



MEMO

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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

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-10356): To ask the Scottish Executive how many children are learning English as a second language in schools.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-02-27e.htm>

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-10357): To ask the Scottish Executive how it will continue to support children learning English as a second language in schools.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-02-27e.htm>

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Pauline McNeill (S3M-1457): **Language Diversity in Schools**—That the Parliament affirms its commitment to supporting children in school whose first language is not English and believes that language diversity is a positive benefit in Scotland's schools and across Scottish society; recognises the challenges faced by teachers, pupils and parents in multi-lingual classrooms, particularly in areas such as Glasgow where 8,853 city children speak

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Motion (continued)

one of 102 languages other than English at home, including Punjabi, Urdu, Arabic, Mandarin, Polish, Cantonese, Swahili, Kurdish, Thai, French, German, Spanish and Italian, alongside Gaelic, Scots, Doric and British Sign Language; congratulates Glasgow City Council and other local authorities for the work that they are already doing in response to language diversity, and calls for the Scottish Government to do more to support local authorities such as Glasgow and to respond to the calls that have been made for special funding to be made available in order that language never becomes a barrier in Scottish education.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-02-29f.htm>

Westminster Debate

Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 (Duty to Share Information and Disclosure of Information for Security Purposes) Order 2008

Lord West of Spithead (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office) rose to move, That the draft order laid before the House on 10 January be approved.

The noble Lord said: My Lords, this order is made under Sections 36(4) and 38(4) of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. Section 36 of the 2006 Act introduced a requirement for the Secretary of State, in so far as she has functions under the immigration Acts, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and a chief officer of police to share certain passenger, crew, freight, service and other travel-related information where the information is likely to be of use for immigration, police or Revenue and Customs purposes. Section 38 of the 2006 Act introduced a statutory gateway to allow for the disclosure of similar information to the security and intelligence agencies where the information is relevant to their statutory purposes. This order concerns the information that will be shared under these two provisions. For reasons of brevity, I will refer to the border agencies when speaking collectively about the Border and Immigration Agency, UKvisas, the police and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

As Security Minister, I am responsible for a wide range of measures to improve our security arrangements and this order is a key component in our efforts to enhance the security of this country. The increase in global travel brings great social and economic benefit, but it is also placing increasingly heavy demands on our border controls and border agencies. In order to meet these demands, the Government are putting in place the most comprehensive package of institutional and practical immigration reform ever announced, including the establishment of a UK border agency, a unified border force and the e-borders programme.

Neither e-borders nor other joint working arrangements between the agencies will be able to function effectively without this order, as their success is dependent on an ability to share, routinely and in volume, data relating to people and freight crossing the border. Data sharing in this form is not permitted under current powers, which require a case-by-case decision on the justification for disclosure. This is a serious obstruction to the work of the agencies. For example, under existing arrangements, examination of travel data independently by each of the border agencies may result in three interceptions against the same individual, rather than one co-ordinated response. Indeed, one agency may have intelligence on an individual who is also of interest to the other border agencies, but the other border agencies, being unaware of this, would not make a request for those data. This does not help the border agencies to carry out their functions effectively and it does not help the traveller.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Debate (continued)

This order seeks to address these and other obstacles to joint working between the border agencies by placing an obligation on them to share the travel-related information specified in the order to the extent that it is likely to be of use for immigration, Revenue and Customs or police purposes. This travel-related information can essentially be broken down into three clear categories: information about a passenger's or crew member's travel documents or journey; information held by the border agencies, which relates to a passenger or crew member, or their journey, or a freight movement; and information about or related to freight.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80225-0012.htm#08022532000001>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

David Laws [187149]: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many migrant workers from (a) inside and (b) outside the EU were in employment in the UK in each quarter since 1984.

Reply from Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 February 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about how many migrant workers from (a) inside and (b) outside the EU have been in employment in the UK in each quarter from 1984 to 2008. (187149)

The attached table gives figures for Q4 from 1992 on a seasonal quarter basis and from 1997 on a calendar quarter basis. These estimates have not been seasonally adjusted. Comparable estimates are not available prior to 1992 or for 1998 and 2000.

The data for analysing migrant workers comes from the Labour Force Survey. The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16 - 64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

To read the table "People of working age in employment by country of birth, Quarter 4, 1992 to 2007, United Kingdom" see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080222/text/80222w0018.htm#08022277000181>

Stewart Jackson [188118]: what recent estimate she has made of levels of net migration to the UK.

Reply from Liam Byrne: In 2006, the net inflow of migrants to the UK was 191,000. For those who take an interest in the issue, as I know the hon. Gentleman does, that is about 15 per cent. lower than the year before and about 22 per cent. lower than in 2004.

Stewart Jackson: My constituency has borne, and continues to bear, the brunt of the shambles that this Government call an immigration policy. Does the Minister think that my constituents will be reassured by a policy involving a belated points-based system but no upper limit on the number of people allowed to come to the United Kingdom?

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Liam Byrne: I respect the passion with which the hon. Gentleman presents his argument, and I know that he recently held a debate in the House—I think it was last week—on the impact on public services that he sees locally. However, when I look at the proposals for caps on migration, I find it difficult to see how they would capture, touch or affect more than one in five of the newcomers who entered the UK in 2006. I believe that the points system will capture at least three in five, and I therefore think it is the right way forward for carefully controlling migration to the United Kingdom.

Gerald Kaufman: With regard to the administration of immigration law, will the Minister take whatever action is open to him to stop solicitors taking up asylum, leave to remain and nationality cases in which there is no need for legal representation—cases for which these greedy shysters grab money, and which they far too often bungle, so that they then have to come back to Members of Parliament? In addition to taking whatever action he can, will he ask the Law Society to investigate?

Reply from Liam Byrne: The position in my right hon. Friend's constituency sounds a little bit like that in mine, but he has a far more distinguished record than I have in helping constituents with errors made by immigration lawyers who claim to be acting in their clients' best interests. One of the biggest things that we can do to help resolve the problem this year is to make the law far simpler. That is why later this year we will introduce a Bill to simplify the immigration system and immigration law, some of which dates back pretty much to when I was born.

To continue reading the question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080225/debtext/80225-0002.htm#0802255000020>

Joan Humble [188113]: What account she takes of the contribution of foreign students to the UK economy in taking decisions on student visas.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Foreign students benefit our country to the tune of almost £8.5 billion a year. Students will be included in the new points system, which will make the system easier to police.

Joan Humble: I thank my hon. Friend for that reply. Overseas students make a valuable contribution to this country's economy. Universities recognise both that and their role as sponsors under this new visa scheme, but they are still unclear about how it will be administered. Will he talk to education institutions about how the new certificates will be administered and, above all, how the new registration requirements will be monitored?

Reply from Liam Byrne: My hon. Friend is right that big changes will be introduced in the granting of visas to students under the points system. In particular, a new register will come into place with much tougher obligations on colleges to report events such as non-attendance and extended periods of absence, but, more importantly, students will, for the first time, be tied to a specific institution—they will not be able to come in under the sponsorship of one organisation and switch in-country to another. As these are big changes, I plan to publish blueprints of how the new system will work as early as possible so that there is as much time as possible for us to discuss the details with universities. I will certainly make sure that I talk to universities in my hon. Friend's area as we try to get these proposals right.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Mark Pritchard: Foreign students undoubtedly make a valuable contribution to this country's economy, but with one in five students dropping out of full-time education, many of whom are foreign students, how confident is the Minister that universities are communicating foreign student drop-out rates to the Border and Immigration Agency?

Reply from Liam Byrne: We introduced changes in April last year, through a change to the immigration rules, that made it mandatory for education institutions to keep effective records on, for example, enrolment, and to report those records to the BIA when asked to do so. The new proposals under the points system take that tightening of the system a stage on, so that it becomes mandatory for universities and other higher education institutions to report not only students who do not turn up for their course, but extended periods of absence. We are giving universities time to prepare for these changes because we realise the new burdens that will be put on them, but I think the hon. Gentleman would agree that the system needs to be tighter in future.

David T.C. Davies: Is the Minister aware that a large number of language schools are completely bogus and are nothing more than a front to get people illegally into this country? What action is he taking against such bogus language schools?

Reply from Liam Byrne: We are determined to take colleges off the register of licence sponsors whenever we come across evidence of such abuse, and if the hon. Gentleman has information about colleges perpetrating such abuse I would, of course, be grateful to receive it. Well over 100 colleges have been taken off the register over the last year and a half, thanks to the work of the BIA.

Jim Sheridan: Foreign students make a valuable contribution to many of our disciplines, particularly in manufacturing industry. However, there is one discipline through which they make little contribution to the UK economy: journalism. Will my hon. Friend therefore make sure that foreign journalists who apply for visas come here on the basis that they deal with factual evidence and factual evidence only?

Reply from Liam Byrne: I am grateful to my hon. Friend for that observation. It is important for it to be much harder for organisations to get on to the appropriate register in years to come. Under the points system, it will be easier to police new regulations on how colleges get on to the register. I will, of course, look at any new ideas for such requirements that my hon. Friend might like to suggest.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080225/debtext/80225-0001.htm#0802255000015>

Chris Huhne [186469]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether foreign nationals will be required to carry identity cards with them at all times within the UK; and whether the police will have powers to arrest and detain anyone whom they believe to be a foreign national until such time as their identity is proved.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The UK Borders Act 2007 expressly provides that regulations may not make provision to require a person to carry an identity card for foreign nationals at all times. The police may arrest and detain a person but only where there is suspected involvement in an offence and not simply because they believe the person to be a foreign national.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080225/text/80225w0029.htm#08022613000063>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Chris Huhne [186470]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what ways the requirement for foreign nationals to have identity cards within the UK will be monitored; and what assessment she has made of the likely effect of such monitoring on community relations.

Reply from Liam Byrne: When the new requirement for foreign nationals to apply for an identity card under the UK Borders Act 2007 commences this year, we will record how many cards we issue—and to whom. Details of our roll-out strategy will shortly be published. We do not expect the new requirements to affect community relations, although we are presently engaging with the Commission for Equality and Human Rights about this.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080225/text/80225w0029.htm#08022613000063>

Stephen Williams [188044]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many applications for (a) indefinite leave to remain in the UK and (b) a travel document are awaiting a decision from the Border and Immigration Agency; (2) [188045] what the current average time for processing applications is for (a) indefinite leave to remain in the UK and (b) a travel document at the Border and Immigration Agency.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Information on the total number of indefinite leave to remain applications awaiting decision is not held centrally and would require extensive examination of cases held in the regions and other areas of BIA attracting a disproportionate cost.

There are 972 applications awaiting a decision within the travel document section of BIA.

Statistical information on time taken to process applications is not collated.

Service standards are published annually on the BIA website in the form of general caseworking service standards reports. These cover both charged (those with an associated fee) and non-charged applications. While such reports can provide overall performance against targets, they do not differentiate between different streams of casework, such as indefinite leave to remain or those applying for travel documents.

The current published standards for processing charged applications are 70 per cent. of postal applications to be decided within 20 working days, with 90 per cent. of postal applications decided within 70 working days. For charged applications made in person at the Public Enquiry Office we aim to complete 98 per cent. of applications in 24 hours.

For non-charged postal applications we will decide 25 per cent. within 20 working days and 30 per cent. within 70 working days. For non-charged applications made in person at the Public Enquiry Office we aim to complete 98 per cent. of applications in 24 hours.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080225/text/80225w0030.htm#08022613000068>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Damian Green [185472]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether her Department has received representations from the Church of England on the points-based immigration system;

(2) [185477] whether (a) the Church of England, (b) its dioceses and (c) its individual parishes will be entitled to obtain licences to sponsor immigrants;

(3) [185478] whether (a) the Roman Catholic Church, (b) its dioceses and (c) its individual parishes will be entitled to obtain licences to sponsor immigrants.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency is discussing with the Church of England our proposals for the points based system of migration.

Religious organisations, including the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church, will be entitled to apply to the Border and Immigration Agency for a licence to sponsor migrants. They will be free to decide at what level they seek registration.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080225/text/80225w0030.htm#08022613000068>

Danny Alexander [185108]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people from (a) Cyprus, (b) the Czech Republic, (c) Estonia, (d) Hungary, (e) Latvia, (f) Lithuania, (g) Malta, (h) Poland, (i) Slovakia and (j) Slovenia held UK working visas on 1 May 2004, broken down by type of visa; and what guidance is provided to such people on steps they are required to take once their visas have expired if they want to keep working in the UK;

(2) [185109] what guidance her Department provided to employers on the legal implications of employing individuals from member states who joined the EU on 1 May 2004;

(3) [185111] how many people from (a) Cyprus, (b) the Czech Republic, (c) Estonia, (d) Hungary, (e) Latvia, (f) Lithuania, (g) Malta, (h) Poland, (i) Slovakia and (j) Slovenia have left the worker registration scheme having worked in the UK continuously for 12 months.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Information on the number of nationals from the 2004 accession states who held a UK working visa on 1 May 2004 could be obtained only by detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

The Home Office has published guidance on the worker registration scheme for 'A8' nationals, those from the 2004 accession states excluding Cyprus and Malta, and employers. This includes a booklet entitled "Living and Working in the UK", detailing their rights and responsibilities from 1 May 2004. This is available on the Border and Immigration Agency website:

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/workingintheuk/wrsleaflet>

A copy will be placed in the House Library.

The number of 'A8' nationals who have left the worker registration scheme is not known as there is no requirement to "de-register" once an individual has worked in the UK continuously for 12 months. The "Accession Monitoring Report May 2004 to September 2007" gives information on 'A8' nationals and their intended length of stay. This is available on the Border and Immigration Agency website:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/Reports/accession_monitoring_report/

A copy is available in the House Library.

Nationals of Cyprus and Malta are not required to register on the worker registration scheme and are not subject to those conditions placed on nationals from the 'A8' countries.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080225/text/80225w0030.htm#08022613000072>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government [HL1945]: Whether they have removed from the United Kingdom any children with failed asylum applications; if so, how many; and to which countries.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The accompanying table shows the number of children recorded as having claimed asylum at some stage (as principal applicants and as dependants of principal applicants) who were removed from the UK in 2006, broken down by destination. This is the latest complete year for which figures are currently available.

An unaccompanied child under the age of 18 would not be considered for removal from the UK unless it has been established with the country to which the child is to be removed that adequate reception arrangements are in place. Officers must liaise with social services and/or the nominated guardian with responsibility for the care of the child in the UK to ensure the removal is effected in the most sensitive manner possible.

A child under the age of 18 recorded as being a principal asylum applicant may not necessarily be unaccompanied; they could, for example, be living with a relative who, in turn, may or may not have status in the UK.

National statistics on asylum removals during 2007 will be published in the "Asylum Statistics: 4th Quarter 2007" bulletin on 26 February and will be available from the Library of the House and the Home Office's research, development and statistics website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

To read the table of "Removals, voluntary departures and assisted returns of child asylum applicants, by destination in 2006" see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80226w0001.htm#08022654000005>

Damian Green (190178): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which benefits the Government considers to be mainstream benefits, as referred to in her Department's Green Paper, A Pathway to Citizenship.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80227w01.htm>

Damian Green (190181): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether (a) participation in the activities of political parties and (b) preaching of religion by migrants holding probationary citizenship will count as active citizenship, as outlined in her Department's Green Paper, A Pathway to Citizenship.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80227w01.htm>

Damian Green (190182): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how her Department plans to verify claims of active citizenship on the part of migrants granted probationary citizenship; and what discussions officials in her Department have had with (a) representatives of the voluntary sector, (b) local authorities and (c) other bodies on their roles in the verification process.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80227w01.htm>

Press Releases

Points-based system begins

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/points-based-system1>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

New points system goes live

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

The points-based system

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/managingborders/managingmigration/apointsbasedsystem/>

Asylum figures lowest in 14 years

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/asylum-figures-2008>

New publications

NHS Scotland guidance in relation to overseas visitors

http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2008_09.pdf

Asylum Statistics: 4th Quarter 2007 United Kingdom

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/asylumq407.pdf>

Bulgarian and Romanian Accession Statistics, October - December 2007

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/Reports/bulgarianromanian/report4/report4.pdf?view=Binary>

Statewatch Analysis: The Proposed EU Returns Directive

<http://www.statewatch.org/analyses/eu-ret-dir-sp.pdf>

News

An insider's view on immigration law in Scotland

<http://news.scotsman.com/opinion/An-insider39s-view-on-immigration.3810324.jp>

Born Irish, but with illegal parents

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/02/25/europe/25ireland.php>

800,000 immigrants seek work permit

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/800000-immigrants-seek-work-permit.3815676.jp>

Polish now second language in Scots schools

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/02/27/polish-now-second-language-in-scots-schools-86908-20332666/>

Pole Winners

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/comment/newspaper-opinion/2008/02/27/pole-winners-86908-20332981/>

3500 pupils can't speak English

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2075400.0.3500_pupils_cant_speak_English.php

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

One nation, 138 languages ... and Scottish classroom problems

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/education/display.var.2075376.0.One_nation_138_languages_and_the_problems_facing_Scottish_classrooms.php

'It is good that the children are now bilingual'

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/education/display.var.2075388.0.It_is_good_that_the_children_are_now_bilingual.php

New train of thought

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/editorial/display.var.2075315.0.New_train_of_thought.php

Sharp rise in pupils lacking English 'could risk education of all children'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/scotland/Sharp-rise-in-pupils-lacking.3818485.jp>

Foreign language pupils put strain on Capital classrooms

<http://news.scotsman.com/edinburgh/Foreign-language-pupils-put-strain.3819736.jp>

Plea for cash aid to teach city's ethnic minority kids

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2075555.0.plea_for_cash_aid_to_teach_citys_ethnic_minority_kids.php

Brown attacked on immigration figure

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2075378.0.Brown_attacked_on_immigration_figure.php

Asylum seeker applications at 14-year low

<http://news.scotsman.com/uk/Asylum--seeker-applications-at.3818339.jp>

Immigration points system begins

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7269790.stm>

Points mean migration... but just what will change?

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/focus/display.var.2082466.0.Points_mean_migration_but_just_what_will_change.php

Employers face fines amid strict rules on immigrants

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2082487.0.Employers_face_fines_amid_strict_rules_on_immigrants.php

'I have the skills required to work here'

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/focus/display.var.2082464.0.I_have_the_skills_required_to_work_here.php

He came here seeking a better life but died at hands of a thug under curfew who boasted: I've just killed a Pole

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/He-came-here-seeking-a.3829743.jp>

Immigrant drivers "flouting drink law"

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/03/01/newsstory11007148t0.asp>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Gordon Brown: New Immigration Rules Will Boost UK

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/2008/03/01/gordon-brown-new-immigration-rules-will-boost-uk-86908-20336056/>

Jail for hiring illegal immigrants

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2083398.0.jail_for_hiring_illegal_immigrants.php

Theatre stars unite for reform of 'brutal' UK asylum system

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/theatre-stars-unite-for-reform-of-brutal-uk-asylum-system-790327.html>

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Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Jim Cunningham [188902]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government have taken to tackle community tensions since 1997.

Reply from Parmjit Dhanda: 'Improving Opportunity Strengthening Society: The Government's strategy to increase race equality and community cohesion' (published in 2005) and its related two annual progress reports, set out some of the steps Government have taken since 1997 to tackle community tensions that can undermine community cohesion. For example in its work with partners to monitor tensions and provide support for local areas experiencing particular challenges. More recently 'The Government's Response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion' (published in February 2008) provides a new clarity on, and commitment to, delivering cohesive and integrated communities. This includes for example: a commitment to the new public service agreement twenty-one to build cohesive, empowered and active communities; increased investment in community cohesion; and a commitment to establish specialist cohesion teams to provide advice and support to local authorities facing cohesion challenges.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080225/text/80225w0021.htm#0802266000074>

Paul Goodman (190113): To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how much her Department plans to spend on (a) the development of the new web-based one stop shop on cohesion, (b) the deployment of teams to support areas undergoing particularly rapid change, (c) the programme of work to realise increased inter-faith dialogue and social interaction within communities and (d) placing work with key partners on a more strategic footing in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09, (iii) 2009-10 and (iv) 2010-11, as referred to in the Government's response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80227w01.htm>

Race Relations (continued)

Speech by David Cameron, Leader of the Conservative Party

Equality and Human Rights Commission debate: Open to Question

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

New publication

Intercultural dialogue in Europe

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_217_sum_en.pdf

News

Muslim leaders issue letter to improve relations with Jewish community

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article3426682.ece>

Sentamu: Britain's failure on race

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/sentamu-britains-failure-on-race-790328.html>

Britain has lost its way, says Archbishop

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2008/03/02/nbish102.xml>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

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.

Reply from Stewart Maxwell: The recommendations from the Gypsies/Travellers Strategic Group have helped to inform the Scottish Government's National Statement and Action Plan on Race Equality.

The evaluation of the Gypsies/Travellers Site Grant was a survey on the use made by local authorities of the £2 million grant made available in 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Its finding will help to inform decisions about future grant awards.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0227.htm>

Race Equality (continued)

New Publications

The Inclusion of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children and Young People

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/Inclusion%20of%20Gypsy%20Roma.pdf>

DCLG Race Equality Scheme Progress Report and 2008 Forward Look

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/705726>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-1437 Charlie Gordon: Tackling Sectarianism—That the Parliament congratulates the pupils of Crofffoot Primary School and St Mirin’s Primary School, Glasgow, on their inspirational joint work to combat sectarianism, which has been ongoing for three years and which has been recognised by the devolved governments of Scotland and Northern Ireland and by the government of the Irish Republic.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-02-28f.htm>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

John Mann [188754]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Libyan counterpart on Libya’s intentions in chairing the preparatory committee for the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism.

Reply from Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed this with his Libyan counterpart. UK officials in Geneva are engaged in talks with other delegations on the preparatory process.

John Mann [188755]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals he has made to put anti-semitism on the main agenda of the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism.

Reply from Jim Murphy: The Government believe that it is vital to avoid a repeat of the disgraceful anti-Semitism that occurred at the 2001 World Conference Against Racism.

We want the Durban Review Conference to assess how states have implemented the 2001 Durban Declaration and Programme for Action. The agenda for the Conference is not yet clear. The UK was among a small number of countries that worked hard to ensure that the issue of anti-Semitism was included in the 2001 Declaration and Programme for Action. We will seek to ensure that anti-Semitism receives due attention at the Durban Review Conference.

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

John Mann [188756]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what Ministerial involvement is planned in the preparatory committee for the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism.

Reply from Jim Murphy: The United Kingdom will be represented at the preparatory committee for the Durban Review Conference by our Mission to the Office of the United Nations in Geneva. There are no plans for Ministers to attend.

John Mann [188757]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Canadian government on its decision not to attend the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism.

Reply from Jim Murphy: Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have been in discussions with their Canadian counterparts on the Durban Review Conference. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed this with the Canadian Government.

John Mann [188758]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with European Union Ministers on the preparations for the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism.

Reply from Jim Murphy: The Durban Review Conference has not yet been discussed at the level of European Union Foreign Ministers. It has, however, been a regular item on the agenda of meetings at official level.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080225/text/80225w0004.htm#08022533000012>

Lord Lester of Herne Hill [HL1997] asked Her Majesty's Government: Whether any other member state of the European Union has given effect to Directive 2000/43/EC by confining the reverse burden of proof to claims of discrimination on ethnic or racial grounds, excluding discrimination on the ground of colour.

Reply from Baroness Andrews: Council Directive 2000/43/EC—the race directive—laid down a framework for combating discrimination on grounds of “racial or ethnic origin” in the member states of the European Union. It did not cover discrimination on grounds of colour.

In the UK, the directive was implemented by secondary legislation under Section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972. The amending regulations, which included the change to the burden of proof, could not therefore apply to grounds, such as colour, omitted from or excluded by the race directive itself.

Legislative arrangements vary from member state to member state, and each will have implemented the directive in the way it sees as most appropriate. We do not have up-to-date information on precisely how each of the other 26 member states of the European Union has implemented the race directive.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80228w0002.htm#08022869000009>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) **Westminster Early Day Motion**

Lembit Opik (1032) Holocaust Educational Trust Auschwitz Trips - That this House welcomes the Government's decision to subsidise the Holocaust Educational Trust's (HET) programme of trips to Auschwitz for school children; believes these visits are a vital part of the education programme to ensure the lessons of the Holocaust are not forgotten; further believes these visits help prevent such genocide from happening again; notes that many people were offended by the insensitive, thoughtless and offensive claim in a Conservative document that trips to Auschwitz are a gimmick; and asks the right hon. Member for Witney to confirm that, if elected to Government, a Conservative administration would continue to provide the financial subsidy at the same level for the HET's trips to Auschwitz programme.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80225e01.htm>

New publication

Tackling Racist Incidents: A toolkit for Scottish housing providers

<http://www.challengeracism.com/>

News

Race row e-mail staff allowed back to work

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/edinburgh/Race-row-email-staff-allowed.3811366.jp>

Woman admits leaving racist message

<http://www.thisisnorthscotland.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=149664&command=displayContent&sourceNode=149490&contentPK=19985451&folderPk=85696&pNodeId=149221>

Police launch YouTube sectarian abuse probe

<http://news.scotsman.com/scotland/Police-launch-YouTube-sectarian-abuse.3834256.jp>

Play it again, Rock Against Racism

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/play-it-again-rock-against-racism-790331.html>

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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.

Reply from Stewart Maxwell: The proposals within Firm Foundations: the Future of Housing in Scotland are intended to promote a housing system which meets the accommodation need of all of Scotland's communities, including minority groups. The proposals will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment as they are translated into individual policies.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0227.htm>

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

Reply from Stewart Maxwell: Local authorities are responsible for the provision of official Gypsies/Travellers Sites in their area. In 2005-08 the Scottish Government is providing grant funding totalling £3.5 million to assist local authorities to improve their facilities for Gypsies/Travellers. Over the period 2008-11 £1 million per year will continue to be made available. In 2008-09 and 2009-10 the grant will continue to be ring fenced within the local government settlement. The ring fence will be removed in the third year.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0227.htm>

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-10345): To ask the Scottish Executive how many state-funded faith schools there are in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-02-27e.htm>

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-10346): To ask the Scottish Executive how many pupils attend state-funded faith schools.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-02-27e.htm>

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-10347): To ask the Scottish Executive how many teachers are employed by state-funded faith schools.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-02-27e.htm>

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-10349): To ask the Scottish Executive what steps it is taking to address specific issues surrounding mental health in the black and minority ethnic community.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-02-27e.htm>

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-10350): To ask the Scottish Executive how much money ethnic minority enterprise contributes to the economy.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-02-27e.htm>

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-10353): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it has had any discussions on attracting Islamic finance initiatives to Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-02-27e.htm>

Bashir Ahmad (S3W-10355): To ask the Scottish Executive how it will meet the specific needs of ethnic minority carers.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-02-27e.htm>

Other Holyrood (continued) **Parliamentary Motion**

Gil Paterson (S3M-1444): Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings—That the Parliament recognises that 23 March 2008 marks the first anniversary of the United Kingdom's signing of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings; notes that this convention is yet to be ratified in order to enshrine the rights of victims of trafficking in domestic law; further notes that there are substantial responsibilities for the Scottish Government under this convention, including the identification of trafficking victims in line with services to victims of trafficking, the investigation and prosecution of trafficking and the non-prosecution of crimes that trafficking victims have been coerced into; believes that a lead should be taken in the UK on the implementation of the parts of the convention for which it has responsibility, and considers that all measures should be taken to stop this modern-day form of slavery.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-02-29f.htm>

New publication

Pupils in Scotland 2007

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/213387/0056683.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Question

Harry Cohen (189621): To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what arrangements are in place for marriages in mosques to be performed in conjunction with the civil marriage law arrangements; what consideration has been given to requiring marriage registrars to attend the mosque to perform the civil marriage arrangements at the time of the religious ceremony; whether consideration has been given to placing mosque marriages on the same basis as church marriages; and if he will make a statement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80226w01.htm>

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Other News

EU Imams Launch Regulatory Body

http://www.islamonline.net/servlet/Satellite?c=Article_C&cid=1203757388271&pageName=Zone-English-News/NWELayout

Scotland's largest charities named

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=7953bc6e-5d25-4f39-8ed6-c8ef6baa6e21>

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Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

**** Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill**

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

Stage 1 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0227-02.htm#Col6332>

Public Health Bill

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

Bills in Progress 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/en/2008063en.pdf>

Research paper

<http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/rp2008/rp08-020.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-iiir.htm>

and

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

and

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

and

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

House of Lords consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80226-0006.htm#08022661000001>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80226-0013.htm#08022674000001>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80227-0002.htm#08022765000004>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80227-0014.htm#08022840000002>

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

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

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Consultations (closing date)

**** New or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

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>

**** closes this week!**

"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>

Consultations (continued)

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

The Role of Further Education Providers in Promoting Community Cohesion, Fostering Shared Values and Preventing Violent Extremism (6 May 2008)

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/Community%20Cohesion%20PDF.pdf>

Glasgow 2014 - Delivering a lasting legacy for Scotland (9 May 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/212495/0056525.pdf>

The Path to Citizenship: Next Steps in Reforming the Immigration System (14 May 2008)

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/pathtocitizenship/pathtocitizenship?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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Funding Opportunities

**** Race, Religion and Refugee Integration Grant Programme**

Closing date for applications: 14 April 2008

Scottish Government programme to improve the lives of minority ethnic and faith communities in Scotland, including asylum seekers and refugees, by tackling the inequalities that currently exist, increasing race and faith equality and promoting good relations between different racial groups as well as by reducing the incidence of racism, discrimination, and religious intolerance in all their forms. The application form is available online at <http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/grant-schemes/RRRI>. For information see http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/assets/RRRI_Press_Release.doc or contact Alison Stevenson 01383 620780 / Alison.Stevenson@voluntaryactionfund.org.uk

'Youth in the world'

Closing date for applications: 15 April 2008

European funding to support youth projects to promote the exchange of experience and good practice in the field of youth and non-formal education, contribute to the development of youth policies, youth work and the voluntary sector, as well as to capacity-building and leadership development for youth organisations/structures, and to develop sustainable partnerships and networks between youth organisations. Projects must deal with one of the following themes:

- Strengthening of civil society, citizenship and democracy
- Fight against racism and xenophobia
- Inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue
- Post-conflict resolution and reconstruction
- The active role of women in society
- Minority rights

For information see http://www.enar-eu.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=16494&langue=EN

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Events/Conferences/Training

**** New or updated this week**

**** this week!**

Research into funding priorities of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission

4 March 2008 in Glasgow (2.00 – 4.00)

SCVO-organised focus group on behalf of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) to identify examples of good funding practice and key areas where there are gaps in funding awarded to equality organisations. This research has the potential to influence the EHRC's policy in how it prioritises funding to organisations working on the equalities issues in the voluntary sector. For information contact Janice Ralston 0141 225 8032 / janice.ralston@scvo.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

Tackling Racist Incidents: A Toolkit for Scottish Housing Providers

5 March 2008 in Edinburgh (2.00 – 4.00)

PAiH launch at the Scottish Parliament of a toolkit to help housing providers challenge racism in their communities. For information and to book a place contact David Reilly david@paih.org / 0141 353 2220

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

Equalities Awareness Training

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

**** Move-on, resettlement and secondary migration**

14 March 2008 in Edinburgh (9.00 – 12.30)

Scottish Refugee Council seminar focusing on the needs, rights and entitlements of refugees in Scotland and how to achieve successful integration into new communities. For information contact Maggie MacRitchie 0141 248 9799 /

maggie.macritchie@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Embedding Equalities within your organisation

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

BEMIS / Community Health Exchange (CHEX)

Begins April 2008 in Glasgow (half day/week for 6 months)

Recent developments in health and social inclusion policy within Scotland have resulted in an increase in programmes/initiatives that target health inequalities and community involvement in health (e.g. community health projects and healthy living centres). Health Issues in the Community, a national training resource, is ideally suited to help equip local people who find access to mainstream educational difficult, for the real challenges that they face in developing community responses to health issues and becoming more active citizens. Accredited by the University of Edinburgh. For information contact Adnan Miyasar 0141 548 8047 / adnan.miyasar@bemis.org.uk

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

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

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>

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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&

Useful Links(continued)

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>