

MEMO



Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

MEMO is produced by the [Scottish Council of Jewish Communities](#) in partnership with [BEMIS](#).

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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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Sandra White (S3O-2189): To ask the Scottish Executive what discussions it has had with new European Union member states regarding concerns over human trafficking.

Reply from Linda Fabiani: The Solicitor General attended the European Union justice and home affairs council in Brussels on 8 and 9 November 2007, at which the council conclusions on the trafficking of human beings were discussed. Representatives of the new EU member states were also present.

Sandra White: Are there any plans to formalise the role of the trafficking awareness-raising alliance—or TARA—in the implementation of the national referral mechanism, given that the current process is police led, which goes against international best practice? Further, what action can the EU or indeed the Scottish Government take against countries that do not comply—or take action to comply—with the convention against trafficking?

Reply from Linda Fabiani: There are quite a lot of issues in Ms White's questions. I am pleased to let all members in the chamber know—in case not everyone has realised—that the Home Secretary announced in January that the United Kingdom intends to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by the end of the year. The Scottish Government will work closely with the Home Office to ensure that every possible initiative is taken to protect people who come from the EU countries.

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

There have been some fairly high-level meetings with the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency and Strathclyde Police to ensure that all the work that is identified in the action plans will be considered and that specific steps will be taken to ensure not only that we fully comply with the convention when it is ratified but that, at a local level, we do the best for cities in Scotland. Many concerns have been expressed by many members and we have to ensure that the needs of the immigrant communities are well looked after.

Trish Godman: During the world cup, women were trafficked to Germany to be used by men. Given that experience, has the minister had any discussions with the relevant UK ministers and local authorities in Scotland to ensure that men are not able to use such trafficked women during, in particular, the Commonwealth games and the Olympics?

Reply from Linda Fabiani: I know that Ms Godman has long been campaigning on these important issues. Discussions about them are going on all the time at official and ministerial level. There was a lot of publicity during that football tournament. I undertake to pass the concerns that have been expressed today to the cabinet secretaries who have responsibility for such issues; at the moment, I am not able to give details of the discussions that have taken place.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0207-02.htm#Col5995>

Westminster Debate

Introduction and first Reading of a Private Members' Bill: Race Relations (Election Candidates)

Keith Vaz: I beg to move that leave be given to bring in a Bill to exclude from the operation of the Race Relations Act 1976 and the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 certain matters relating to the selection of candidates by political parties.

The United Kingdom is a diverse nation. A snapshot of what it means to be British today would surely provide us with a mosaic reflecting the many cultures, ethnicities and religions that make up our population. Post-war and post-colonial migration flows have enriched our country with more than just numbers of people. Every town, city and region has benefited from Leicester to London, from Wembley to Wigan and from Sunderland to Southall. It is not only the composition of our population that has changed, but the composition of our national identity—our Britishness.

The change in our national identity must be reflected in the way we think of ourselves as a country, represent ourselves to others and, most importantly, in the composition of our Parliament. It is that change that must be reflected, and I intend to address it in my Bill. I am delighted to see the Leader of the House of Commons, who is also the Minister for Women and Equality, on the Front Bench because she has championed the cause of equality throughout her long political life.

There are currently 15 ethnic minority Members of this House: 13 Labour Members and two Conservatives. As the House knows, the 2001 census reported a 50 per cent. increase in our ethnic population over the last 10 years. The lack of such representation in Parliament is therefore truly disappointing. If Parliament were to reflect adequately the population of ethnic minority citizens, there would be 58 ethnic minority Members of this House. At the current rate at which ethnic minority Members are taking up seats in Parliament, it would take 75 years to achieve a proportion that would reflect the ethnic minority population of our country.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Debate (continued)

Since 1987, when I was elected along with the hon. Member for Hackney, North and Stoke Newington (Ms Abbott), Mr. Paul Boateng and the late Bernie Grant, progress has been painfully slow. There were two more ethnic minority Members in 1992, three more in 1997, two more in 2001, four in 2005, and five in by-elections over the last 21 years. It is not that there is a lack of talent, numbers or desire to come to this place, but it is clear that ethnic minorities still face proportionately more hurdles than others in getting elected to this House. This Bill seeks to address the problems of imbalance in representation through the democratic decisions of our political parties, but there is no miracle cure.

To continue reading the debate see:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080206/debtext/80206-0006.htm#08020693000003>

Westminster Ministerial Statements

Independent Police Complaints Commission: Oversight of Border and Immigration Agency

Liam Byrne (Minister for Borders and Immigration): The Government are soon to introduce a single border force to deliver stronger policing of ports and airports. Along with these changes we will be equipping agency staff with a wide array of police powers, such as those set out in the UK Borders Act. These powers include powers of detention at ports, powers to arrest a person who has committed or is about to commit an offence of assaulting an immigration officer, and powers to enter and search premises for evidence of an arrested individual's nationality.

Before these powers are introduced it is important that effective oversight arrangements are in place. On the 26 July 2007 therefore, I announced the publication of a consultation document on matters related to the implementation of measures in the Police and Justice Act 2006 to extend the Independent Police Complaints Commission's jurisdiction to cover the Border and Immigration Agency's enforcement functions. I wish to inform the House that I am publishing today an analysis of responses, a Government policy statement setting out the Government's consideration of issues raised by respondents and regulations, subject to negative resolution, which will extend the Independent Police Complaints Commission's jurisdiction in this regard.

Copies of these regulations and documents have been placed in the House Library.

The IPCC will provide independent oversight of the most serious complaints, incidents and misconduct matters where police powers are used by immigration officers and officials. This oversight will be similar to that which the IPCC provides for the police and other law enforcement bodies such as Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

The new chief inspector created by the UK Borders Act 2007 will monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of the agency's processes and practices as a whole. The IPCC will look at individual cases. The chief inspector will work closely with the IPCC to ensure comprehensive independent external scrutiny of our activities.

The IPCC already oversees the work of HM Revenue and Customs colleagues; a number of whom will be joining the UK Border Agency.

I welcome this new oversight and would like to inform the House that similar oversight provisions are currently being developed for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080204/wmstext/80204m0003.htm#0802041000020>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

Ministerial Authorisation Under Section 19D of the Race Relations Act 1976 (as Amended)

Liam Byrne (Minister for Borders and Immigration): I have made an authorisation under section 19D of the Race Relations Act 1976 as amended, to enable the Secretary of State to request that asylum applicants claiming to be a Somali or Eritrean national submit to language analysis.

This authorisation replaces the Race Relations (Immigration and Asylum) (Language Analysis) Authorisation 2007, which has expired.

Language analysis carried out in 2007 for some Somali and Eritrean asylum applicants demonstrated that significant proportions of those tested had claimed to be of a nationality, or from a region or grouping, that was not their own in order to try to gain residence in this country. This authorisation will assist the Secretary of State to make decisions in individual cases, and to ascertain the extent of this abuse.

The Secretary of State may take a refusal to submit to testing into account when determining whether an applicant has assisted in establishing the facts of his case or her case.

The authorisation will remain in place for four months (until June 2008), at which point we will review whether it is still necessary and appropriate.

I am placing copies of the authorisation in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080205/wmstext/80205m0002.htm#08020543000015>

Migration Reform (Points-based System)

Liam Byrne (Minister for Borders and Immigration): Over the next year, the Government will deliver the biggest shake-up of the immigration system for over 45 years. As part of these reforms I am today laying the first of a series of new immigration rules implementing the Points-Based System (PBS). The PBS will build on a package of measures already being introduced to deliver our four objectives of protection, prevention, accountability and compassion.

Steps to strengthen our border protection will include: checking fingerprints before we issue a visa, screening all travellers against watch lists and introducing a single border force with police-like powers for frontline staff. The PBS will form part of a robust system that is designed to prevent illegal migration. Associated measures will include big fines for employers who do not make checks and compulsory ID cards for foreign nationals make checks easier. We will continue to welcome those who promise to abide by the rules but we will hold to account those who break the rules, including automatic deportation for those who commit a serious offence.

The new rules for the points system strengthen our power to automatically refuse applications in which deception is used. Those who breach our immigration laws will be barred from returning to the UK for a fixed period of up to ten years. The new rules also begin to implement the PBS Tier 1 (General) route for highly skilled migrants.

Separately from the PBS changes, we are laying today amendments to the immigration rules that will restrict migrants in certain circumstances from taking employment as a doctor in training.

General Grounds for Refusal

The highly skilled tier will let Britain recruit some of the most successful people in the world. At the same time, we are toughening the immigration rules to make it easier to keep out migrants whom we do not want. All PBS migrants will need to provide original documents to prove that they are entitled to the points they claim.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

Where we have any suspicions about the documents, we will conduct rigorous checks and will disregard any document that we cannot verify. Any application in which deception is used will be refused automatically.

Under the new rules, those who try to cheat their way into Britain by lying in their immigration applications will automatically be refused. Those who breach our immigration laws will be barred from returning to the UK for a fixed period of up to ten years. This sends out the message that, although we welcome highly skilled migrants who wish to contribute to our society, we will not tolerate those who do not play by the rules.

Anyone who has used deception when applying for a visa will have any future applications to come here refused for ten years. Anyone who has used deception in any other application, or committed any other breach of the rules, will be refused permission to come back for the following periods, depending on how they left the UK after doing what they did:

Ten years if they were removed or deported;

Five years if they left voluntarily at public expense (for example, through an assisted voluntary return);

One year if they left voluntarily at their own expense.

Where migrants have left the UK at public expense, we will also require them to repay the cost of their departure if they want to return, once we have introduced primary legislation that allows us to do so.

Tier 1 (General)

We are implementing the PBS Tier 1 (General) route for highly skilled migrants, and their dependants. The route will be open to migrants applying in-country from 29 February 2008; and open to applicants applying overseas in India from 1 April 2008. The route will be opened to all applicants applying overseas by the summer. Tier 1 (General) builds upon the success of the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme (HSMP) in attracting and retaining the most talented migrants who have the most to contribute economically.

PBS Tier 1 (General) will create a rigorous and single stage application process. India is our most important market for Tier 1 (General) so we are starting there.

I announced PBS fees in a written ministerial statement laid on 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 15WS.

The Points-Based System will be simpler, with clearer and more consistent outcomes for all parties. We are laying immigration rules today that will support those objectives by:

1. Simplifying the process for introducing specified application forms and procedures for applications or claims in connection with immigration.
2. Amending the rules for indefinite leave to remain as a work permit holder to allow time spent as a Highly Skilled Migrant or PBS Tier 1 (General) to count towards the current five-year qualifying period for settlement. This will correct an inconsistency in the immigration rules whereby time spent as a work permit holder can count towards an application for indefinite leave to remain as a Highly Skilled Migrant, but time spent as a Highly Skilled Migrant does not count towards an application for indefinite leave to remain as a work permit holder.

Doctors in Training

There are a limited number of postgraduate and speciality training posts in the NHS and in recent recruitment rounds significant numbers of UK-trained doctors have been displaced by doctors who have trained abroad. We are therefore amending the immigration rules to reduce the level of competition for training posts in the short-term.

Highly Skilled Migrants, Tier 1 (General) Migrants and their dependants will, in certain circumstances, have a condition imposed on their leave to enter or remain in the UK prohibiting them from taking employment as a doctor in training.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

This condition will not apply to migrants already in the UK with leave as a highly skilled migrant or as a postgraduate doctor/dentist undertaking the foundation course. These restrictions will be temporary pending the Department for Health implementing a sustainable solution to NHS recruitment issues.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080206/wmstext/80206m0002.htm#08020666000016>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Baroness Thomas of Winchester asked Her Majesty's Government [HL1571]: Whether they will include the children of asylum seekers in child poverty statistics.

Reply from (Lord McKenzie of Luton): Children of asylum seekers are already included in the child poverty statistics unless they live in households that have been resident in the UK for less than six months or live in communal addresses such as hostels, hotels and boarding houses.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80206w0001.htm#08020689000012>

Julian Brazier (178728): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many failed asylum seekers were removed from the UK (a) in total and (b) at port in each of the last five years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80204w01.htm>

Julian Brazier (178730): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many illegal immigrants were involuntarily removed from the UK in each of the last five years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80204w01.htm>

Press Releases

£9m for English language training

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/02/04092430>

Funding for fresh talent

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/02/08111246>

Knowledge of language and life requirement for settlement applications - extension of transitional arrangements

<http://bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/languagelifeextension>

Changes to the national shortage occupation list for work permits

<http://bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/shortageoccupationchange>

New points based system begins

<http://bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/newpbsbegins>

New and revised immigration application forms

<http://bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/newandrevisedformsfeb2008>

Immigration and Asylum

Press Releases (continued)

New immigration rules to restrict International Medical Graduates' access to UK post-graduate medical training

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=350762&NewsAreaID=2&avigatedFromDepartment=False>

New publications

Communicating important information to new local residents

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/681908>

Living Transnationally – Romanian migrants in London

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/file/LivingTransnationally-2008.pdf>

Empowering Individuals & Creating Community – Thai perspectives on life in Britain

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/file/EmpoweringIndividualsCreatingCommunity-2008.pdf>

The removal of failed asylum seekers: international norms and procedures

<http://www.unhcr.org/research/RESEARCH/476651262.pdf>

News

Immigrants to get 'behaviour packs'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uklatest/story/0,-7280888,00.html>

UK immigrants' tips for newcomers

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7226712.stm>

End misery of jail life at Dungavel

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2015545.0.end_misery_of_jail_life_at_dungavel.php

£9m to help migrants improve use of English

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2018220.0.9m_to_help_migrants_improve_use_of_English.php

Asylum: 50 families a week told they can stay in Scotland

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/scotland/Asylum-50-families-a-week.3742575.jp>

Non-EU doctors barred from UK posts

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/NonEU-doctors-barred-from-UK.3751116.jp>

UK training bar on non-EU doctors

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2024851.0.UK_training_bar_on_nonEU_doctors.php

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Gypsy children 'smuggled in to work for modern Fagins'

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/uk/Gypsy-children-39smuggled--in.3748198.jp>

More pupils from eastern Europe

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/02/08/newsstory10909353t0.asp>

Slipping through the net

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2032961.0.slipping_through_the_net.php

Offices in charge of deportation face axe

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article3341054.ece>

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Race Relations

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Bill Butler (S3W-8853): To ask the Scottish Executive what measures it has taken to promote human rights and community relations by publicising the implications of criminal and employment legislation in relation to discrimination on the grounds of religion.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government will work with the Equality and Human Rights Commission in Scotland, the recently established new single equality commission, to identify positive measures which will help to foster good community relations and safeguard the rights of Scotland's diverse religious communities.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0205.htm>

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Hazel Blears (Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government): Today I am publishing the Government's response to the "Commission on Integration and Cohesion". Copies of the response have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

In August 2006 the Government asked Darra Singh, the chief executive of Haling council, to chair a commission examining the issues of integration and cohesion—how, in the light of concerns about communities living "parallel lives", of changing patterns of migration, and of new technologies transforming the way people interact with each other, Government can help build strong communities where neighbours feel at ease, share a sense of belonging, and have the opportunity to work together to shape the future of the place where they live.

In June 2007, the Commission delivered a serious and ambitious report based on in depth consultation. It set out practical proposals for building cohesion and integration at a local level and contained a number of specific recommendations for Government.

Race Relations

Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

The report has already influenced a range of policies, changing the debate about how best to bring people of different backgrounds together and empower them to influence the decisions which affect their lives.

Today, I am pleased to set out in detail my response to all 57 of the Commission's recommendations—what we have already done, what we will do in the future and how we will further develop the Commission's ideas.

It sets out a new clarity on, and commitment to, delivering cohesive and integrated communities, backed by increased investment in cohesion of some £50 million over the next three years, and a new public service agreement to drive practical action across Government.

At the heart of the Government's approach, like the Commission's, is the principle that cohesion can only be understood and built locally. Central Government's role is to set the national framework within which local authorities and their partners can deliver improvements to cohesion.

Our response sets out how we will support this local delivery through six key principles:

- 1) a move away from a "one size fits all" approach;
- 2) mainstreaming of cohesion into wider policy areas;
- 3) a national framework for local support and guidance; including establishing specialist cohesion teams to provide support to local authorities facing cohesion challenges and giving local authorities a tool to assess the impact their planned activities will have on cohesion;
- 4) integration of new migrants and existing communities; starting with new guidance for local authorities on developing information packs for migrants;
- 5) building positive relationships; to this end we are today also publishing a consultation on "Guidance for Funders", which encourages local authorities to consider how funding can be better used to support greater interaction and;
- 6) sharing lessons about what works;

I am grateful to Darra Singh and his Commissioners for their hard work. With this response the Government are demonstrating their commitment to maintaining the momentum the report has created and helping build stronger communities where all individuals, no matter what their background, feel a sense of shared belonging, and can work with their neighbours to shape a better future for the place where they live.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080204/wmstext/80204m0002.htm#0802041000013>

Press Releases

The Government's Response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/682056>

Trevor Phillips warns government on stop and search as Flanagan Report published

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/newsandcomment/Pages/stopandsearch.aspx>

New publications

The Government's Response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/681624>

Race Relations

New Publications (continued)

Community cohesion impact assessment and community conflict prevention tool

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/communitycohesiontool>

Predictors of community cohesion: multi-level modelling of the 2005 Citizenship Survey

Report <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/681539>

Summary <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/682739>

News

A clash of cultures at cold water campsite

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/features/display.var.2018230.0.A_clash_of_cultures_at_cold_water_campsite.php

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Bill Butler (S3W-8847): To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-3016 by Fergus Ewing on 28 August 2007, what recommendations officials have made in respect of further academic research into religious intolerance.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: As noted in the answer to question S3W-3016 on 5 September 2007, the Scottish Government does not directly support academic research. Officials are currently engaging with stakeholders to identify what useful research could be taken forward to support work to tackle religious intolerance and develop interfaith dialogue in Scotland and will report their findings to me.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0204.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-8855): To ask the Scottish Executive how it monitors the effectiveness of legislation to address sectarian behaviour and other public disorder offences during public parades.

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: We work closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland to monitor the effectiveness of the new procedures for marches and parades introduced in the Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006, and will be consulting all interested parties on the implementation of these provisions in the coming months.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0204.htm>

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Bill Butler (S3W-8845): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it plans to host a third summit on sectarianism during 2008.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government is taking a holistic approach to tackling all forms of religious intolerance and the development of interfaith dialogue. Our priorities are to focus on community and grassroots initiatives, as well as high-profile national events such as Football for All's Kick-Out Bigotry campaign which was launched on 20 November 2007 at Hampden Park by the First Minister, and we do not have any plans to convene a third Summit on Sectarianism.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0205.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-8846): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it plans to publish a national strategy on tackling sectarianism during 2008.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government is determined to eradicate all forms of religious bigotry, and tackling sectarianism is an important element of this. Our work in this area also includes the promotion of interfaith dialogue and we do not believe that a further strategy specifically on tackling sectarianism is needed at this time.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0205.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-8844): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it provides specific sectarianism awareness training to its staff.

Reply from John Swinney: The Scottish Government provides Diversity Awareness training to its staff, which covers a range of issues including religious intolerance. The Scottish Government also covers a range of equality and diversity issues in its management and policy skills training. In addition, we have run events during the Scottish Government's Policy Week which were specifically devoted to raising awareness of sectarianism among staff. However, we do not offer awareness training devoted exclusively to sectarianism.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0206.htm>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Jeremy Browne [172180]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 662-64W, on racial violence, how many and what percentage of those incidents resulted in a conviction.

Reply from Tony McNulty: The statistics provided in the previous answer related to all racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police. The police data (i.e. offences recorded) are based on the number of crimes recorded in each financial year. Convictions data are based on the number of offender convictions and is published on a calendar year basis. Convictions figures are counts of offenders classified by their principal offence. For these reasons the two datasets are not directly comparable.

has been provided in the following table.

For information on the number of defendants found guilty at all courts for racially aggravated violence offences see the table at:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080204/text/80204w0017.htm#08020427000027>

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Gordon Banks [183682]: What assessment he has made of the contribution of the Holocaust Educational Trust's nationwide Lessons from Auschwitz project to teaching of the holocaust in the national curriculum.

Reply from Ed Balls: More than 1,500 students have now had the opportunity to visit the concentration camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau as a result of the work of the Holocaust Educational Trust and to build on the learning that they have received through the national curriculum about the horrors of the holocaust and the lessons that we should learn from it. I can announce today that we will allocate £4.65 million for the next three years to ensure that that work can continue. I can also reassure my hon. Friend that a proper evaluation of the funding on those trips, as well as of their impact on young people's citizenship and their understanding of the world, will be built into the HET's work as part of that three-year funding.

Gordon Banks: I thank my right hon. Friend for that welcome answer. I have visited Auschwitz-Birkenau with school pupils from my constituency, and I stress to my right hon. Friend the importance of urging the devolved regions of the UK to put funding in place, too. Will he do that whenever it is appropriate? Will he also take this opportunity to dispel the rumour that the holocaust will be removed from the curriculum, for which my right hon. Friend is responsible?

Reply from Ed Balls: On my hon. Friend's first point, I have not had the opportunity to go on one of those trips although my hon. Friend the Minister for Schools and Learners has. In my constituency, I ran a competition in which young people had to write an essay and the prize was to go on one of the trips. I have seen first hand, as has my hon. Friend the Member for Ochil and South Perthshire (Gordon Banks), the great impact that such trips can have, not only on those young people but on the whole school when they report back about the horrors that they saw. Our young people are learning lessons about tolerance and mutual respect for 21st century Britain from those visits.

I hope that all the constituent parts of the UK will use the funding available. The £4.65 million for England clearly has Barnett consequential in this area for the devolved countries. I hope and expect that they will ensure that such visits are available for all young people across the four constituent parts of the UK.

As for my hon. Friend's final point, let me take this opportunity to dispel that internet myth. The teaching of the holocaust is compulsory in the national curriculum for all young people at key stage 3 and it will remain a compulsory part of teaching in the national curriculum under this party—and I am sure that it would remain so under all parties in this House. The holocaust is an issue that must be learned about, studied and reflected on by all our young people. It will stay in the national curriculum.

Louise Ellman: I am pleased to be a council member of the Holocaust Educational Trust, and I commend the Government for their support for this important programme. The incident at the King Fahad academy shows that anti-Semitic messages of hate are still circulating in our schools. What steps is my right hon. Friend taking to deal with that important issue?

Reply from Ed Balls: The fact is that bullying and any other kind of exploitation of difference, whether that happens on racial, religious or gender grounds, is wrong. Schools have a duty to act to stamp it out. That includes that particular school. Like all schools, it should take action when necessary. We have an inspection regime that is designed to ensure that that guidance on schools' obligations is put into action. My hon. Friend the Minister for Schools and Learners has raised the issue with the inspectorate. We will consider the issue carefully when we see the results.

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Bullying of any kind, including anti-Semitic bullying, is wrong and should not be tolerated in a society such as ours.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080204/debtext/80204-0002.htm#08020410000016>

Westminster Early Day Motions

Virendra Sharma (881) Wearing of the Sikh kara in schools - That this House notes with concern the suspension of Sarika Singh from Aberdare Girls School in Wales for wearing the Sikh Kara, a religious steel bracelet; further notes that the Kara is one of the five Ks of the Khalsa in the Sikh religion and is a symbol of restraint and gentility, a symbol that a Sikh is linked to the Guru, a reminder that a Sikh should not do anything of which the Guru would not approve, a symbol of God having no beginning or end, and a symbol of permanent bonding to the community, being a link in the chain of Khalsa Sikhs (the word for link is kari); notes that the Kara is made of steel, rather than gold or silver, because it is not an ornament; believes that the continued suspension of Sarika Singh under the mistaken belief that the Kara is a piece of jewellery is a flagrant disregard for her freedom of religious conscience; further believes that she should not be made to choose between her faith and her education; considers that Sarika should be allowed to return to school immediately and be permitted to wear her Kara as an expression of her faith; and recommends that the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Welsh Assembly should issue guidance to schools so that this situation is not repeated.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80205e01.htm>

Keith Vaz (884) Racist abuse of Lewis Hamilton – That this House is shocked and disappointed to note that Lewis Hamilton was racially abused during pre-season testing at a circuit in Barcelona in Spain; welcomes the fact that the Director of the Circuit de Catalunya, Ramon Pradera and the President of the Spanish Motorsport Federation, Carlos Garcia, have pledged to remove all racist elements from the circuit; congratulates Mr Hamilton on the dignity that he has showed; and hopes that the action taken by the International Automobile Federation ensures that this never happens again.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80205e01.htm>

Press Release

Jim Knight announces £4.65m for school visits to Auschwitz

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0024

New publications

European Network Against Racism Newsletter: Policing and ethnic & religious minorities

http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/ENARgy_01_2008_version_ENfinal.pdf

Developing Anti-Discrimination Law in Europe

http://www.migpolgroup.com/multiattachments/3948/DocumentName/AntiDis_Eur_0707_EN.pdf

Racism and Religious Hatred News

Race abuse for Formula 1 star Hamilton

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/world/Race-abuse-for-Formula-1.3740357.jp>

Lewis Hamilton Targeted By Race Hate Yobs

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/2008/02/04/lewis-hamilton-targeted-by-race-hate-yobs-86908-20308832/>

Hamilton 'saddened' by racist taunts

<http://news.scotsman.com/uk/Hamilton-39saddened39-by-racist-taunts.3742449.jp>

Nursery children learning to beat racism

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2021395.0.Nursery_children_learning_to_beat_racism.php

Friends launch anti-racism first in city nurseries

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2021935.0.friends_launch_antiracism_first_in_city_nurseries.php

Girl leads teen gang's race attack against Sikh man on bus

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/edinburgh/Girl-leads-teen-gang39s-race.3748056.jp>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Questions

Patrick Harvie (S3W-9446): To ask the Scottish Executive how Gypsy/Traveller communities can expect to benefit from its policy intention of creating sustainable, mixed communities, as set out in *Firm Foundations: the Future of Housing in Scotland*, and whether a race impact assessment of the report's potential impact on Scottish Gypsy/Traveller communities has been or will be undertaken.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-02-05e.htm>

Patrick Harvie (S3W-9447): To ask the Scottish Executive how ministers intend to build on the findings of the October 2007 Gypsy Traveller Site Grant Funding Study and the work of the previous administration's strategic group on Gypsies/Travellers.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-02-05e.htm>

Patrick Harvie (S3W-9448): To ask the Scottish Executive how it intends to improve current provision made for suitable pitches for Gypsies/Travellers.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-02-05e.htm>

Other Holyrood Press Release

Budget approved by MSPs

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/02/06140751>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government [HL1563]: What steps they are taking to ensure that all complaints about forced marriage are dealt with effectively.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: The joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office-Home Office Forced Marriage Unit helps British nationals in the UK and overseas facing the threat of and living with the consequences of forced marriage. The unit works closely with other agencies in the UK, such as the Ministry of Justice, the police, social services and specialist non-governmental organisations. Our embassies overseas provide direct support to victims and potential victims of forced marriage. This can include rescue and repatriation to the UK. The unit has published guidelines for agencies working with forced marriage victims. These will be placed on a statutory footing with the implementation of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act later this year. The unit carries out an extensive outreach programme to raise awareness of the issue and of the support services that they offer.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80204w0001.htm#08020419000015>

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government [HL1646]: What measures they have in place for preventing forced marriages, both in Britain and between British citizens or residents and persons overseas.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: The Government's Forced Marriage Unit provides advice and assistance to British nationals facing forced marriage both in the UK and overseas. The unit also offers support to non-British nationals in the UK. The unit undertakes an extensive outreach programme to raise awareness of forced marriage issues among potential victims and relevant professionals. The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007, which is being implemented by the Ministry of Justice, will provide legislative safeguards to victims or potential victims within the UK. The Act is expected to be operational by autumn 2008. Under the Act, guidelines produced by the Forced Marriage Unit for police, health professionals, education professionals and social workers will be reissued on a statutory footing.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80205w0001.htm#08020555000012>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Peter Ainsworth (184457): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what guidance he has issued on the slaughter, on grounds of welfare and animal health, of animals living in religious communities which regard such animals as sacred; and if he will make a statement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80204w01.htm>

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Other News

Travellers face move from site on Games land

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2025207.0.travellers_face_move_from_site_on_games_land.php

The Archbishop of Canterbury's lecture "Civil and Religious Law in England: a Religious Perspective"

Full text of Rowan William, Archbishop of Canterbury's lecture

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/1575>

Transcript of Radio 4 World at One interview with the Archbishop of Canterbury

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/news/wato/archbishoptranscript.shtml>

Churchman unleashes furore with backing for sharia law in Britain

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2028956.0.Churchman_unleashes_furore_with_backing_for_sharia_law_in_Britain.php

Sharia law call is 'naive and shocking'

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2028954.0.Sharia_law_call_is_naive_and_shocking.php

Sharia law comments criticised

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Sharia-law-comments-criticised.3756358.jp>

'Make one law for Muslims, one for everyone else'

<http://news.scotsman.com/uk/39Make-one-law-for-Muslims.3757977.jp>

Archbishop's remarks fail to reveal true meaning

<http://news.scotsman.com/opinion/Archbishop39s-remarks-fail-to-reveal.3757993.jp>

Archbishop under fire over sharia law stance

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2030761.0.archbishop_under_fire_over_sharia_law_stance.php

Other News

The Archbishop of Canterbury's lecture

“Civil and Religious Law in England: a Religious Perspective” (continued)

Archbishop's sharia error

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/editorial/display.var.2032021.0.Archbishops_sharia_error.php

Scots faith leaders support Sharia debate

<http://news.scotsman.com/politics/Scots-faith-leaders-support-Sharia.3761312.jp>

Archbishop under pressure to quit

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7236849.stm>

Archbishop faces calls to quit over Sharia row

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article3337961.ece>

Williams is dangerous. He must be resisted

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/matthew_parris/article3337984.ece

Was Archbishop's obscure phrasing and bad timing to blame for uproar?

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article3338104.ece>

Rowan Williams faces calls to resign

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2008/02/09/nsharia109.xml>

Archbishop defends sharia law comments

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2008/02/09/nsharia509.xml>

Sharia law already enforced in 10 courts

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2008/02/09/nsharia209.xml>

Williams defiant over Islamic law speech

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/religion/Story/0,,2255068,00.html>

Church moves to the defence of Archbishop

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/church-moves-to-the-defence-of-archbishop-780187.html>

Archbishop faces criticism from within Church

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/archbishop-faces-criticism-from-within-church-780149.html>

People here 'must obey the laws of the land'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2008/02/10/nsharia210.xml>

Sharia would not help integration but disunity

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2008/02/10/nsharia410.xml>

Are we promoting harmony or Muslim ghettos?

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2008/02/10/nsharia610.xml>

Other News

The Archbishop of Canterbury's lecture

“Civil and Religious Law in England: a Religious Perspective” (continued)

How law and faith war broke out

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/feb/10/religion.law>

Wrong, Dr Williams, but the debate is right

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/feb/10/law.religion>

It's one sharia law for men and quite another for women

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/feb/10/religion.law>

A quiet man who said too much

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/feb/10/anglicanism.religion>

Adopting sharia within British law would be 'disastrous', Lord Carey tells his successor as Archbishop

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/adopting-sharia-within-british-law-would-be-disastrous-lord-carey-tells-his-successor-as-archbishop-780510.html>

British women are already suffering from Islamic law

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/joan-smith/joan-smith-british-women-are-already-suffering-from-islamic-law-780407.html>

No decent law allows coercion

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/leading-articles/leading-article-no-.htmlnt-law-allows-coercion-780408.html>

What he wishes on us is an abomination

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/yasmin-alibhai-brown/yasmin-alibhaibrown-what-he-wishes-on-us-is-an-abomination-780186.html>

Don't be fooled... the archbishop wants to beat extremists at their own game

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/deborah-orr/deborah-orr-dont-be-fooled-the-archbishop-wants-to-beat-extremists-at-their-own-game-780195.html>

The Archbishop has stepped into a political and intellectual minefield

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/leading-articles/leading-article-the-archbishop-has-stepped-into-a-political-and-intellectual-minefield-780233.html>

Now Archbishop is forced to explain himself to General Synod

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in_article_id=513351&in_page_id=1770&ct=5

Equality before the law is not negotiable, Dr Williams

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/newscomment.html?in_article_id=513230&in_page_id=1787

Other News

The Archbishop of Canterbury's lecture

“Civil and Religious Law in England: a Religious Perspective” (continued)

Time to clear religions from temple of law

[http://www.sundayherald.com/oped/opinion/display.var.2032919.0.time to clear religions from temple of law.php](http://www.sundayherald.com/oped/opinion/display.var.2032919.0.time%20to%20clear%20religions%20from%20temple%20of%20law.php)

Head of Kirk backs Williams over Sharia row

<http://news.scotsman.com/latestnews/Head-of-Kirk-backs-Williams.3762585.jp>

Kirk Backs Sharia Law Row Cleric

<http://www.sundaymail.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/02/10/kirk-backs-sharia-law-row-cleric-78057-20314406/>

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Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

** Budget Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/05-Budget/b5s3-introd.pdf>

proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/05-Budget/b5s3-stage3-ml.pdf>

Stage 3 consideration of amendments and Debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0206-02.htm#Col5836>

Bill as passed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/05-Budget/b5s3-aspassed.pdf>

Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill (Westminster Bill)

Legislative Consent Motion (*a Legislative Consent Motion is a mechanism by which the Scottish Parliament can give permission for the UK Parliament to legislate for Scotland on a devolved issue*)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0130-02.htm#Col5627>

Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/04-GlasgowCommGames/b4s3-introd.pdf>

** Public Health Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/03-PublicHealth/b3s3-introd.pdf>

Stage 1 evidence from the University of Edinburgh, Law Society of Scotland, Health Protection Scotland, and the NHS Scotland Central Legal Office

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/or-08/he08-0402.htm#Col529>

Bills in Progress (continued) **Westminster**

Counter-Terrorism Bill

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/063/2008063.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/063/2008063.pdf>

**** Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/015/08015.i-vii.html>

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/016/amend/ml016-i.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/016/amend/su016-ia.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/016/amend/su016-iib.htm>

consideration of amendments (House of Lords)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80205-0002.htm#08020540000003>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80205-0012.htm#08020568000002>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80206-0004.htm#08020684000002>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80206-0013.htm#0802071000001>

Human Rights Act 1998 (Meaning of Public Authority) Bill

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmbills/043/2007043.pdf>

**** Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/006/2008006.pdf>

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/025/amend/ml025-i.htm>

consideration of amendments (House of Lords)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80204-0002.htm#08020422000003>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80204-0004.htm#08020422000004>

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Consultations (closing date)

** New or updated this week

** *closes this week!*

Policy proposals for secondary legislation associated with the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 (12 February 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/201935/0053824.pdf>

Marriage Visas: Pre-Entry English Requirement For Spouses (27 February 2008)

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/preentryenglishrequirement/englishforspouseconsultation.pdf?view=Binary>

Marriage to Partners from Overseas (27 February 2008)

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/marriagepartnersfromoverseas/marriagepartnersfromoverseas.pdf?view=Binary>

Paying for water services 2010-14: A consultation on the principles of charging for water services (29 February 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/204476/0054421.pdf>

Diversity Delivers: Consultation on the proposed strategy for enhancing equal opportunities in Scotland's ministerial public appointments process (7 March 2008)

<http://www.ocpa-scot.org.uk/consultations/documents/DiversityDeliversConsultationNov2007FINALPDF.pdf>

- **Annex A: Summary of the Ministerial Public Appointments Process in Scotland**
<http://www.ocpa-scot.org.uk/consultations/documents/AnnexA-TheMinisterialPublicAppointmentsProcessinScotland.pdf>
- **Annex B: Summary of research conducted**
<http://www.ocpa-scot.org.uk/consultations/documents/AnnexB-SummaryofResearchConducted.pdf>
- **Annex C: Stage One Research**
<http://www.ocpa-scot.org.uk/consultations/documents/AnnexC-StageOneResearch.pdf>
- **Annex D: Stage Two Research**
<http://www.ocpa-scot.org.uk/consultations/documents/AnnexD-StageTwoResearch.pdf>
- **Annex E: Summary of Stage Three Research**
<http://www.ocpa-scot.org.uk/consultations/documents/AnnexE-StageThreeResearch.pdf>
- **Annex F: Summary of Previous Research on Diversity in Public Appointments**
<http://www.ocpa-scot.org.uk/consultations/documents/AnnexF-SummaryofPreviousResearchonDiversityinPublicAppointments.pdf>
- **Annex G: Legal Duties**
<http://www.ocpa-scot.org.uk/consultations/documents/AnnexG-LegalDuties.pdf>
- **Annex H: The Public Appointments Hallmark**
<http://www.ocpa-scot.org.uk/consultations/documents/AnnexH-ThePublicAppointmentsHallmark.pdf>
- **Annex I: Rapid Impact Assessment for the Proposed Strategy**
<http://www.ocpa-scot.org.uk/consultations/documents/AnnexH-ThePublicAppointmentsHallmark.pdf>

Consultations (continued)

"Face-to-Face and Side-by-Side": A framework for inter faith dialogue and social action

(7 March 2008)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/613367>

Visitor Visas (10 March 2008)

<http://bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/visitorsconsultationpaper/visitorvisaconsultation.pdf?view=Binary>

Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 – Relevant Third Party (14 March 2008)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/consultation-31-07.pdf>

Focusing English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) on Community Cohesion (4 April 2008)

<http://www.esolconsultation.org.uk/>

IMPACT Programme: Equality, Diversity and Privacy (4 April 2008)

http://www.npia.police.uk/en/docs/Equality_Diversity_and_Privacy_Consultationv1_0.pdf

Meeting the Charity Test (7 April 2007)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=5455d7cc-a60c-456e-9d06-e623144e8359>

Border and Immigration Agency: Code of practice - Keeping children safe from harm (25 April 2008)

http://bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/keepingchildrensafe/uasc_codeofpractice.pdf?view=Binary

Cohesion Guidance for Funders (26 May 2008)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/681891>

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Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities advertised in MEMO+ Recruitment

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** this week!**

Diversity Delivers (consultation events)

12 February 2007 in Glasgow (10.30-3.00)

22 February 2007 in Inverness (10.30-3.00)

The Office for the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland consultation events about enhancing equal opportunities in Scotland's public appointments process. For information contact Corynne MacLean 0131 718 6309 / info@publicappointments.org

**** this week!**

Meeting the Charity Test (consultation events)

13 February 2008 in Perth (9.30 – 12.30)

18 February 2008 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 12.30; 2.00 – 5.00)

25 February 2008 in Aberdeen (10.30 – 1.30)

27 February 2008 in Glasgow (9.30 – 12.30; 2.00 – 5.00)

The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator published its guidance "Meeting the Charity Test" in 2006, a guide as to how OSCR applies the charity test under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Since then there has been considerable development in the application of the charity test, and OSCR is now consulting on its revised draft guidance. For information, and to book a place, contact Martin Tyson on 01382 346892 / consultations@oscr.org.uk

**** this week!**

Asylum Support - The Essentials

14 February 2008 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore the support arrangements available to asylum seekers from the beginning to the end of the asylum process. For information see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=60> or contact the Scottish Refugee Council 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees**

21 February 2008 in Glasgow

22 May 2008 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course is for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland; particularly relevant to people working in social work, housing, welfare, education, employment, health, community development or the justice system. For information contact the Scottish Refugee Council 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=67>

Equalities Awareness Training

21 February 2008 in Kilmarnock (9.30 – 4.30)

28 February 2008 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30)

7 March 2008 in Inverness (10.00 – 4.00)

27 March 2008 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.30)

SCVO training course to raise awareness of the key concepts of equality, and gain an understanding of equalities legislation and its implications. For information contact Cathie Rowall 0141 225 8003 / cathie.rowell@scvo.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Embedding Equalities within your organisation

25 February 2008 in Kilmarnock (9.30 – 4.30)

17 March 2008 in Inverness (9.30 – 4.30)

20 March 2008 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30)

28 March 2008 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.30)

SCVO training for organisations who are looking to broaden their understanding of equalities issues and to those who are looking to incorporate equalities in to their everyday functions, including the design of services. For information contact Cathie Rowall 0141 225 8003 / cathie.rowell@scvo.org.uk

Let's improve Equal Opportunities in rural Scotland

26 February 2008 in Inverness (10.00 – 4.00)

SCVO conference to take stock of barriers to social inclusion and draw up a list of practical suggested improvements that will inform the future vision of the Equality & Human Rights Commission, the Scottish Government and Community Planning Partnerships. For information contact Morag Redwood 01463 258800 / morag.redwood@scvo.org.uk

**** Working with Interpreters**

4 March 2008 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to address the practical, ethical and professional issues regarding working with interpreters, including briefing on legal obligations and entitlement to services. For information contact the Scottish Refugee Council 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=61>

**** An Introduction to the Needs of Refugee Women**

6 March 2008 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to develop a gender perspective to inform all work with refugee and asylum seeking communities, examine how the UN Refugee Convention relates to women's asylum claims, improve understanding of barriers which prevent refugee women from accessing services, and explore practical ways of improving service provision for refugee women. For information contact the Scottish Refugee Council 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=65>

**** European Anti-Discrimination & Diversity Training**

8-9 April 2008 in Glasgow

Two-day Runnymede Trust seminar, in association with the STUC, on the role of Non-Governmental Organisations and trade unions in the UK in combating discrimination on the grounds of racial and ethnic origin, age, disability, religions or belief and sexual orientation. For information see <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/10/30.html> or contact Sarah Isal 020 7377 9222 / sarah@runnymedetrust.org

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/home.htm>

Scottish Government <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Home>

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.eu.int/parliament/public.do?language=en>

One Scotland Many Cultures

http://www.onescotland.com/onescotland/osmc_display_home.jsp?pContentID=2&p_applic=CCC&pElementID=1&pMenuID=1&p_service=Content.show&

Equality and Human Rights Commission

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/Pages/default.aspx>

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

Social Economy Scotland <http://www.socialeconomyscotland.info/content/index.asp>

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

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) <http://www.crbs.org.uk/>

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

BBC News24 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/default.stm>

BBC Parliament online

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

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The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** 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. <http://www.j-scot.org.uk/>



BEMIS is the umbrella body for ethnic minority organisations in Scotland. It aims to strengthen the capacity of the ethnic minority voluntary sector; raise the profile and coordinate the voice of this sector; and take a lead on policy issues to ensure that issues of concern are raised with government and other relevant bodies. <http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>