

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.

Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Race Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)

[Other Holyrood](#)

[Other Westminster](#)

[New Publications](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Events/Conferences/Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org.uk and requests to be added to circulation to mail@bemis.org.uk

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Debate

Immigration: Migrant Integration Policy Index

Lord Dholakia asked Her Majesty's Government whether they will use the Migrant Integration Policy Index to inform debates on migrants in Europe.

The noble Lord said: First, I thank the British Council for its work on the migrant integration policy index. My thanks also go to the Migrant Policy Group in Brussels, which co-ordinated the contents of the research that provides the basis of my contribution today. The debate comes at a crucial time, with the Prime Minister and the President of France today discussing the issue of immigration. Only this morning we saw a most disturbing report on the treatment of asylum seekers in this country.

MIPEX uses indicators to compare the legal provisions across Europe to promote the integration of non-European Union migrants. This is a timely measure. There is often a confused debate in this country about a cohesive society, particularly when issues of multi-ethnicity and multi-culturalism surface. There is a kind of schizophrenia on matters of immigration on the one hand and community cohesion and a pluralist society on the other. The progress that we have made in achieving some sort of multi-culturalism is too valuable to be played in a cynical manner. This is often backed up by a perception of the majority population that, despite all our history and all our pride in tolerance, the majority is somehow not able to live as part of a community of communities.

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Debate (continued)

Some of us have spent a lifetime of work in the field of race relations. The United Kingdom has been at the forefront of legislation and other machinery to establish equality of opportunity for all our citizens. There is now a strong emphasis on race, disability, gender, age, faith and sexual orientation. The law puts a new emphasis on promoting good relations between people of different groups. It is clear that bench-marking is commonly used in the private sector and particularly in the field of justice, security and freedom; however, the exercise remains a relatively new phenomenon for immigrant integration. It is here that MIPEX provides a constant and reliable stocktaking with the ability to track policy advances and reversals.

Let me at the outset avoid the confusion about migrants. We are talking about—MIPEX uses the term in this way—third country nationals legally residing in an EU member state. It covers six policy areas which shape a migrant's journey to full citizenship. I am delighted that the debate in the UK has moved to citizenship. The six policy areas that are covered by MIPEX are labour market access, family reunion, long-term residence, principal participation, access to nationality and anti-discrimination.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80327-gc0004.htm#08032775000004>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government plan to take to stop employers employing illegal immigrants. [194133]

Reply from Liam Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency is increasing enforcement activity against illegal working in general. Steps have been taken to strengthen the law preventing employers from using illegal migrant workers. The law in this area applies to employers or agencies in all sectors of the economy.

The Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 introduced a system of civil penalties for careless employers and a criminal offence of knowingly employing illegal workers. This came into force on 29 February 2008.

The maximum level of civil penalty is £10,000 and the criminal offence of knowingly employing an illegal migrant will attract a prison term of up to two years as well as an unlimited fine on conviction on indictment.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080325/text/80325w0018.htm#08032525000070>

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government [HL2502]: What is their response to the comments by the Children's Society and the Refugee Council about the Border and Immigration Agency's Clan Ebor project for unsuccessful asylum applicants; and what action they will take as a result.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The aim of the project was to encourage the voluntary departure of families whose asylum applications had been refused and had exhausted all their appeal rights. The views of stakeholders, including the Children's Society and the Refugee Council, were taken into account in the course of the project and some changes made to the process as a result. The project has now ended, although we continue to work with stakeholders to identify how we can better promote voluntary return for all asylum applicants whose applications have been refused and have no lawful basis on which to remain in this country.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80327w0003.htm#08032767000026>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Kerry McCarthy [195557]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will permit the fee for applying for indefinite leave to remain to be paid in instalments in exceptional circumstances.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Under the Fees Regulations, there are no circumstances in which the fee for a valid application for indefinite leave can be paid for in instalments.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080326/text/80326w0033.htm#080326123000044>

Kerry McCarthy [195558]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will waive the requirement to pay the fee to apply for indefinite leave to remain in (a) cases where someone was brought to the UK from a Commonwealth country as a child prior to 1981 but whose parents omitted to apply on their behalf for nationality and (b) other exceptional cases.

Reply from Liam Byrne: We currently have no plans to waive the fee for application for indefinite leave to remain in cases where someone was brought to the UK from a commonwealth country as a child prior to 1981 or in other exceptional circumstances.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080326/text/80326w0033.htm#080326123000044>

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government: Whether they will provide an independent review system for immigration and asylum detainees who have been held for three months or more.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, we have no plans to introduce an independent review system. The detention of individuals under Immigration Act powers is kept under regular review at successively higher levels in the Border and Immigration Agency. We have no interest in detaining individuals for longer than is strictly necessary or in prolonging their detention unduly.

Lord Hylton: My Lords, I thank the Minister for his reply, which I have heard a good many times before. In view of the present situation, will the Government abolish the detained fast track? Will they ensure that legal advice is available to all detainees? Will they undertake not to detain former convicted criminals with innocent asylum seekers and others?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, as the noble Lord will be aware, people in detention centres have access to legal advice for which they do not have to pay. I will take away the thought whether those who have committed crimes and are then being removed from the country should not be kept in the same immigration centres as other asylum seekers. In practical terms it would be extremely difficult, but I will see whether there is any possibility of it.

The Earl of Onslow: My Lords, will the Minister undertake not to return cancer victims to die in their countries of origin, which happened recently and was a disgrace to this country?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, I do not think I can give such a commitment. I have visited Tinsley House. It is worth remembering that all these cases are individual tragedies because, for a number of reasons, these people are desperate to be in this country. As the noble Lord, Lord Hylton, said, some of them have committed crimes here and are on their way out. I am afraid that we cannot offer healthcare to individuals with no legal right to remain in the United Kingdom. That is clearly covered in EU and our own law.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

However, we make absolutely certain that they are able to get treatment back in their own country. It might not be as good as it is here, but we cannot open our doors and say that anyone who comes here and says that he cannot get the same treatment in his own country should be allowed to stay. That is not a sensible policy.

Lord Dubs: My Lords, my noble friend will be aware of the concern that has been expressed about the detention of children. How many children are now detained under these powers?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, my noble friend raises an important point. We do not put any children who are on their own into detention centres. The only ones who ever go there are with families, and normally it is just before the point of removal. As of today, 19 families with children, and 30 children in total, are detained.

To continue reading this lengthy question and answer session see:
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80326-0001.htm#08032673000004>

Lord Laird asked Her Majesty's Government [HL2519]: What the status of British subject means; when it was introduced; and in what way it differs from British citizen status.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The term "British subject" has been in use since the 18th century.

Within the British Nationality Act 1981, the current nationality legislation, the term "British subject" applies only to two groups: (a) persons who derive the status by reason of a connection with the Republic of Ireland before 1949 and who have claimed the right to remain British subjects; (b) certain persons closely connected with the former British India who have not acquired any alternative citizenship.

British subjects can hold a United Kingdom passport and seek consular protection, in the same way as other British nationals. All British citizens have the right of abode in the United Kingdom, but only certain British subjects (those with a United Kingdom born parent or who were married before 1 January 1983 to a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies). For EC purposes only those British subjects with a right of abode under the Immigration Act 1971 are classed as United Kingdom nationals and are thus entitled to free movement rights.

British subjects are entitled to be registered as British citizens, subject to their meeting a number of residence requirements.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80327w0001.htm#08032767000005>

Lord Laird asked Her Majesty's Government [HL2629]: Under what circumstances someone outside the United Kingdom whose father was a British subject and who is now married and lives in the United Kingdom can obtain British citizenship.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The provisions for the acquisition of British citizenship are contained in the British Nationality Act 1981. Whether a person will qualify for British citizenship depends on various factors, including the person's current nationality status and length of residence in the United Kingdom.

For example, a person may be entitled to be registered as a British citizen if he or she holds a form of British nationality and has lived in the United Kingdom lawfully for five years, or has no other nationality; was born stateless and has remained stateless.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Those who wish to acquire British citizenship but are not eligible for registration may apply for naturalisation at the Home Secretary's discretion if they can meet certain residence and other requirements set out in the 1981 Act. Those who are married to a British citizen must be of good character and have a satisfactory knowledge of the English language and life in the United Kingdom. They must also have lived lawfully in the United Kingdom, without long absences, for at least three years and be free from immigration conditions by the time they apply.

A number of leaflets, which explain different aspects of British nationality law, are available on the Home Office website at www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk. In particular, further information about registration for British nationals is in leaflet BN12; information about registration of stateless persons is in leaflet BN5; information about the requirements for naturalisation is in leaflet BN7.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80327w0001.htm#08032767000005>

Damian Green (196675): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers were recorded as having made a claim for asylum to a police constable in each of the last five years, broken down by police area.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80325w01.htm>

Press Release

Work permit application forms and guidance notes

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

News

'Refusal is a slap in the face'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7313541.stm>

Asylum system 'shameful for UK'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7314710.stm>

Asylum seekers tell their stories

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7314708.stm>

Asylum system 'not fit for purpose'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Asylum-system-39not-fit-for.3918734.jp>

Curry chefs may be hot favourites for work visas

<http://news.scotsman.com/uk/Curry-chefs-may-be-hot.3923728.jp>

Curry restaurants take fight to save staff to Westminster

<http://news.scotsman.com/latestnews/Curry-restaurants-take-fight-to.3928094.jp>

India tops list of highest migrant remittances, says World Bank

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=26052&Cr=migration&Cr1>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

UK's asylum system 'marred by inhumanity'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/mar/27/immigrationpolicy.immigrationandpublicservices>

We are not willing to face the truth on asylum

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2008/03/30/do3007.xml>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

News

Muslim 'role model' Khan defended

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Muslim-39role-model39-Khan-defended.3909161.jp>

Preacher faces backlash over claims boxer 'a deviant' for use of UK flag

<http://news.scotsman.com/uk/Preacher-faces-backlash-over-claims.3912820.jp>

Race row over 'King Kong' Vogue cover

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2008/03/30/wkong130.xml>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Press Release

Routes and barriers to citizen governance

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/government/2179.asp>

New publication

Routes and barriers to citizen governance

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2178-governance-participation-community.pdf>

News

Ethnic Minorities Top Of Class

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/03/24/ethnic-minorities-top-of-class-86908-20361221/>

Equality

News (continued)

A fighting chance

http://commentisfree.guardian.co.uk/simon_woolley/2008/03/a_fighting_chance.html

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Bill Butler:(S3M-1652) **Racism in Football**—That the Parliament congratulates Show Racism the Red Card on the success both of its 2008 Schools' Art Competition and its unique employment of football to convey messages of tolerance and citizenship in schools and communities throughout Scotland; welcomes its development of educational resources which contribute greatly towards helping young people to gain a greater understanding of different cultures in our society; notes that during the course of the current season there have been several cases of players being racially abused, at all levels of the game, and others being targeted for abuse owing to their decision to play international football for countries other than Scotland; acknowledges the contribution made down the years both to the national team and to club sides by players born outside Scotland and, whilst welcoming the increased efforts being made by governing bodies, players, clubs, supporters trusts and educational initiatives to tackle racism, accepts that there is still a great deal of work to be done to remove this ugly stain from "the beautiful game".

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-03-28f.htm>

Westminster Parliamentary Question

John Mann (197323): To ask the Solicitor General, how many prosecutions for racial hatred offences there were in each of the last 10 years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80327w01.htm>

Press Releases

Human rights council extends mandates on freedom of opinion and expression, racism and racial discrimination, Somalia and Myanmar

<http://www.unhchr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/D6AAED437FC007C1C125741A0071E9CB?opendocument>

Human rights experts condemn distorted vision of Muslims in the film "Fitna" and call for dialogue and vigilance

<http://www.unhchr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/8019AAF8EB34C2B3C125741A00630A06?opendocument>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued)

News

Race taunt teen Nathan Austin vows to play on and beat bigots

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/03/24/race-taunt-teen-nathan-austin-vows-to-play-on-and-beat-bigots-86908-20360980/>

Racial attack victims in hospital

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/7314212.stm

[TOP](#)

Other Holyrood

Debate

Terminal Illness (Patient Choice)

Jeremy Purvis: I am very supportive of the work of the palliative care movement in Scotland. I represent a constituency that has no hospice institution and relies heavily on the outstanding and caring work of the community palliative care staff under the consultant Dr David Jeffrey, for whom I have great regard. However, there are some people who are coming to the end of a terminal illness for whom the best palliative care available is not sufficient. They want greater control over the precise arrangements of their death. There is a choice gap in relation to allowing people to die at home for example. Marie Curie Cancer Care used that term in highlighting that, although 75 per cent of people say that if they had a terminal illness they would wish to die at home, only 25 per cent are likely to achieve their wish. A small number of those patients who wish to die at home would wish to have a greater say, when they are at the end of their life, over the precise circumstances of the timing of their death.

I wish to clarify my position. I do not propose euthanasia. I am not proposing a change in the law that will affect children. I am not proposing a change in the law that will affect all adults. My proposals concern not the elderly, the infirm or the depressed; they concern mentally competent adults with a terminal illness.

Although I acknowledge that the term is "physician-assisted suicide", the emphasis is not on a debate about suicide, in so far as that involves an individual choosing whether to live or die; rather, it is on situations in which an individual has been informed by two doctors that they have a terminal illness and the issue is how and when they die, rather than if.

To continue reading the debate see:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0326-02.htm#Col7363>

Parliamentary Question

Sandra White (S3W-11334): To ask the Scottish Executive how it ensures that people from ethnic minorities are made aware of available health screening services.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-03-27e.htm>

Other Holyrood (continued) **Press Releases**

Discussing Scotland's future

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/03/26101102>

Secretary of State welcomes appointment of Chair of Scottish Parliament Commission

<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/our-communications/release.php?id=3662>

News

Holyrood: a question of power

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2145963.0.Holyrood_a_question_of_power.php

Act of Settlement review in shake-up

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2145957.0.Act_of_Settlement_review_in_shakeup.php

Devolution revisited

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/editorial/display.var.2145839.0.Devolution_revisited.php

Constitutional debate: 'The balance of opinion is not disclosed'

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/politics/Constitutional-debate-39The-balance-.3909622.jp>

Professor to head commission looking at Holyrood powers

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/politics/Professor----.3910933.jp>

Minority vote could take Scotland out of the Union

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/scotland/Minority-vote-could-take-Scotland.3918206.jp>

Row over vote on independence

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2149279.0.Row_over_vote_on_independence.php

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Ministerial Speech

The politics of identity (speech by Justice Minister Michael Wills)

Since James Carville wrote it over every desk in Bill Clinton's first presidential campaign, 'It's the economy stupid' has framed political discourse on both sides of the Atlantic. But this morning, I'm going to suggest that it's time that 'Who do you think you are?' was posted up alongside it.

This morning, I want to explore the importance of identity for politics - how it helps determine how voters vote and how a shared sense of national identity creates the framework for our democracy. And I want to suggest how important a shared sense of national identity is in meeting the challenges that lie ahead for our nation. I'm then going to reveal the latest poll evidence about who we actually think we are. And I'm then going to conclude by setting out what I see as the implications for government. And then, most importantly, I'm going to welcome your questions and comments.

It may seem perverse to focus on the importance of identity when for at least 20 years general elections have turned on practical issues of public policy - defence in the 1980s, public services more recently and the economy throughout. And, of course, politics is instrumentalist, of course voters see it as a means to an end and their assessment of what's in it for them, who'll manage the economy best, deliver most jobs, highest living standards, lowest mortgage rates, the best NHS and schools, all help determine general elections. But voting is not simply a consumer transaction. It's also an expression of identity.

In the twentieth century, identity politics, conceptualised as such, spoke the language of insurgency, challenging the conventional organisation of politics around belief or programme, or party as an umbrella for belief and programme, organising instead around a shared identity - usually one expressed as being oppressed and exploited.

To continue reading the speech see:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/sp260308b.htm>

Parliamentary Questions

Lord Lester of Herne Hill asked Her Majesty's Government [HL2432]: Whether the guidance given under Section 63Q of the Family Law Act 1996 (as inserted by the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007) will be more robust than that currently issued by the Forced Marriage Unit, especially in relation to education authorities ensuring that publicity is given in schools to the help available for pupils at risk of being forced into a marriage.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: The existing guidance for education professionals, issued by the Forced Marriage Unit and the Department for Education and Skills in 2005, says that educational establishments should aim to create an environment where forced marriage is discussed openly. The guidance suggests ways this can be done. We will revise the existing guidance issued by the Forced Marriage Unit in light of the provisions of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007. Guidance relating to education will be subject to a period of public consultation before being issued on a statutory footing in the autumn— which will make more robust the requirement to implement the guidance. In revising the guidance we will aim to clarify further what should be done to raise awareness of the issue of forced marriage with children and young people and to publicise the help available to those at risk.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80326w0001.htm#080326104000007>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Lester of Herne Hill asked Her Majesty's Government [HL2433]: Whether they will consult about the guidance to be given under Section 63Q of the Family Law Act 1996 (as inserted by the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007) on (a) the effect of the relevant provisions of the Act; and (b) other matters relating to forced marriages.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: Some or all of the revised guidance will be subject to a period of public consultation before being issued. The exact details have yet to be decided.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80326w0001.htm#080326104000007>

Lord Lester of Herne Hill asked Her Majesty's Government [HL2434]: Whether they intend to increase the financial and other resources available to the Forced Marriage Unit to give effective protection to the victims or potential victims of forced marriages.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: The Government are fully committed to tackling forced marriage. The Forced Marriage Unit leads this work, and other government departments are also playing a key role in helping develop policy, raising awareness and providing support and advice to victims. The work of the Forced Marriage Unit is continually evolving, hence the resources needed by the unit are kept under review.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80326w0001.htm#080326104000007>

Lord Lester of Herne Hill asked Her Majesty's Government [HL2435]: Whether they will review the extent to which the guidance given by the Forced Marriage Unit to healthcare professionals and education authorities is followed in practice.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: The Forced Marriage Unit, jointly with the relevant government departments, has issued guidance for education professionals, health professionals, social workers and police officers. This guidance is being revised and will be reissued on a statutory footing. The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 makes it clear that a person exercising public functions to whom guidance is given under the Act must have regard to it in the exercise of those functions. We would expect bodies that inspect and/or regulate healthcare professionals and education authorities to check that such responsibilities are being met. In the case of education, the Office for Standards in Education already makes a judgment on safeguarding and we would expect compliance with relevant statutory guidance to be considered in reaching that judgment. Should the Forced Marriage Unit become aware of any organisation not following the statutory guidance it will of course raise this with the relevant authority.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80326w0001.htm#080326104000007>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Lester of Herne Hill asked Her Majesty's Government [HL2436]: What financial and staff resources are provided to the Forced Marriage Unit for its work in tackling problems related to forced marriages (a) in the United Kingdom, and (b) overseas; and what resources will be available when the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 comes fully into force.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: The Government are fully committed to tackling forced marriage. The Forced Marriage Unit leads this work, but the response should not be seen just in terms of the work it does. Other government departments play a key role in helping develop policy, raising awareness and providing support and advice to victims. Staff based in our embassies overseas also make a vital contribution to our response. The Forced Marriage Unit has six members of staff, drawn from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Home Office and UK visas. For the 2007-08 financial year, the unit's non-casework project budget was £167,000. All staff in the unit work on domestic and international aspects of forced marriage. Resource needs are kept under review, but we do not anticipate needing a significant increase in resources as a result of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80326w0001.htm#080326104000007>

Press Release

Governance of Britain Draft Constitutional Renewal Bill gives more power to Parliament

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease250308a.htm>

New publication

White paper: The Governance of Britain - Constitutional Renewal

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/constitutional-renewal-white-paper.pdf>

News

Peer and Church clash on embryos

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7310918.stm

Brown ready to compromise over MPs' vote on embryo bill

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2141095.0.Brown_ready_to_compromise_over_MPs_vote_on_embryo_bill.php

Compromise hint over embryo vote after church outrage

<http://news.scotsman.com/politics/Compromise-hint-over-embryo-vote.3907075.jp>

Other Westminster

News (continued)

Government pledges 'accommodation' with Catholic MPs over embryo research bill after Church attack

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/2008/03/24/government-pledges-accommodation-with-catholic-mps-over-embryo-research-bill-after-church-attack-86908-20360993/>

Brown offers MPs a partial free vote on embryo bill

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2145961.0.Brown_offers_MPs_a_partial_free_vote_on_embryo_bill.php

[TOP](#)

New Publications

References to Charitable Status in Documents (revised guidance)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=7873870e-ef17-422e-bd8d-9c0601156af0>

Information about Individual Charities

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=59a84872-4055-4706-99c2-a903c424bd32>

[TOP](#)

Other News

Teachers' call to axe faith schools

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Teachers39-call-to-axe-faith.3907262.jp>

Call to offer faith class choice

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7311178.stm>

Teachers urge faith school overhaul

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Teachers-urge-faith-school-overhaul.3907262.jp>

Call for forced marriage debate

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7310642.stm>

Other News (continued)

Scotland's Next Census Date Unveiled

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/press/2008-news/scotlands-next-census-date-unveiled.html>

Grave concerns

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/mar/26/7>

Faithful 'crammed into churches'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/7321128.stm>

Presumed consent of organ donation is 'Orwellian' according to Kirk publication

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2156953.0.presumed_consent_of_organ_donation_is_orwellian_according_to_kirk_publication.php

Hindu monks sue RSPCA over slaughter of sacred cow Gangotri

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/hindu-monks-sue-rspca-over-slaughter-of-sacred-cow-gangotri-802332.html>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Creative Scotland Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/07-CreativeScotland/index.htm>

Judiciary and Courts Bill

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

Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill

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

Public Health Bill

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

Bills in Progress Westminster

Counter-Terrorism Bill

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

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

**** 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/ml041-i.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/041/amend/su041-ira.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/041/amend/su041-irb.htm>

House of Lords consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80326-0002.htm#08032673000007>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80326-0007.htm#080326105000002>

**** Draft Bill**

The Governance of Britain - Constitutional Renewal

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/draft-constitutional-renewal-bill.pdf>

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

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

[TOP](#)

Consultations (closing date)

**** New or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

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

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

**** closes this week!**

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

Consultations (continued)

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

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

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

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>

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** this week!**

Refugee Information Sessions

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

**** this week!**

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.

**** this week!**

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.

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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>

[TOP](#)

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>

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

[TOP](#)



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>