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Notes Indefinite Leave to remain defined as those case types classed as Permanent Residence, Tier 1 ILR and Tier 2 ILR based on the case type matrix. Data extracted on 19 October 2016.

These statistics have been taken from a live operational database. As such, numbers may change as information on that system is updated.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-18/49226/>

Immigration: Appeals

Richard Fuller [51383] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to monitor and improve the performance of UK Visas and Immigration's implementation of decisions made by the First Tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum).

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Details of allowed appeals which are not being contested by the Home Office are sent electronically on a daily basis to decision making centres, which arrange for appropriate follow on actions to be taken reflecting the Tribunal's determination in each case.

My officials are currently reviewing the arrangements for monitoring performance on follow on actions to identify the scope for improvements.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-01/51383/>

Entry Clearances: Married People

Liz Saville Roberts [50651] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to change the £18,600 income threshold for immigration of non-EEA partners of British citizens.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The minimum income threshold of £18,600 for sponsoring a non-EEA partner to come to the UK prevents burdens on the taxpayer and promotes integration. It was set following advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee and reflects the income at which a family settled in the UK generally ceases to be able to access income-related benefits. The policy has been approved by Parliament and upheld as lawful by the courts.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-27/50651/>

Overseas Students: Visas

Paul Monaghan [49924] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to review immigration rules for students.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: As the Home Secretary recently announced, we will shortly be consulting on what more we can do to strengthen the system to support the best institutions – and those that stick to the rules – to attract the best talent.

The consultation will include looking, for the first time, at whether our student immigration rules should be tailored to the quality of the institution.

Interested parties, including businesses and members of the education sector, will have the opportunity to engage with this consultation to help us get these reforms right.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-24/49924/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Visas: Overseas Students

The following three questions all received the same answer

Lord Harris of Haringey [HL2631] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all international students applying to study in the UK are required in their visa applications to submit bank statements showing that they have sufficient available funds to cover their living expenses in the UK; and if not, what are the criteria for selecting which students are required to do so, and to students from which countries this requirement applies.

Lord Harris of Haringey [HL2632] To ask Her Majesty's Government what level of funds they deem sufficient to cover the living expenses in the UK of international students, and how this is calculated.

Lord Harris of Haringey [HL2633] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment have they made of the impact of the requirement that, in applying for a visa to study in the UK, international students should demonstrate they have sufficient available funds to cover their living expenses.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The maintenance requirements for Tier 4 (General) Students to cover living costs is set at the same level as the combined maximum maintenance loan and grant available to English students living away from home. These requirements are set out in paragraphs 153-176 of the Tier 4 Migrant Guidance.

All students need to meet the same maintenance requirements; however, some students are not required to provide documentation with their applications to confirm this, although the Home Office retain the right to request these documents at any point during the visa process. The details of this are set out in Appendix H of the Immigration Rules.

We will shortly be consulting on proposed changes to the non-EU work and study migration routes to see what more we can do to strengthen the system to support the best institutions – and those that stick to the rules – to attract the best talent.

Interested parties, including businesses and members of the education sector, will have the opportunity to engage with this consultation to help us get these reforms right.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-25/HL2631/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-25/HL2632/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-25/HL2633/>

Refugees: English Language

Heidi alexander [50006] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to provide additional funding for English language tuition for refugees who gain settlement rights in the UK under the standard procedure for claiming asylum.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: All those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection become eligible for government skills funding as any other UK resident and are not subject to the normal 3 year qualifying period.

When someone receives a positive decision on their asylum claim they are provided with relevant information to allow them to access the services they need.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-24/50006/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Refugees: Syria

Baroness Helic [HL2781] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the Syrian vulnerable person resettlement programme should be expanded to include victims of sexual violence and torture by Daesh and other armed groups in Iraq.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Eligibility for the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement programme (VPR) is based on established vulnerability criteria used by the UNHCR, which includes those who have been victims of sexual violence and torture.

Whilst the VPR is limited to Syrian nationals, the UK operates a number of other resettlement schemes which are open to all nationalities. This includes our long-running Gateway and Mandate schemes and our new Vulnerable Children's Resettlement scheme. In the year ending June 2016, the UK resettled over 100 Iraqis under the Gateway and Mandate schemes. The UK continues to support humanitarian efforts by providing £79.5 million to help the three million Iraqis who have been displaced, and over eight million people in need, many of whom have been victims of Daesh's abuses and persecution.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-27/HL2781/>

Refugees: Children

Kirsten Oswald [50860] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the safety of unaccompanied refugee children who have not been placed in alternative accommodation or registered with the French authorities after the demolition of the camp in Calais; and what steps the Government is taking in conjunction with the French authorities to help ensure the safety of those children.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The clearance of the camp is a French-led operation, but we have been working very closely with the French authorities to ensure that it is delivered as safely as possible, and that children are properly protected. We are committed to ensuring that minors eligible to come to the UK under the Dublin Regulation or the wider criteria of the Dubs amendment continue to be transferred as quickly as possible.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-27/50860/>

Refugees: Children

The following two questions both received the same answer

Thangam Debbonaire [51377] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what immigration status children transferred to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 will be given on arrival in the UK.

Thangam Debbonaire [51378] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether children arriving in the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 will be referred to the Refugee Council's Children's Panel Advice Service.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: All children arriving in the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 are granted temporary admission while we consider their asylum claim. They are also referred to the Refugee Council's Children's Panel Advice Service.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-01/51377/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-01/51378/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum

Paul Blomfield [50722] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to consult on regulations to be made under section 95A of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 as inserted by Schedule 11 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We plan to consult local government, non-governmental organisations and other partners on the regulations to be made under section 95A, concerning support for failed asylum seekers who face a genuine obstacle to their departure from the UK at the point their appeal rights are exhausted.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-27/50722/>

Asylum

Andrew Smith [46163] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the date of receipt was of the oldest outstanding further submission related to an asylum claim.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Home Office records indicate that the oldest outstanding further submissions application related to an asylum claim is dated 12 December 2001.

In March 2015 the Home Office implemented a new policy for individuals who make new further submissions in person in Liverpool and has significantly improved the handling and processing times of applications submitted since 30 March 2015.

The Home Office is currently developing internal plans to address the older further submissions whilst deciding new applications submitted through the Further Submissions Unit in Liverpool. It is important to note there will always be exceptional cases that can not be dealt with due to circumstances outwith the control of the Home Office.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-13/46163/>

Asylum

Tania Mathias [50354] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average weekly cost of accommodating an asylum seeker on (a) section 4 and (b) section 95 support was in the last 12 months.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Accommodation costs for S4 and S95 populations are just two elements of the COMPASS contracts. Information relating to the total value of the COMPASS contracts is available and in the public domain and can be accessed here:

G4S (NEYH and Humberside):

<https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive/contract/503110/>

Serco (NW): <https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive/contract/503120/>

G4S Midlands and East of England: <https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive/contract/503120/>

Serco (SNI): <https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive/contract/503124/>

Clearsprings Ready Homes (CRH) South of England:

<https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive/contract/503103/>

CRH Wales: <https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive/contract/487962/>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-26/50354/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum

Lord Greaves [HL2774] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether local authorities are informed of the identity and location of asylum seekers who are housed on behalf of the Home Office in their area.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office works closely with COMPASS providers and local authorities through Strategic Migration Partnerships to ensure the impacts of dispersal on local communities and services are considered when allocating accommodation to asylum seekers.

Local authorities and statutory bodies are consulted prior to the proposed use of all new asylum accommodation. However, in accordance with data protection principles, the identity of individual applicants is not routinely shared.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-27/HL2774/>

Asylum: Employment

Thangam Debbonaire [51465] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers were granted permission to work in each of the last three years.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The data requested on the number of asylum seekers that were granted permission to work is held on individual Home Office records on the Immigration casework database.

Such data is not extractable without interrogating thousands of individual records.

Therefore, the information is not readily available and could only be obtained through a disproportionately expensive manual case search to collate the data.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-01/51465/>

Asylum: Housing

Ian Murray [51208] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 13 October 2016 to Question 47816, if she will publish details of any (a) policy equality statement, (b) equality impact assessment and (c) equality monitoring that the Government has carried out on its contracts with Compass to provide accommodation to asylum seekers (i) prior to those contracts being signed in 2012 and (ii) in the years since those contracts were signed.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The COMPASS contracts and their associated procurement exercise defined the required performance standards expected of all providers including sensitivity of equality impacts, these contracts are published at: <https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive/contract/503124/>

The Government expects the highest standards from our contractors and providers are monitored closely to ensure they continue to meet these standards. Equality assessments have not been undertaken in isolation from usual contract tendering and management processes and discussions about equality impacts form part of regular engagement with stakeholder groups. Equality assessments are not collated in publishable formats.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-31/51208/>

Asylum: Age

The following two questions both received the same answer

David Davies [50229] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether officials of her Department accept reports from dental consultants as evidence of age in cases where there is a dispute over the age of asylum seekers.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

David Davies [50232] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have submitted reports from dental consultants to support age claims in each of the last three years for which figures are available.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Where clear and credible documentary evidence of age is not available, criteria including physical appearance and demeanour are used as part of the interview process to assess whether a person is under 18. This can be followed where necessary by a local authority assessment, in line with case law and approved by two social workers. In addition, the person may submit a report from a dental consultant on a voluntary basis. Records are not kept centrally on the number of reports from dental consultants submitted by asylum seekers.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50229/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50232/>

Asylum: Children

Stephen Kinnock [50665] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many times her Department has disputed the age of someone claiming to be a child when making an asylum application in the last 12 months.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office publishes the number of age disputes raised in each quarter in table as_10_q, in volume 3 of the asylum data tables:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/546760/asylum3-q2-2016-tabs.ods

The numbers of disputed cases are reported in section 13 'Age Disputes' of the Asylum chapter, in the Immigration Statistics release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2016/asylum>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-27/50665/>

Asylum: Young People

Philip Davies [50781] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 23 May 2012 to Question 106405 on asylum: young people, what the results of the dental x-ray pilot were.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: A planned trial of the use of voluntary dental x-rays in the age assessment process did not go ahead in 2012.

The Home Secretary's oral statement on Calais on 24 October (Column 55) referred to the proper safeguarding, age assessment and security checks we carry out, working closely with local authorities and social workers in the UK, to ensure that the children transferred here are eligible to come and it is in their best interests to do so.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-27/50781/>

Asylum: Children in Care

Helen Hayes [51114] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children were being looked after under a (a) section 20 voluntary accommodation arrangement and (b) care order (interim or final) on 31 March 2016.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Edward Timpson: There were 4,210 unaccompanied asylum seeking children looked after at 31 March 2016. 4,170 were looked after under a section 20 voluntary accommodation arrangement, 10 under an interim care order, and 20 under a full care order[1].

[1] These figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-31/51114/>

Immigration: Detainees

Paul Blomfield [50733] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policy on migrant detention of the report published by Detention Action entitled, Without detention, on 26 September 2016.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Government receives a large number of reports from a range of organisations (including Detention Action) and takes them into account, as appropriate, in developing its policies and strategies.

Our published policy is clear that alternatives to detention should be used wherever possible, and we will continue to use detention to tackle immigration abuse by enforcing removal when necessary. Depriving someone of their liberty will always be subject to careful consideration and scrutiny, and will take account of individual circumstances.

The Government commissioned an independent review of the welfare of vulnerable individuals in detention by Stephen Shaw. We accepted the broad thrust of Mr Shaw's recommendations, including the adoption of a wider definition of those at risk, and we have strengthened our policies and processes for dealing with the detention of persons who may be vulnerable.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-27/50733/>

Detention Centres

Paul Monaghan [49925] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to reform the immigration detention estate.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Government commissioned an independent review of the welfare of vulnerable individuals in detention by Stephen Shaw. We accepted the broad thrust of Mr Shaw's recommendations, including the adoption of a wider definition of those at risk, and we have strengthened our policies and processes for dealing with the detention of persons who may be vulnerable.

The Government expect these reforms, and broader changes in legislation, policy and operational approaches, to lead to a reduction in the number of those detained, and the duration of detention before removal, in turn improving the welfare of those detained. The immigration detention estate is kept under constant review to make sure we have the right resources in the right places and that we are providing value for money.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-24/49925/>

New Publication

Infographic: Why do children become stateless?

<http://statelesskids.eu/image/152893090770>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **News**

Plan for immigration removal centre at Glasgow Airport rejected

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-37908602>

'Dungavel replacement' plans are thrown out

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14875226.Dungavel_replacement_plans_are_thrown_out/?ref=mr&lp=15

Immigration holding centre at Glasgow Airport rejected

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/video-immigration-holding-centre-at-glasgow-airport-rejected-1-4281803>

Councillors reject Home Office plan for Dungavel-type detention centre near Glasgow Airport

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/councillors-reject-home-office-plan-9221750>

Immigration removal facility plans rejected

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3055_immigration_removal_facility_plans_rejected

Plan for immigration removal centre near Glasgow airport rejected

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/nov/08/plan-immigration-removal-centre-glasgow-airport-rejected>

Scots planners snub new rapid removal hub for immigrants

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-11-09/scotland/scots-planners-snub-new-rapid-removal-hub-for-immigrants-xxdwm8zgv>

Councils accuse Home Office of dragging heels over Calais children

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/nov/12/councils-accuse-home-office-of-dragging-heels-over-calais-migrant-children>

Reality Check: How do students affect migration stats?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-37897476>

Refugee children to be welcomed to Scotland

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/refugee-children-to-be-welcomed-to-scotland-1-4283458>

Refugee children arrive in Scotland following Jungle demolition

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3931090/Refugee-children-arrive-Scotland-following-Jungle-demolition.html>

Refugee kids at risk of suicide from delayed resettling after Calais 'Jungle' demolition, warns charity

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/refugee-kids-risk-suicide-delayed-9210555>

Emotional reunion for Pakistani academic's family after baby visa rejection row

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14875329.Emotional_reunion_for_Pakistani_academic_s_family_after_baby_visa_rejection_row/?ref=mr&lp=3

First Minister and faith leaders discuss the plight of refugees

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/first_minister_and_faith_leaders_discuss_the_plight_of_refugees

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Oldham pensioner wins fight against deportation to Pakistan

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/nov/11/oldham-pensioner-hakeem-muhammad-haleem-wins-fight-against-deportation-to-pakistan>

Cardiff teenager faces fight to avoid being sent back to Afghanistan

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/nov/10/cardiff-teenager-afghanistan-bashir-naderi>

[TOP](#)

Community Relations

UK Parliament Question

Schools: Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month

Baroness Hodgson of Abinger [HL2864] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take to encourage schools to promote Gypsy Roma Traveller History month in June 2017.

Reply from Lord Nash: Schools have a crucial role to play in celebrating the history and culture of all their pupils, fostering inclusion and reaching out to the communities they serve. The Government is keen to support and encourage all schools to fulfil this important role. The Department for Education is currently considering the drivers for raising the educational attainment of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) pupils, drawing on expertise from these communities, and will consider GRT History Month in that context.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-31/HL2864/>

News

Ethnic minority Britons surge into middle class

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/ethnic-minority-britons-surge-into-middle-class-dkjp9bgnf>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-02369 Alex Rowley: Strike Action at the EHRC – That the Parliament acknowledges the announcement from the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) that staff at the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), will be taking strike action on 9 November 2016 over cuts that, it believes, risk leaving the agency “toothless”; acknowledges that a second walkout is planned alongside colleagues from Unite on 16 November; understands that workers have been told to expect a 25% budget cut, following a 70% reduction in the commission’s budget since 2010; believes that this will lead to fewer caseworkers to support victims of discrimination and could threaten the agency’s UN “A” status as a national human rights institution; understands that 19 of the first 26 posts due to be lost are held by staff in the three-lowest pay grades;

Equality

Scottish Parliament Motions (continued)

believes that this means that the watchdog responsible for protecting vulnerable workers will disproportionately target older, ethnic minority and disabled staff; is concerned by the observation by the PCS that “this would seriously undermine EHRC’s ability to tackle the rise in hate crime after the Brexit vote”, and understands that the commission has refused to consider alternative sources of savings, including the high cost of employing non-payroll consultants, with almost £1.2 million paid to just eight staff over the last year.
<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-02369>

UK Parliament Questions

Health Services: Travellers

Baroness Hodgson of Abinger [HL2865] To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they intend to implement the recommendation made in the Inclusion Health Board report *Hidden Needs: Identifying Key Vulnerable Groups in Data Collections* that Gypsies and Travellers should be designated as particularly vulnerable.

Reply from Lord Prior of Brampton: We recognise the importance of addressing the needs of vulnerable groups such as Gypsies and Travellers as part of our wider work on tackling health inequalities. We share the concerns of the *Hidden Needs: Identifying Key Vulnerable Groups in Data Collection* (2014) report, which identified the poor health experiences of some Gypsy and Traveller groups making them particularly vulnerable in terms of much higher rates of mortality and morbidity than the general population.

The National Inclusion Health Board championed more effective local action to address these concerns. This included encouraging better local planning and commissioning of services, and improving access to them.

Earlier this year, we published the board’s report *Impact of insecure accommodation and the living environment on Gypsies’ and Travellers’ health* (2016). This report built on concerns in earlier reports about the vulnerability of this group and sets out suggested actions to improve the living conditions and health outcomes of Gypsies and Travellers. It calls for more joined up working by local authorities, the National Health Service and responsible health agencies, and local public health services, and emphasises the importance of building greater community cohesion to address some of the key obstacles to the development of a healthy and sustainable environment for Gypsy and Traveller families. [Impact of insecure accommodation report](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-31/HL2865/>

Youth Justice: Travellers

Baroness Hodgson of Abinger [HL2866] To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they have plans to enable the identification of Gypsies and Travellers in the youth justice system so that data can be gathered.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: The Youth Justice Board and HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) publish an annual report on ‘Children in Custody’ that monitors the number of gypsy, traveller and Romany (GRT) children in youth offenders’ institutions and secure training centres. The reports are available on the HMIP website. Secure Children’s Homes are monitored by Ofsted rather than HMIP and are therefore not included in this report.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-31/HL2866/>

Equality

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Secure Training Centres: Travellers

Rehman Chishti [51777] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 26 October 2016 to Question 49053, whether the Youth Justice Board has raised the issue of updating its ethnicity data collection system to include Gypsy and Traveller categories with her in the last 12 months.

Reply from Philip Lee: The Youth Justice Board supports a consistent approach to recording the numbers of children and young people from minority groups across the youth justice system. To this end, the YJB are reviewing how they and their partners can update their ethnicity data collection to identify young people from a Gypsy, Romany and Traveller background.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-03/51777/>

Youth Custody: Travellers

Rehman Chishti [51837] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what recent estimate she has made of literacy levels among gypsy and traveller children in secure training centres and young offender institutions.

Reply from Philip Lee: Information on literacy levels in the youth secure estate is not held centrally. The YJB and HMIP 'Children in Custody 2014-15' report, published in December 2015, presents results of surveys completed in under-18 YOIs by young males aged 15 to 17 years that self-identified as Gypsy, Romany, or Traveller compared to young people did not report that they belonged to this ethnic group. The results for 2014/15 were as follows:

Under-18 YOIs (2014/15)	Gypsy, Romany or Traveller males aged 15-17 years (sample size = 42)	Other young males aged 15-17 years (sample size = 510)
Do you understand spoken English?	98%	99%
Do you understand written English?	92%	99%

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-03/51837/>

Children in Care: Travellers

Baroness Hodgson of Abinger [HL2867] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Gypsy and Traveller children were taken into care in 2015 and how this compares with the general population.

Reply from Lord Nash: In the year ending 31 March 2016, 32,050 children started to be looked after, of which 210 had an ethnic origin of Gypsy/Roma or Traveller of Irish heritage.

The comparable figures for the year ending 31 March 2015, were 31,340 children starting to be looked after, of which 240 were of Gypsy/Roma or Traveller of Irish Heritage ethnic origin.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-31/HL2867/>

Armed Forces: Ethnic Groups

Lord Ouseley [HL2878] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in recruiting black and ethnic minority personnel to the armed services in each year from 2010 to 2015, excluding those from the Commonwealth.

Reply from Earl Howe: The Defence workforce is not representative of the demographic within society. In order to address this the Defence Diversity and

Equality

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Inclusion Programme was established to increase the diversity of the civilian and military workforce, and to create a more inclusive working environment in which people are able to reach their full potential.

The Armed Forces are working towards a target of 10 per cent of recruits to come from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic backgrounds by 2020, as announced by the Prime Minister prior to the 2015 election. Additionally, the Minister for the Armed Forces agreed a 15 per cent female recruitment target by 2020. Information on recruitment of black and ethnic minority people to the UK Armed Forces from 2010 to 2015, excluding those from the Commonwealth, is shown below.

Table 1: Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) intake^{6,7} to UK Regular Forces¹ and Future Reserves 2020² (FR20) excluding personnel from the Commonwealth by calendar year

12 Month ending	31-Dec-10	31-Dec-11	31-Dec-12	31-Dec-13	31-Dec-14	31-Dec-15
UK Regulars and FR20	*	*	*	600	820	1,040
UK Regulars	370	400	500	430	570	640
FR203	*	*	*	160	250	400

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service) *Unavailable

Rounding: Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers ending in 5 are rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid systematic bias. Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.

1. UK Regular Forces comprise full-time personnel but does not include Gurkhas, Full-Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel and Reservists.
2. Future Reserves 2020 includes volunteer reserves who are mobilised, High Readiness Reserves (HRR) and volunteer reserve personnel serving on Additional Duties Commitment (ADC) or FTRS contracts. Sponsored Reserves who provide a more cost effective solution than volunteer reserves are also included in the Army Reserve FR20. Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI) and University Officer Cadets and Regular Reservists are excluded.
3. Figures for FR20 Volunteer Reserves are only available from April 2012 onwards.
4. It is not mandatory for Service personnel to declare their ethnicity on the Joint Personnel Administrative (JPA) system. Figures reflect the number of personnel who declared themselves as BAME on JPA.
5. Figures are based on personnel with a known nationality as reported on JPA.
6. Intake to UK Regular Forces comprises new entrants, re-entrants, direct trained entrants (including professionally qualified officers), intake to the Army from the Gurkhas and intake from the Reserves. All movements within the Regular Forces, including flows from untrained to trained strength, transfers between Services and flows from rank to officer due to promotion are excluded.
7. Intake to FR20 comprises new entrants, Regular to Reserve transfers, Reserve re-joiners, and Reserve personnel joining from another part of the Reserves that are not included in the FR20 target population. Intake to UK Regular Forces comprises new entrants, re-entrants, direct trained entrants (including professionally qualified officers), intake to the Army from the Gurkhas and intake from the Reserves. It excludes all movements within the Regular Forces; including flows from untrained to trained strength, transfers between Services and flows from rank to officer due to promotion.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-01/HL2878/>

Equality (continued) News

Make classical inclusive of black people, says BBC's Young Musician 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2016/nov/10/classical-music-bbc-young-musician-2016-sheku-kanneh-mason-black>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Debate

Prevention and Eradication of Hate Crime and Prejudice

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10611&i=97605#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-02364 Angela Constance: Working Together to Prevent and Eradicate Hate Crime and Prejudice – That the Parliament condemns all forms of hate crime and prejudice; welcomes the recent report of the Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime, Prejudice and Community Cohesion; thanks the group for this work and the recommendations made, which will inform future action in this area; notes its view that the current approach to tackling hate crime is appreciated; agrees that Scotland has a long history of welcoming people of all nationalities and faiths; considers that non-British EU nationals living in Scotland are welcome here, they belong here and that their contribution is appreciated; commends the role of Police Scotland and third party reporting centres in responding to reports of hate crime, and encourages people to report all hate crime whenever and wherever it takes place, and agrees to work together to stand up to, and eradicate, hate crime and prejudice in Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-02364>

S5M-02364.1 Pauline McNeill, Glasgow: Working Together to Prevent and Eradicate Hate Crime and Prejudice – As an amendment to motion S5M-02364 in the name of Angela Constance (Working Together to Prevent and Eradicate Hate Crime and Prejudice), leave out from "commends" to "reports of hate crime" and insert "agrees that the media has a critical role in shaping social attitudes, and appreciates the role of education in raising awareness to counteract negative stereotypes; supports a zero-tolerance approach to hate crime across Scotland; understands the need to increase diversity within the workforce of the criminal justice system; commends the work of the third sector in raising awareness, tackling prejudice and promoting equality; further commends the role of Police Scotland and third party reporting centres in responding to reports of hate crime and stresses the need for more resources to be allocated to them".

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-02364.1>

S5M-02364.2 Annie Wells: Working Together to Prevent and Eradicate Hate Crime and Prejudice – As an amendment to motion S5M-02364 in the name of Angela Constance (Working Together to Prevent and Eradicate Hate Crime and Prejudice), leave out from "agrees that Scotland" to "responding to reports of " and insert "suggests that further action be taken to address the underreporting of disability, sexual orientation

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination Scottish Parliament Motions (continued)

and transgender hate crime; agrees that Scotland has a long history of welcoming people of all nationalities and faiths; considers that both non-British EU nationals and non-EU nationals living in Scotland are welcome here, they belong here and that their contribution is appreciated; commends the role of Police Scotland and third party reporting centres in responding to reports of hate crime; supports the continued cooperation with third party organisations in training police officers to tackle LGBTI".

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-02364.2>

Press Releases

Hate crime must be eradicated

<http://news.gov.scot/news/hate-crime-must-be-eradicated>

Anti-bullying strategy

<http://news.gov.scot/news/anti-bullying-strategy>

News

John Swinney: New anti-bullying strategy for schools put on hold

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/john-swinney-new-anti-bullying-strategy-for-schools-put-on-hold-1-4285517>

Holyrood committee warns over school racism post-Brexit

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-37936269>

Call for Scottish school bullying database after incidents "swept under the carpet"

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/14877913.Racist_Islamophobic_and_homophobic_bullying_increasing_in_Scottish_schools/

Anti-Islamic and Nazi T-shirts sold by military charity

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-37895831>

These anti-terrorism posters echo Nazi propaganda

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/nov/07/anti-terrorism-posters-nazi-propaganda>

'Anti-Semitic' posters withdrawn by British Transport Police after comparisons with Nazi propaganda

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/08/anti-semitic-posters-withdrawn-by-british-transport-police-after/>

Everyone should read this guide about what to do if you see Islamophobia

https://www.indy100.com/article/everyone-should-read-this-guide-about-what-to-do-if-you-see-islamophobia--bJWvwnNH_W

Discrimination at work allowed to "flourish unchecked" as employment tribunal claims fall by 9,000 a month, says TUC

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/equality-issues/industrial-issues/discrimination-work-allowed-%E2%80%9Cflourish-unchecked%E2%80%9D-employment>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Five teens appear in court charged with racially abusing and throwing fireworks at immigrant

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/hkhjhj-9229427>

Hate crime attack on man outside house in Barmulloch

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-37912337>

Man pelted with rocks and fireworks in Glasgow hate crime attack

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/man-pelted-with-rocks-and-fireworks-in-glasgow-hate-crime-attack-1-4281747>

Able Miller: Glasgow refugee dad-of-three hit with rocks and lit fireworks

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14875175.Glasgow_refugee_dad_of_three_hit_with_rocks_and_lit_fireworks_as_he_tried_to_protect_his_family/

Racist thugs caught on CCTV pelting refugee with lit fireworks and bricks outside his home

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/racist-thugs-pelt-zimbabwean-refugee-9219295>

Academics warn of “new acceptability” of discriminatory language after Brexit vote

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/scotland/311852/academics-warn-new-acceptability-discriminatory-language-brexit-vote/>

Facebook accused of hiding job ads from ethnic groups

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-11-07/news/facebook-accused-of-hiding-job-ads-from-ethnic-groups-r6dpgw96j>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Religious Observance (Schools)

Maurice Golden: To ask the First Minister whether optional religious observance in schools for 16 to 18-year-olds will support the values of a diverse and outward-looking Scotland. (S5F-00438)

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): Religious observance is a school community activity that offers opportunities for young people to reflect meaningfully on different points of view and values, including their own. It promotes critical thinking and helps young people to become aware of different ideas and beliefs about life. The values of a diverse and outward-looking Scotland are fully supported by that aspect of the school experience, and any decisions about a young person withdrawing from it should involve parents or carers and the young person, especially as that young person grows in maturity and understanding of their own learning.

Maurice Golden: Can the First Minister assure constituents of mine in West Scotland, as well as people beyond it, that within the parameters of any consultation or potentially amended guidance or legislation in respect of the matter, there will be no threat to faith schools and how they choose to deliver education?

Other Scottish Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from the First Minister: Nothing in the consultation that has been announced is about faith schools, so I absolutely give that commitment. However, we are, as the member has indicated, considering a consultation on revising the guidance. That principally concerns the issue that has been raised by the Humanist Society Scotland, in a court action that has now sisted, about whether young people can, without the agreement of their parents, withdraw from religious education or observance. We are looking at that issue, and it is right for us to do so. After all, as young people get older, their responsibility for making such decisions clearly becomes enhanced. Of course, that position already exists in England and Wales. We are considering a consultation on that particularly narrow issue.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10613&i=97626#ScotParlOR>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Pupils: Ethnic Groups

Lord Scriven [HL2689] To ask Her Majesty's Government why, in the original guidance on the national schools census, schools were asked to collect or ascribe information on the ethnicity of children.

Reply from Lord Nash: The DfE has been collecting data about pupils attending schools in England through the School Census for over ten years.

The data is collected termly and supports a number of DfE's strategic objectives. It is widely used by DfE for the purpose of improving, and promoting, the education or well-being of all pupils in England. For example, data on disadvantaged or special educational needs pupils enable the department to target support to where it is needed most.

Ethnic background data is regarded as sensitive personal data. Parents and pupils have always had the right to refuse to provide this information. From 2011, if a parent or pupil refused to provide this information, schools should record "refused" in their systems rather than recording an ethnic background for that pupil. Up to 2010 the ethnic monitoring guidance provided by the Department permitted the ascription of ethnicity by schools where certain safeguards were met. In 2011 the ability for schools to ascribe the ethnicity for pupils was removed from the guidance.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-26/HL2689/>

Pupils: Ethnic Groups

Lord Scriven [HL2690] To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of schools which ascribed ethnicity to children whose nationality and country of birth details were not filled in by a parent as part of the national schools census; and what steps they have taken to ensure that schools fully understand that this information is not required.

Reply from Lord Nash: Schools collect and use data to support the effective day to day running of their school. Schools capture this data within their own management information systems (MIS). They are free to purchase an MIS of

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

their choice and some of the data held in this system is then shared with DfE when legally permitted to do so.

Some MIS contain an option for schools to ascribe ethnicity however this information is not captured by DfE and the Schools Census guidance (May 2016) is clear that parents or pupils may choose to withhold information on nationality, country of birth or ethnicity if they so wish. The guidance also states that there is no requirement for schools to request, or see, documentary evidence such as a passport or birth certificate to ascertain information on nationality and country of birth.

To address any uncertainties regarding how information should be collected, I have placed an information note in the House Libraries.

We are also continuing to work with the sector to consider how we can better support schools in collecting school census data for future rounds.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-26/HL2690/>

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Other News

Don't use Fundraising Preference Service, experts tell Scottish charities

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/dont-use-fundraising-preference-service-experts-tell-scottish-charities>

CPS afraid to tackle honour crimes

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/07/cps-afraid-to-tackle-honour-crimes/>

Fear of unrest 'halts honour crime cases'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-11-08/news/fear-of-unrest-halts-honour-crime-cases-0chmxz9rr>

CPS response to the Daily Telegraph's claims about honour-based violence

http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest_news/cps_response_to_daily_telegraph_claims_on_honour_based_violence/

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

UK Parliament

Ethnicity Pay Gap Bill

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

EU Citizens Resident in the United Kingdom (Right to Stay)

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

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

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

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament (continued)

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

Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy (closing date 7 December 2016)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/human-trafficking-team/a-human-trafficking-and-exploitation-strategy>

Section 9(2)(b)(i) of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 - support for adult victims (closing date 23 December 2016)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00509045.pdf>

Issues for migrants on early settlement in the UK (closing date December 2016)

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RTYR_orgs_1

Empowering teachers, parents and communities to achieve excellence and equity in education: A Governance Review (closing date 6 January 2017)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/empowering-schools/a-governance-review>

Consultation on the Crown Prosecution Service Public Policy Statement on Racially and Religiously Aggravated Hate Crime [England and Wales] (closing date 9 January 2017)

http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/hate_crime_rr_consultation_2016.html

Consultation on the Crown Prosecution Service Policy on Prosecuting Crimes against Disabled People [England and Wales] (closing date 9 January 2017)

http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/hate_crime_dhc_consultation_2016.html

Consultation on the Crown Prosecution Service Public Policy Statement on the prosecution of offences involving hostility on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity [England and Wales] (closing date 9 January 2017)

http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/hate_crime_ht_consultation_2016.html

Draft Referendum Bill (closing date 11 January 2017)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00507743.pdf>

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

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

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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

Scottish Winter Festivals

All applications will be considered until all available funds have been distributed.

Scotland's Winter Festivals aim to mobilise the people of Scotland and those with an affinity to Scotland to join in the St Andrew's Day, Hogmanay and Burns celebrations, boosting Scotland's key tourism and events sectors and the wider economy, enhancing community engagement and raising Scotland's international profile. Our diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities are key elements of Scotland's past, present and future so the Scottish Government, BEMIS Scotland, and other national partners are committed to ensuring that our diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities participate fully within this year's Winter Festival celebrations. For information see <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/swf-grant-guidelines.pdf>.

An application form is available at

<http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/swf-grant-application.docx>

Year of Innovation, Architecture & Design

All applications will be considered until all available funds have been distributed.

Our diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities are key elements of Scotland's past, present and future so we want to ensure that your story, history, innovation and narrative plays a full part in the celebration of the themed year.

The Scottish Government and BEMIS Scotland, and other national partners are committed to ensuring that our diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities participate fully within this year's celebrations. We believe that in order to fulfil our potential as individuals and communities of place, culture and ethnicity that we should celebrate and promote our diversity. This reflects our shared objective to build an 'Inclusive National Identity' which celebrates Scotland's vibrant, diverse, confident and dynamic people. For information see

<http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/yiad-grant-guidelines.pdf> and the application form is available at <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/yiad-grant-application.docx>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Scottish Interfaith Week

13-20 November 2016 in Paisley

The theme of the launch will be "Religion and the Media". For a full programme of events see <http://www.interfaithscotland.org/app/download/26516741/Final+Programme+SIFW+2016.pdf>

**** this week!**

Dare to Dream

Until 30 November 2016

The Scottish Storytelling Centre festival invites everyone to discover the stories of the past and dream the stories of the future. For information see

<http://www.daretodream.scot/#home>

**** this week!**

Rights and entitlements of EEA nationals

15 November 2016 in Dundee (9.30-12.30)

17 January 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

21 March 2017 in Dumfries (9.30-12.30)

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

PAiH training on issues related to EEA nationals' access to services and important changes in regulations. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/>

**** this week!**

Rights of refugees and asylum seekers

15 November 2016 in Dundee (1.15-4.15)

17 January 2017 in Glasgow (1.15-4.15)

21 March 2017 in Dumfries (1.15-4.15)

PAiH course to explore how the asylum system operates, and barriers faced by refugees and asylum seekers. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/>

**** this week!**

Separated Children

17 November 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

9 February 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

11 May 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course about supporting separated child refugees. For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

**** How Technology Can Empower Local Refugee Communities**

23 November 2015 – webinar (3.00)

Discussion of the role that information and communications technology plays in improving the lives of refugees. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/j9xh8x6>

Health in Faith Conference and Dinner

26 November 2016 in Glasgow (2.00-6.00)

Waverley Care event to celebrate the efforts that people of faith have made and continue to make in the fight to end HIV and AIDS in Scotland and around the world. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/gnhq3cq>

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

30 November 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

22 February 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

8 June 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK and what opportunities they have for rebuilding their lives here in Scotland. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/z68a5k8> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Enhanced by our Diversity, Combined by our Humanity

30 November 2016 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

BEMIS and TRACS conference bringing together practitioners, policy-makers and academics to discuss how best to foster good relationships at a community level and promote a dynamic, inclusive Scottish national identity for the future. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/j7qkzq7>

**** Knowing your rights: Disability Discrimination**

2 December 2016 in Edinburgh (10.30-3.00)

Equality and Human Rights Commission training for those who work with disabled people and may provide people with advice or be involved in promoting disability rights. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/16xii_ehrc2.pdf or contact Kyle Mulholland equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5925.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Working with Interpreters

6 December 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

1 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

31 May 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the process of using an interpreter, where the responsibility lies for the success of the interpreted session, examines the pitfalls and their consequences, and sets out best practice for using interpreters. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jt93fog> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Integration and Working with Syrian Families

7 December 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

2 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

1 June 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlights the challenges and opportunities for them as they build a new life here in Scotland. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zy436gr> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

**** The Legal and Human Rights Implications of Brexit on EU Migration**

8 December 2016 in Glasgow (5.00-6.30)

JUSTICE Scotland and the Equality and Human Rights Commission event to consider the implications of Brexit for work and retirement; private and family lives; study; housing and property ownership and capital interests. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/16xii_ehrc.pdf or contact Kyle Mulholland equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5925.

Engaging hard to reach groups

13 December 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

8 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course about engaging with hard to reach groups. For information please contact Frances Hume frances@interfaithscotland.org

Community Sponsorship – What Do You Need to Know?

15 December 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

5 April 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course about the new UK Government scheme to enable community groups to sponsor refugee families. For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

**** Discrimination Law in 2017**

23 January 2017 in Glasgow (9.00-4.00)

Equality and Human Rights Commission Conference to review recent changes in employment law. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/17i_ehrc.pdf or contact Kyle Mulholland equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5925.

National Holocaust Memorial Day

26 January 2017 in Bishopbriggs (6.00 – 8.30)

The theme of this year's memorial event is "How can life go on?" For information please contact Maureen Sier maureen@interfaithscotland.org

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Rape Crisis Scotland volunteer information evening

27 January 2017 in Glasgow (6.30-8.30)

Rape Crisis Scotland is looking for women, particularly disabled, BME, older and trans women, to volunteer to volunteer on the national helpline supporting survivors of sexual violence. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hz2vzf9>

Cultural Competence

31 January 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

25 April 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course focusing on how culture affects all our lives, and examines the extent to which culture influences and governs our beliefs, attitudes, behaviours and decision-making. It explores our own practice and attitudes to cultural differences, and examines different worldviews, so that participants can confidently work with people no matter where they come from. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jdfkz2> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Refugee Rights to Housing

30 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course about refugee housing rights. For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

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Useful Links

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

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

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

UK Government Honours system <https://www.gov.uk/honours/overview>

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

Useful Links (continued)

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. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692) <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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