

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 [click here](#) to be added to the mailing list.

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 Answer

Immigration

Gil Paterson: My constituent Dr Kevin Parsons, who lives in Bearsden with his wife and two children, is due to be deported on 11 June. He is a University of Glasgow lecturer who has recently been awarded a £1.32 million research grant from the United Kingdom Government, which supports the employment of a further three people. The Home Office has repeatedly given Dr Parsons the wrong information, which has led to this personal crisis.

Dr Parsons is a Canadian national; his wife qualifies for UK citizenship and one of his children was born in the UK. Will the First Minister intervene and use her influence to assist in allowing Dr Parsons to remain here in Scotland and continue his valuable work?

Reply from the First Minister: I do not know all the details of the case that Gil Paterson raises, but I would be happy to look into the details and to see whether the Scottish Government can do anything to appeal to the Home Office to see sense, if that is what is required.

From the details that he has shared with members today, the case that Gil Paterson has outlined seems to illustrate the complete wrong-headedness of the UK Government's approach to immigration. As the Tories publish their manifesto today, we see a recommitment to an immigration target that they know is undeliverable. They also know that, in trying to deliver that target, they will do untold damage to not just the Scottish economy but the UK economy as a whole. Today, we also see the Tories reportedly publishing proposals to increase the amount of money that employers have to pay if they want to employ skilled migrants from outside the European Union. As the British Medical Association has pointed out, that includes doctors, nurses and other people who work in our health service. Not only will it be harder to recruit people into the health service—and perhaps harder to recruit people from outside this country into the teaching profession—but our public services will be charged when they recruit people.

That sums up the fact that the UK is pursuing an immigration policy that is damaging to the country's economy. The Tories are doing that as they increasingly morph into the UK Independence Party. That makes it all the more important that, after the general election, there are strong voices to stand up to the Tories and make sure that Scotland's interests in this area, and in so many other areas, are properly protected.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10952&i=100158&c=2000506#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Human Trafficking

S5W-09137 Mary Fee: To ask the Scottish Government how many survivors of human trafficking with "reasonable" or "conclusive" grounds determination under the national referral mechanism in Scotland received compensation or financial awards through (a) provisions in the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995, (b) the criminal confiscation or civil recovery provisions in the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, (c) the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority and (d) the employment tribunal system in Scotland in each financial year since 2009-10.

Reply from Michael Matheson: The Scottish Government does not hold this information.

Compensation or financial awards may be obtained as a result of legal advice provided as part of the support and assistance survivors receive following entry into the National Referral Mechanism. However action taken as a result is a matter for them and not centrally recorded.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-09137&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Releases

Access to education failing many migrants

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2017/access-education-failing-many-migrants>

Number of unaccompanied refugee and migrant children hits 'record high' – UNICEF
<https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56785#.WR3FrhPysql>

New Publication

Current migration situation in the EU: Education

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-may-2017-monthly-migration-report-focus-education_en.pdf

News

Landmark European court case could curtail freedoms of British dual nationals

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/may/16/landmark-european-court-case-could-curtail-freedoms-of-british-dual-nationals>

Government threatened with legal action over immigration checks

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/may/16/government-threatened-with-legal-action-over-immigration-checks>

The government is punishing children for their parents' immigration status

<https://www.theguardian.com/housing-network/2017/may/15/government-immigration-migrant-children-homeless>

Why Britain needs a refugees minister

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/may/17/britain-needs-a-refugees-minister>

Patients who can't speak English are given double the appointment time, GPs admit

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2017/05/19/patients-cannot-speak-english-get-double-appointment-time-gps/>

The bride and baby sham spawning migrant misery

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sarah-baxter-the-bride-and-baby-sham-spawning-migrant-misery-tqgmqp09h>

Syrian pastor denied travel to General Assembly despite visa clearance

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

Rola Sleiman misses Assembly after visa problem

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-39975372>

Syrian pastor barred from flight to Kirk General Assembly

<http://www.scotsman.com/regions/edinburgh-fife-lothians/syrian-pastor-barred-from-flight-to-kirk-general-assembly-1-4451286>

Female Arab Christian minister prevented from boarding flight to attend Church event

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15298476.Female_Arab_Christian_minister_prevented_from_boarding_flight_to_attend_Church_event/

Syrian pastor visa decision reversed, says Church of Scotland

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-39934646>

Joy as Syrian minister travel ban reversed

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

Trailblazing Syrian minister denied entry to UK

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/syrian_minister visa_refusal_mystifying

Kirk outrage at female cleric's visa rejection

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-05-16/scotland/kirk-outrage-at-female-clerics-visa-rejection-9zl2qr2kw>

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Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Scottish Church Census 2016

Donald Cameron: To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the Scottish church census 2016, which estimates that the number of churchgoers will have more than halved between 2000 and 2025. (S5O-00985)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities (Angela Constance): Freedom of religion and of the choice to worship is an important right in our society. The Scottish church census paints a useful picture of how that right is being exercised. Although it is not for the Scottish Government to express a view on how individuals choose to exercise their faith, we will continue to engage with Scotland's different faith communities to understand their issues and to listen to their concerns. In relation to that, we would be very happy to meet the church and society council of the Church of Scotland and others to discuss the particular issues raised by the Scottish church census.

Donald Cameron: I thank the cabinet secretary for her answer. She will be aware that the report suggests that Christian denominations are seeing falling church attendances. Given the importance of all faiths to the wellbeing of people and society, what support can the Scottish Government offer to all faith groups at this time?

Reply from Angela Constance: Scotland is a country with a strong sense of social justice. All faith communities in Scotland, including Christian ones, play a key part in that. On the support that we give to faith communities, we support interfaith work, in which Scotland is a world leader. Interfaith dialogue and relations are crucially important to ensuring that we continue to have good community cohesion. Given the challenges that our society faces collectively, it is imperative that there is mutual understanding and respect, which we know have become more important in recent times.

Our promoting equality and cohesion fund supports interfaith work, but our broader third sector work also supports some of the social justice issues on which our faith communities are very active—a good example of which is the work that all faiths have been doing in food justice.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10950&i=100128#ScotParlOR>

News

Inside the school where 98% of the pupils are travellers

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-39139010>

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Equality

News

'At parliament they thought I was a cleaner': the young activists changing British politics

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/may/20/parliament-thought-cleaner-young-activists-changing-british-politics>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News

Fighting Gypsy discrimination: 'What people ask me is insulting'

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/may/16/gypsy-travellers-discrimination-stigma-poster-campaign>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Social Security Experience Panel volunteers

<https://news.gov.scot/news/experience-panel-volunteers>

Scottish Parliament announces new apprenticeships

<http://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/104880.aspx>

New Publications

Scottish Parliament Statistics 2015 - 2016

<http://www.parliament.scot/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/SPStatistics1516.pdf>

Local government elections 2017

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdneq.azureedge.net/published/2017/5/19/Local-government-elections-2017/Local%20government%20elections%202017.pdf>

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General Election

Manifestos

Conservative Party Manifesto (UK)

<https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/manifesto2017/Manifesto2017.pdf>

Scottish Conservative Party Manifesto

http://www.scottishconservatives.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/GE2017_Manifesto_A5_Scottish_DIGITAL.pdf

Labour Party Manifesto (UK)

<http://www.labour.org.uk/page/-/Images/manifesto-2017/labour-manifesto-2017.pdf>

Liberal Democrat Party Manifesto (UK)

<http://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/themes/5909d4366ad575794c000000/attachments/original/1495020157/Manifesto-Final.pdf?1495020157>

Other New Publications

A guide to voting in the UK General Election

https://www.yourvotematters.co.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/226649/ENABLE-and-Electoral-Commission-Easy-Read-voting-guide.pdf

Registering to vote – no fixed address

<https://www.yourvotematters.co.uk/get-involved/uk-general-election-resources>

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New Publication

British Muslims in Numbers: Nearly half of Muslims in Britain are born in the UK

<http://www.mcb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Briefing-13.jpg>

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Other News

Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology – What's Happening

<http://bemis.org.uk/year-of-history-heritage-and-archaeology-whats-happening/>

Student play is cancelled for lack of black actors

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-05-20/news/student-play-is-cancelled-for-lack-of-black-actors-kwnlhhdg2>

Top UK university removes Muslim prayer spaces during exam season on eve of Ramadan

<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/news/university-east-anglia-muslim-prayer-space-abolish-exam-season-uea-ramadan-a7745131.html>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

**** Domestic Abuse Bill**

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

Equality Impact Assessment

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00518270.pdf>

Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00518256.pdf>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Human Trafficking (closing date 25 May 2017)

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/blog/2017/05/03/request-for-written-evidence/?mc_cid=47500932ac&mc_eid=ae74a1e475

**** closes this week!**

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>

**** Recommendation on Promoting social inclusion and shared values through formal and non-formal learning** (closing date 11 August 2017)

http://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/social-inclusion-shared-values-learning_en#documents

Social Enterprise Census 2017 (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SECensus2017>

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>

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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

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>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** BBC Ask the Leaders debates**

Willie Rennie 29 May 2017 (venue and time not yet available)

Kezia Dugdale 30 May 2017 (venue and time not yet available)

Ruth Davidson 1 June 2017 (venue and time not yet available)

Nicola Sturgeon 2 June 2017 (venue and time not yet available)

BBC Scotland will be hosting a series of 'Ask the Leader' debates before the general election on the 8th of June. For more information and to apply to join the audience see

<https://ssl.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/w6GTzVbzTzyVpQDTySqVZ2/ask-the-leaders-be-in-the-audience>

Equality Hustings for the 2017 General Election

30 May 2017 in Edinburgh (6.00-8.30)

Equalities and human rights hustings providing an opportunity to consider the manifesto commitments of the political parties within the context of prevailing equality and human rights issues. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/m6rmjs3>

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/zy436gr> 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>

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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>

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/>

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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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