

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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Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month.

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Debate

Human Trafficking

Gil Paterson (West of Scotland) (SNP): The debate gives us the opportunity to recognise the anniversary of the signing by the United Kingdom of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings—ECAT. I would have been delighted to be able to say that it is a celebration of the ratification of the convention but, sadly, that has not yet happened. When it is ratified, the convention will ensure that the rights of victims of trafficking are upheld in domestic law. Although the issue is not in the Scottish Government's jurisdiction, I want the Parliament and the Scottish Government to be as one and to use any influence that we have to put the strongest case to the UK Government that action is needed to bring the effects of the convention into play and to say that we would support the measures that are needed to ensure that the convention is ratified.

I pay tribute to Amnesty International for its consistent and diligent work in raising awareness of human trafficking. Amnesty has concerns about the identification of victims of trafficking in Scotland. That is currently police led and there is no formal procedure for

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Debate (continued)

consulting non-governmental organisations and other agencies as per international best practice. For a number of reasons, victims of trafficking are unlikely to disclose what has happened to police officers or immigration officials. Those reasons include threats from traffickers; shame and guilt about having been involved in commercial sexual exploitation; concern about insecure immigration status; fear of corruption among home state officials; and the fact that victims may be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

When a brothel is raided, in many cases the people who are arrested are people who have been trafficked. Some have entered the country with legal documents on the promise of legitimate work. Unfortunately, they have been tricked and forced into the sex trade by violence and confinement, and their documents have been substituted by false ones. These are people who are unable to speak English and who, although they have been brutalised and scared out of their wits, are illegal immigrants due to fake planted documents and are likely to be deported. When they reach their home country, the threats of the traffickers become a reality and they may find themselves in trouble with their home authorities.

We need support services that are trusted by those who are trafficked. The victims need time to come to terms with their situation if they are to become good witnesses or to have their needs assessed. NGOs that are working in the field pick up information from the street and can play a significant role in many ways. They can pick up information to identify traffickers and assist with the recovery of victims by providing the varied and expert support that is essential if we are going to make a difference.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0320-02.htm#Col7289>

Holyrood Parliamentary Motions

Bashir Ahmad (S3M-1590): Save the Curry Industry—That the Parliament notes the benefits of a points-based immigration system; however, recognises the difficulty placed on curry restaurants and takeaways, with the new scheme making it extremely difficult to recruit specialised, experienced curry chefs from the sub-continent; further recognises that the curry industry contributes £3.2 billion to the UK economy and this could be in serious danger if the current system is not modified, and urges the Scottish Government to make representations to the Home Office regarding this matter.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-03-18f.htm>

Shirley-Anne Somerville (S3M-1589): Asylum Application of Jojo Jako Yakob—That the Parliament welcomes the Scotland on Sunday campaign highlighting the case of Jojo Jako Yakob who fears persecution in his home country of Syria because of his sexual orientation; notes with grave concern the comments by a spokesperson at the Syrian Embassy in London in which homosexuality is described as a disease which Syria sought to treat, and calls on the UK Government to impose a moratorium on the deportation of gay and lesbian asylum seekers, who fear that they will be persecuted in their home countries, until government policy on this matter can be fully reviewed.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-03-18f.htm>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Debate

Immigration: Statement of Changes in Rules

Lord Avebury rose to move, That the Statement, laid before the House on 6 February, be disapproved. The noble Lord said: My Lords, we oppose this statement on a number of counts, but first and foremost because there has been no consultation with any of the stakeholders. The Immigration Law Practitioners' Association, the Immigration Advisory Service, the Transport and General Workers' Union, the Refugee Children's Consortium and Universities UK—I am glad to see the noble Baroness, Lady Warwick, in her place—all had valid points to make and their views were ignored in the formulation of this statement. The Minister apologised to ILPA in a letter of 29 February and since then there have been discussions with it, but even though officials appear to have acknowledged the concerns expressed, the only way they could have been accommodated was to withdraw the statement and retable an amended version, and they clearly have not been prepared to do so at such a late stage.

HC321 brings into force the tier 1 component of the points-based scheme announced by the Home Office in March 2006, and we fully endorse the criticisms made by the JCHR of the tighter conditions for the grant of further leave to remain, which apply not only to those coming here under the new scheme but to highly skilled migrants who came here under the previous arrangements. Those people came here to settle down and they bought houses and placed their children in schools with the legitimate expectation that if they satisfied the conditions specified, they would qualify for settlement at the end of four years. Now, the carpet is being pulled from under their feet, and the retrospective imposition of additional conditions is seen by the JCHR as a fundamental breach of their right to family life. This matter is being tested in the courts as we speak, and it was wrong of the Government to ask your Lordships to approve these changes until that matter had been decided.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80317-0013.htm#0803183000002>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government [HL2105]: How many asylum applications remain in the backlog (that is, have not been granted, closed or removed) at the most recent date; at what point after the date of original application a case is deemed to belong to the backlog; and by when they expect to have cleared the backlog.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: In her update to the Home Affairs Select Committee of 17 December 2007, Lin Homer (the chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency) stated that 52,000 cases have been concluded by the Border and Immigration Agency, of which about 16,000 have led to removals. A copy of the letter is in the House Library. Lin Homer gave an undertaking to update the Home Affairs Select Committee on progress every six months.

Cases in the backlog include unresolved asylum applications lodged with the Border and Immigration Agency before 5 March 2007 which were not being processed by case owners in the regional asylum teams on that date.

We remain confident that we are on track to conclude these cases by the summer of 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80317w0003.htm#08031728000021>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government [HL2106:] How many visitors and students are overstaying their leave to enter; and what proportion of them have acquired national insurance numbers.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Exit controls were phased out from 1994 and as such no Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who remain in the country illegally. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case. Consequently it is not possible to determine what percentage of overstayers has acquired national insurance numbers.

As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by Christmas 2008 the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country. This will build on the successes of our early testing of the e-Borders programme (Project Semaphore) which already covers over 30 million passenger movements and has led to 18,000 alerts and more than 1,500 arrests.

This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global rollout of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80317w0003.htm#08031728000023>

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.

Reply from Liam Byrne: We are proposing that migrants who have demonstrated their commitment to the UK and contribute in a positive way to British society should be allowed to complete the journey to citizenship more quickly than those who have chose not to. The Green Paper sets out a list of activities already in existence which we believe could constitute a good list for would be citizens to consider. This list does not include either participation in the activities of political parties or preaching of religion by migrants. We are inviting views on the type of activities that should be taken into account. We will finalise our proposals—ensuring that only those activities which contribute in a positive way are taken into account—following the consultation period which ends on 14 May.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080317/text/80317w0012.htm#0803174000112>

Nicholas Soames [180621]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons apart from those refused entry at port and subsequently removed, those dealt with at juxtaposed controls, asylum seekers and their dependants, foreign national prisoners at the end of the sentences, those leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes and those who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities, were removed from the UK in each of the last five years.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The following table shows the number of non-asylum cases removed from the UK as a result of enforcement action between 2003 and 2007. These figures may include some persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them and foreign national prisoners. This is the latest five year period for which national statistics are available.

The figures provided exclude non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls, all persons who had claimed asylum at some stage (including their dependants), those

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html>

Non-asylum cases removed from the UK as a result of enforcement action and voluntary departures^(1, 2, 3) 2002-07

	<i>Number of removals</i>
2003	11,365
2004	10,070
2005	11,970
2006 ⁽⁴⁾	9,800
2007 ⁽⁴⁾	12,410

⁽¹⁾ Includes enforced removals and persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them. ⁽²⁾ Excludes persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including those dealt with at juxtaposed controls), persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration, those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities and all asylum removals (including dependants). ⁽³⁾ Figures rounded to the nearest five. ⁽⁴⁾ Provisional figures.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080317/text/80317w0014.htm#0803174000126>

James Clappison [162351]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the dependants of the work-permit holders given leave to enter the UK since 1 January 2004 were aged under 16 years.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The requested figures are in the following table.

Passengers recorded as aged under 16 given leave to enter the United Kingdom as dependants of work permit holders, 2004 to 2006

	<i>Number</i>
2004	16,700
2005	17,700
2006	18,700
Total	53,200

Notes:

1. Data rounded to three significant places, therefore they do not sum to the total shown.
2. Includes nationals of the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia before 1 May 2004, but excludes them from this date.
3. This information is not published as a National Statistic. As such, it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080317/text/80317w0014.htm#0803174000129>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

James Clappison [177360]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to her letter to the Home Affairs Committee of 17 December 2007, how many of the cases closed under the legacy exercise were due to (a) erroneous and (b) duplicate records; how such errors and duplications arose; how many of the individuals concerned have been traced; how many of the cases were closed because the individual concerned could not be traced; and what estimate she has made of the number of people dealt with by the legacy exercise who remain in the UK without leave to remain.

Reply from Liam Byrne: On 17 December 2007 Lin Homer provided a written update to the Home Affairs Select Committee stating that 52,000 older asylum cases had been concluded and of these 17,000 were closed due to previously erroneous or duplicate errors. Of this 17,000, approximately 2,000 were duplicates; 9,500 were errors and 5,500 were EU nationals where the individual originally applied for asylum, but their country of origin has since acceded to the EU.

These errors and duplications arose as part of the backlog of unresolved cases that the previous Home Secretary informed the House of in July 2006.

Where a case has been closed because it is a duplicate or an error, the individuals involved will already have been granted status or removed.

The previous Home Secretary also referred to the fact that some in some cases the individuals may have died or left the country since they had claimed asylum. We often do not have this information recorded. In future, when we introduce electronic embarkation checks, the situation should improve. In the meantime there are some individuals we are struggling to trace.

It is not possible to accurately forecast the number of people remaining in the UK without leave to remain under the legacy exercise, as each case is decided on its merits and there are an unknown, and significant number of data errors in the case records. We are prioritising cases using the following criteria: those who may pose a risk to the public, those who can more easily be removed, those receiving support, and those who may be granted leave.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080317/text/80317w0015.htm#0803174000134>

Chris Huhne [193712]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for (a) leave to remain and (b) British citizenship by Ghurkha soldiers who completed their service (i) after and (ii) before 1 July 1997 are being processed by her Department.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: There are 61 applications for naturalisation as a British citizen currently outstanding where Nepal is given as the place of birth. Without analysing each file and making further inquiries where necessary it is not possible to establish how many of these involve former Ghurkhas and if so, whether they were discharged before, on or after 1 July 1997.

This information has been derived from local management information and is the best available. It is not a National Statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080318/text/80318w0002.htm#08031877000030>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Chris Huhne [193711]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what rules govern applications for (a) leave to remain and (b) British citizenship by Gurkha soldiers who completed their service (i) after and (ii) before 1 July 1997; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The rules applying to applications for leave to remain in the United Kingdom by former Gurkhas who completed their service on or after 1 July 1997 are set out in paragraphs 276E to 276K of the Immigration Rules. This information is contained on the Border and Immigration Agency website at:

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/immigrationlaw/immigrationrules/part7/>

Former Gurkhas who are unable to fulfil the requirements of the Immigration Rules, including those who were discharged from service before 1 July 1997, may benefit from concessionary arrangements on a case by case basis where there are strong reasons why settlement in the UK is appropriate. Guidance for dealing with these cases is contained in Immigration Directorate Instructions, chapter 15, section 2A, at:

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/IDIs/idischapter15/>

Gurkha soldiers who have completed their service in the British Army and wish to apply for British citizenship must make a successful application for naturalisation under section 6 of the British Nationality Act 1981. There is no distinction between those who enlisted before or after 1 July 1997.

Policy requirements and procedures for handling nationality applications are available for viewing on the Border and Immigration Agency website at:

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/nationalityinstructions/nichapter18/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080318/text/80318w0002.htm#08031877000030>

Chris Huhne [193713]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for (a) leave to remain and (b) British citizenship by Gurkha soldiers who completed their service (i) after and (ii) before 1st July 1997 were (A) received and (B) granted in each year since 1997.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The new immigration rules enabling Gurkhas discharged on or after 1 July 1997 to apply for settlement became effective on 25 October 2004. Immigration data for applications and grants of indefinite leave to remain relating to former Gurkhas prior to 2004 are not available. Nor is it possible to provide a breakdown between those who retired before 1 July 1997 and those who retired on or after this date. The data for applications received and granted for the years 2004 to present are as follows:

	<i>Granted</i>	<i>Received</i>
2004	58	65
2005	990	1,070
2006	2,527	2,733
2007	87	211
2008	5	9

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

This information has been derived from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

The elevated figures for 2005 and 2006 reflect the higher number of cases dealt with under the transitional arrangements. Further details of the transitional arrangements are contained in the Immigration Directorate Instructions, chapter 15, section 2A, available for viewing on the Border and Immigration website at:

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/IDs/idischapter15/> Data on applications and grants of citizenship to former Gurkhas cannot be identified electronically and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080318/text/80318w0002.htm#08031877000030>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Greg Mulholland (1203) Deportation of asylum seekers at risk of religious persecution - That this House notes with deep concern and regret that many of those who come to this country seeking asylum are currently facing deportation to countries where they are at risk of persecution, torture and worse as a result of their religious beliefs; believes that this is the case with deporting practising Christians to Iran with evidence that shows that they face persecution; notes the case of Mr Ali Pourakaberian who faces deportation back to Iran despite the fact that the Iranian authorities are aware that he is a practising Christian; and believes that there should be a moratorium for all those facing deportation when there is a serious and credible risk that they will face persecution in their country of origin as a result of their religious beliefs and that this should include Iranian Christians.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80317e01.htm>

Press Release

Migrants say discrimination undermines their sense of belonging in Britain

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/pressroom/releases/190308.asp>

New publications

Immigration, faith and cohesion

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2189-immigration-faith-cohesion.pdf>

Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialized Countries, 2007

<http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/STATISTICS/47daae862.pdf>

Asylum Support Partnership News

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/info/ASP_Mar_08

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **News**

Curry chef in fight to avoid being deported

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2127103.0.curry_chef_in_fight_to_avoid_being_deported.php

Numbers of Polish students soar

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Numbers-of-Polish-students-soar.3896918.jp>

Anger after removed Ghanaian dies

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/7306345.stm>

Treatment plan too late for cancer deportee

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/health/display.var.2137804.0.Treatment_plan_too_late_for_cancer_deportee.php

Polish incomers swell Good Friday congregations in city

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Polish-incomers-swell-Good-Friday.3905667.jp>

MSPs back asylum campaign for gay Syrian facing jail and torture

<http://news.scotsman.com/scotland/MSPs--back-asylum-campaign.3906505.jp>

Law blocking re-entry of refugees 'simply inhuman'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/law-blocking-reentry-of-refugees-simply-inhuman-799293.html>

Sanity, justice and immigration law: Why the treatment of the Gurkhas should shame us all

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/newscomment.html?in_article_id=540129&in_page_id=1787

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Race Relations

New publication

Immigration, faith and cohesion

Report <http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2189-immigration-faith-cohesion.pdf>

Summary <http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/pdf/2190.pdf>

News

Obama's speech on race rings true for Britain, too

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/mar/23/barackobama.race>

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Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Kelvin Hopkins (195694): To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, if she will appoint a commissioner to the Equality and Human Rights Commission with responsibilities for the non-religious element of the religion or belief equality strand covering beliefs such as humanism.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80319w01.htm>

News

Employers warn Harman against 'positive action' job legislation

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2126929.0.Employers_warn_Harman_against_positive_action_job_legislation.php

Pupils from immigrant communities overtake white Scots in achievement

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article3603029.ece>

Meet Trevor Phillips, the man charged with shaking Britain's view of diversity

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

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Lynne Featherstone [194347]: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what analysis the Government has undertaken of the extent of caste discrimination in the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Parmjit Dhanda: Communities and Local Government has conducted, with stakeholders, an informal scoping exercise to learn more about the extent to which some communities believe caste is a continuing social phenomenon within British society and to identify any evidence that individuals had been discriminated against on these grounds. The analysis of the responses has not yet been completed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080318/text/80318w0001.htm#08031877000013>

Press Releases

Joint statement on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

http://fra.europa.eu/fra/index.php?fuseaction=content.dsp_cat_content&catid=9

Racism and Religious Hatred

Press Releases (continued)

Towards a trade union strategy for combating racial discrimination and xenophobia

http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/racial_discrimination_EN.pdf

News

Getting the message out on racism

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2134236.0.Getting_the_message_out_on_racism.php

Anti-racist message put in the frame

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/548030>

Church attacks stance criticised

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7310360.stm>

Racist Abuse Set To Drive Young Scots Talent From Football

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/03/22/racist-abuse-set-to-drive-young-scots-talent-from-football-86908-20359062/>

Racism Blights Beautiful Game

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/comment/newspaper-opinion/2008/03/22/racism-blights-beautiful-game-86908-20359057/>

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Other Holyrood

Press Release

Response to Gould report

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/03/19123951>

New publications

Cognitive Question Testing Scotland's Census Ethnicity Classification

Report <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/215811/0057719.pdf>

Summary <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/215764/0057714.pdf>

Scottish Elections 2007: Scottish Government Response to the Independent Review of The Scottish Parliamentary and Local Government Elections 3 May 2007

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/216411/0058058.pdf>

Other Holyrood New publications (continued)

Public Value and Participation

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/216076/0057753.pdf>

Teachers in Scotland 2006/07

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/91982/0058105.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Question

Graham Allen (195767): To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, if he will amend the Schools Admissions Code to limit more explicitly its religious content of admissions criteria.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80319w01.htm>

Press Releases

Faith and community leaders graduate from first ever government recognised course in community leadership

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/728525>

UK urges greater Muslim support to help tackle Millennium Development Goals

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/pressreleases/muslim-support-mdgs.asp>

PM opens Black Britannia exhibition

<http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page15131.asp>

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Other News

Ministers urged to quit in 'Frankenstein' law furore

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/551524>

Cardinal Keith O'Brien's Easter Sermon Attacking Embryology: Full Homily

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/03/23/cardinal-keith-o-brien-s-easter-sermon-attacking-embryology-read-the-full-homily-here-86908-20360834/>

Other News (continued)

The embryo debate: Catholic MP hits out at Church; Archbishop backs Cardinal hardline

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2140418.0.the_embryo_debate.php

The embryo debate: The case for:

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2140438.0.the_embryo_debate.php

The embryo debate: The case against

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2140437.0.the_embryo_debate.php

Cardinal Keith O'Brien branded a 'liar' on embryo research by Labour peer

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article3603020.ece>

Gordon Brown seeks embryo bill compromise

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2008/03/23/nembryo423.xml>

Brown stands firm as Cardinal urges free vote on 'monstrous' Bill to allow human-animal embryos

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brown-stands-firm-as-cardinal-urges-free-vote-on-monstrous-bill-to-allow-human-animal-embryos-799621.html>

Husbands in forced marriages face rape charges

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/scotland/Husbands--in-forced-marriages.3906435.jp>

The English question

<http://www.ippr.org/articles/?id=3049>

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Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Creative Scotland Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/07-CreativeScotland/b7s3-introd.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/07-CreativeScotland/b7s3-introd-en.pdf>

Policy Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/07-CreativeScotland/b7s3-introd-pm.pdf>

Bills in Progress

Holyrood (continued)

**** Judiciary and Courts Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/06-JudiciaryCourts/index.htm>

Stage 1 evidence from Lord McCluskey

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/or-08/ju08-0802.htm#Col628>

**** Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/04-GlasgowCommGames/index.htm>

proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/04-GlasgowCommGames/b4s3-stage2-ml.pdf>

**** Public Health Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/03-PublicHealth/index.htm>

Stage 1 Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/reports-08/her08-02-vol01.htm>

Bills in Progress

Westminster

Counter-Terrorism Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/counterterrorism.html>

**** Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/criminaljusticeandimmigration.html>

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/041/amend/am041-a.htm>

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/humanfertilisationandembryology.html>

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Consultations (closing date)

**** New or updated this week**

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

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

Consultations (continued)

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

**** Community Policing Inquiry** (5 May 2008)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/Communitypolicinginquiryforallforevidence.htm>

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>

**** Decoupling the Scottish Parliamentary and Local Government Elections** (12 June 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/216422/0058059.pdf>

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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

Volunteering Scotland Grant Scheme

Closing date for applications: 16 May 2008

Scottish Government programme to improve the lives of individuals and their communities through volunteering. The grant aims to increased volunteers' access to employment, education, training and other volunteering opportunities, improve social and support networks, provide new and improved services to support vulnerable people and communities, and increase participation in community processes such as planning.

For information see <http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/grant-schemes/vsgs>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

*** this week!*

Embedding Equalities within your organisation

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

*** this week!*

Refugee Information Sessions

25 March 2008 in Glasgow (12.00 – 4.00)

2 April 2008 in Glasgow (12.00 – 4.00)

Positive Action in Housing New Migrants Action Project information sessions for refugees recently granted leave to remain, particularly those granted status via the case resolution (legacy) programme. The sessions will focus on employment rights and options, further education, training and volunteering opportunities. For information contact Seonad Forbes 0141 353 2220 / seonad@paih.org or see http://www.paih.org/quickmail-latest_files/refugeeinfo.pdf

**** Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants & EU Nationals - Rights, recognition, responsibilities & action**

2 April in Glasgow (9.45 – 4.30)

Positive Action in Housing seminar to discuss the laws and procedures for organisations dealing with EU Nationals - the 'accession' countries, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. For information contact Zandra Yeaman Zandra@paih.org / 0141 353 2220.

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

**** Understanding Constitutions and charitable Status**

6 May 2008 in Inverness (10.00 – 12.00)

SCVO seminar to enable people to make an informed choice regarding the type of legal structure best suited to their organisation and the advantages of charitable status. For information contact enquiries@fairwayshouse.org.uk / 01463 258 800.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

The impact of immigration and asylum on children and young people living with HIV

13 May 2008 in Glasgow

Children in Scotland seminar to explore issues surrounding working with children and families who have unsure immigration status and are living with HIV. For information contact Megan Rodgers 0131 222 2426 / training@childreninscotland.org.uk

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.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

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>

Useful Links (continued)

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.scojec.org/>



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>