

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.*

Contents

Immigration and Asylum	Other News
Community Relations	Bills in Progress
Equality	Consultations
Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination	Job Opportunities
Other Scottish Parliament and Government	Funding Opportunities
Other UK Parliament and Government	Events, Conferences, and Training
	Useful Links

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

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The UK Parliament has been dissolved, and will not meet again until after the General Election that will take place on 8 June. Parliamentary questions that have not already been answered will not now receive any response. The Speaker will be elected on 13 June, after which new MPs will be sworn in, and the State Opening of Parliament will take place on 19 June.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Population

Kenneth Gibson: To ask the First Minister what the Scottish Government's response is to Scotland's population rising to an all-time high of 5.4 million. (S5F-01229)

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): We welcome the news that Scotland's population is growing, because we know that stimulating population growth is a key driver of sustainable economic growth.

The figures that were published by National Records of Scotland last week also underline the key role that migration has to play in our work to grow the population. There is robust evidence that confirms our longstanding view that migrants from outside the United Kingdom positively contribute to our society. They are mostly young, economically active and highly qualified. Scotland benefits significantly from the contribution that is made by people from across the world who have chosen to live, work and study here, bringing new skills and expertise and helping to underpin future economic growth, so we should take every opportunity to tell them that they are very welcome here.

Kenneth Gibson: In the half century before the millennium, more than 2 million Scots emigrated, and in the 20th century Scotland had the lowest rate of population growth of any nation on earth. Such was the much-vaunted union dividend that left us with an economy that was swiftly overtaken by so many others. Does the First Minister agree that while Scotland's population is slowly increasing, the number of excess deaths over births—despite the best efforts of the Presiding Officer—is of concern, and that a hard Brexit that stops free movement of people will not only end Scotland's population growth but lead to real skills shortages and damage our economy?

Reply from the First Minister: ... The latest estimates that have been published show that our population increase is driven by migration. I make the serious point—which I know can be controversial and unpopular in places—that continued inward migration is critical to maintaining our population growth, which in turn is critical to driving economic growth. If current trends continue, net inward migration is projected to be the main contributor to our population growth over the next 25 years.

That is why—among all the things that should concern us all about Brexit and the outcome of the Brexit negotiations—any serious restrictions to the ability of European Union nationals to come and live in Scotland would be deeply damaging to our economy. It is important that all of us across the chamber and, I think, all of us in mainstream politics, have the courage to make that argument. If we allow the immigration and migration debate to be distorted, we will damage our economy and our society, as a result. The latest statistics are a stark reminder of that fact.

Murdo Fraser: Relative to its population share, Scotland has consistently attracted fewer migrants to live here than have other parts of the United Kingdom. Why does the First Minister think that, after 10 years of Scottish National Party Government, Scotland is a relatively unattractive place for immigrants to come to?

Reply from the First Minister: What an utterly disgraceful thing it is for a member of the Parliament to stand up in the chamber and describe his own country as an “unattractive place” to live. Murdo Fraser should hang his head in shame. As I have said before in the chamber, I remember the days—they are becoming dark and distant days—when he used to be a serious politician. Now, it seems that he aspires just to be a figure of fun in the chamber.

The serious point to make is that we have to encourage people to come here. That more migrants settle in London and the south-east of England is partly down to geography, which anybody who applies a bit of common sense will see. However, we have just had figures that show the contribution that inward migration is making to Scotland's population growth. Therefore, the real question is not the one that Murdo Fraser posed; it is whether we will ensure over the next few years that we continue to attract people to live in Scotland, or allow narrow-minded Tories to put barriers in the way of that. That is the big question and the big decision for Scotland in the next few years.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10924&i=99909#ScotParlOR>

Press Releases

Europe: 24,600 refugee children 'in limbo' at risk of mental distress, UNICEF warns
<https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56677#.WQxZx7x97OQ>

Racism plays a key role in migrants' exclusion and violations of rights in the European Union
<http://www.enar-eu.org/Racism-plays-a-key-role-in-migrants-exclusion-and-violations-of-rights-in-the>

News

May expected to challenge right of EU citizens to bring family to Britain
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/may/03/may-expected-to-challenge-right-of-eu-citizens-to-bring-family-to-britain-non-european-spouses-brexit>

University chiefs demand return of post-study visas
http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15256957.University_chiefs_demand_return_of_post_study_visas/

Scotland must have its own policy on student visas
http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/15256965.Scotland_must_have_its_own_policy_on_student_visas/

Asylum limbo: the woman who can't stay in Britain, but can't leave either
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/may/03/asylum-seeker-stuck-15-year-limbo-zimbabwe-death>

Jaber Abdullah: how I set up a refugee football team in Barnsley
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/may/02/jaber-abdullah-refugee-football-asylum-seeker-barnsley>

Plea to judge on 'byzantine' immigration system hitting US couple
http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15266414.Plea_to_judge_on_byzantine_immigration_system_hitting_US_couple/

Laggan's Zielsdorf family are back in Canada
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-39835251>

[TOP](#)

Community Relations

News

Dundee street is the 'least British' in UK
<http://www.scotsman.com/news/dundee-street-is-the-least-british-in-uk-1-4434850>

[TOP](#)

Equality

New Publications

Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Report 2017

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00517333.pdf>

Race and religion – race equality, Gypsies and Travellers and refugees

http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/1568/shrc_uprfactsheet4_race_religion_belief.pdf

News

Being racially profiled as a teen spurred me on to become a police officer

<https://www.theguardian.com/public-leaders-network/2017/may/06/stop-and-search-teen-black-metropolitan-police-officer-institutional-racism>

Why 14 black male Cambridge students posed for this photo

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-39787690>

'Don't blame Cambridge University for lack of black students,' says students' society

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/05/03/dont-blame-cambridge-lack-black-students-saysleading-students/>

Black history put on degree course after campaign

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/black-history-put-on-degree-course-after-campaign-d58dnth8>

[TOP](#)

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

New Publications

Hate crime: abuse, hate and extremism online

<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmhaff/609/609.pdf>

Anti-Islamic Content on Twitter

<https://www.demos.co.uk/project/anti-islamic-content-on-twitter/>

Double disadvantage: The experiences of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic women in the criminal justice system

<http://www.womeninprison.org.uk/perch/resources/double-disadvantage-1.pdf>

News

If Theresa May is happy to call out anti-Semitism in other parties, isn't it time she addressed Islamophobia in her own?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/islamophobia-conservatives-theresa-may-time-she-addressed-it-a7715216.html>

Scots need a 'reality check' about racism

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scots-need-a-reality-check-about-racism-1-4433685>

Social media giants fail to tackle hatred, say MPs

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-05-01/news/social-media-giants-fail-to-tackle-hatred-say-mps-kgw2k6mdv>

Google rejected pleas to silence racist campaign

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-05-01/news/web-giants-allow-anti-muslim-sites-racist-campaign-jqrbhb7g>

Sharp rise in classroom hate revealed in police figures

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-39819743>

School hate crimes spike following Brexit and Trump votes

<https://www.tes.com/news/school-news/breaking-news/exclusive-school-hate-crimes-spike-following-brexit-and-trump-votes>

Hate crimes on playground doubled before Brexit vote

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/hate-crimes-on-playground-doubled-before-brexit-vote-clmtpkhxs>

Pregnant woman targeted in east Belfast hate crime

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-39773691>

Scottish football a backwater? Racist abuse and anti-catholic songbook doesn't help our case

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/sport/15261841.Scottish-football-a-backwater-Racist-abuse-and-anti-catholic-songbook-doesn-t-help-our-case/?ref=mr&lp=4>

Brendan Rodgers: 'Absolutely no place for racism in football or society'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15262325.Brendan-Rodgers-Absolutely-no-place-for-racism-in-football-or-society/>

[TOP](#)

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

First Minister comments on Royal announcement

<https://news.gov.scot/news/first-minister-comments-on-royal-announcement>

News

Results: Scotland local elections 2017

<http://www.bbc.com/news/topics/8201e79d-41c0-48f1-b15c-d7043ac30517/scotland-local-elections-2017>

[TOP](#)

Other UK Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Countdown to the general election

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2017/april/countdown-to-the-general-election/>

PM statement on His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh: 4 May 2017

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-statement-on-his-royal-highness-the-duke-of-edinburgh-4-may-2017>

[TOP](#)

Other News

Remember Us – Muslim Communities and the First World War

<http://wsrec.co.uk/national-lottery-support-wsrec-mark-first-world-war-centenary/>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Domestic Abuse Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/103883.aspx>

Bills in Progress UK Parliament

** Ethnicity Pay Gap Bill

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

Due to the General Election, this Bill will not proceed further.

** Student Support (Non-Interest-Bearing Finance) Bill

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

Due to the General Election, this Bill will not proceed further.

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated this week

** closes this week!

Policing 2026: Draft Strategy (closing date 8 May 2017)

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/consultation/2026/>

** closes this week!

Independent review of hate crime legislation (closing date 12 May 2017)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/hate-crime/2f6c8d5f/>

Improving educational outcomes for children and young people from travelling cultures (closing date 28 May 2017)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/support-and-wellbeing/improving-educational-outcomes-for-children/>

Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law (closing date 18 July 2017)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/caste-in-great-britain-and-equality-law-a-public-consultation>

Here to Stay? Young Eastern Europeans' experiences of life in the UK (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/heretostayproject>

Hate Crime and Prejudice Scotland Mapping Exercise (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BJPT5PL>

Police Scotland: Your view counts (open all year)

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017

No set closing date – applications will be accepted until the fund has been fully allocated
BEMIS Scotland in collaboration with the Scottish Government is delighted to continue the themed years programme and invite multicultural communities across Scotland to join the celebration of the 2017 Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology and the 2017/18 Scottish Winter Festivals.

This programme will enable Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities to participate in and enhance the dynamic celebrations which are taking place across Scotland.

Constituted charitable and non-profit organisations and community groups can apply for grants of between £250 and £1,000 to stage an event to tell the story of their community's history and heritage in Scotland using 'intangible cultural heritage' – for example: language, music, song, dance or storytelling.

For more information see

<https://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/yhha-grant-guidelines.pdf>

For an application form see

<https://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/yhha-application-form.docx>

[TOP](#)

**** *this week!***

Fair and equal volunteering

9 May 2017 in Glenrothes (9.30-1.00)

Fife Voluntary Action course to enable organisations to feel more confident in understanding the difference between equality and diversity. For information see <https://www.fifevoluntaryaction.org.uk/news.asp?id=8216> or contact David 0800 389 6046 / info@fifevoluntaryaction.org.uk

**** *this week!***

Separated Children

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.

Working with Interpreters

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

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/zy436qr> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Making change happen: Using the courts to make rights a reality

1 June 2017 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Human Rights Consortium Scotland workshop to discuss how organisations can use the law and the courts to bring about social change. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/l8hfxsm>

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

7 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.

**** Working together to end FGM in Scotland**

15 June 2017 in Edinburgh (9.30-4.00)

Waverley Care seminar to raise awareness of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Scotland and hear from community campaigners and local service providers about what progress has been made in tackling FGM, and what needs to happen to positively move forward. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/lmhke3u>

[TOP](#)

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>

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

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 <http://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

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 <https://www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/finding-a-job/disclosure/>

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

[TOP](#)



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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