

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with **BEMIS - empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities**. It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.*

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Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month, and that the Scottish and UK Parliament and Government websites been redesigned, so that links published in back issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on these websites, copy details from MEMO into the relevant search facility.

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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debate

Immigration

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131211/halltext/131211h0001.htm#13121175000001>

UK Parliament Ministerial Statements

Changes in Immigration Rules

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): The Government keep visa regimes under constant review to ensure that the UK has the right visa requirements set in the right places, aligned to risk. Today I am laying changes to the immigration rules to provide a new, straightforward and free alternative to a visa for short-term visitors from Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). We intend to extend similar arrangements to Kuwait later in 2014. Britain is open for business and genuine visitors and tourists coming here to enjoy our world-class attractions, study or do

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Ministerial Statements (continued)

business are always welcome.

Passport holders of Oman, Qatar and the UAE will, from 1 January 2014, be able to travel to the UK visa-free if they have obtained an electronic visa waiver (EVW) document online at least 48 hours in advance of travel to the United Kingdom, and present the document to an immigration officer upon request on arrival.

This simple online form means there is no fee, there will be no requirement to give biometrics or attend a visa application centre. Guidance will be published on the Home Office website. Some visitors may still prefer a long-term multi-entry visit visa and the facility to obtain these visas will remain.

I am also laying a change relating to the Vatican City. Holders of non-national travel documents require a visa before travel to the United Kingdom. This rule includes holders of *service*, *temporary service* and *diplomatic* passports issued by the Holy See. The Government have assessed the procedures for issuance of these documents and consider that they are robust enough to merit an exemption from the visit visa requirement. Nationals and citizens of the Vatican City are already exempt from the visa requirement.

The changes also include minor amendments to the rules for armed forces and for graduate entrepreneurs.

Alongside these changes, UK visas and immigration continues to be focused on delivering excellent customer service to business and leisure visitors and ensuring that the UK maintains a competitive visa system that can innovate in order to serve the ever-changing needs of business and ensure Britain succeeds in the global race.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131209/wmstext/131209m0001.htm#13120914000005>

Immigration Transparency Data

The Minister for Immigration (Mr Mark Harper): The Government are committed to openness and transparency to enable the public to hold the Government and other public bodies to account. This Government have made more data available than ever before. The Home Office contributes to that agenda by regularly releasing information about its work, spend and outcomes in a publicly accessible and open format.

This includes information about the immigration family returns process on our website. Unfortunately between 15 and 28 October 2013 some personal data were available on the Home Office website as part of a spreadsheet alongside the regular data set, in error. This was identified by Home Office officials on 28 October 2013 and the personal information was removed immediately. The personal data related to the names of 1,598 main applicants in the family returns process, their date of birth and limited details about their immigration case type and status. It did not include personal addresses or financial information.

The Department has taken steps to establish whether the data were viewed or accessed outside of the Home Office. That analysis suggests there were fewer than 30 visits to the relevant webpage. It has not been possible to ascertain whether those who visited the webpage went on to open the data sheet in question or accessed the part of the data sheet which contained the personal information.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131212/wmstext/131212m0001.htm#13121259000009>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

UK Parliament Questions

Migration Impact Fund

Baroness Scotland of Asthal: To ask Her Majesty's Government why the Migration Impact Fund was cancelled; and whether a needs-based assessment has been conducted on the provision of support for local councils, housing associations, schools and hospitals with large Roma populations.[HL3493]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Stowell of Beeston): The last Administration's Migration Impact Fund was ineffective and did not represent value for money, especially in light of the need to tackle the deficit left by the last Administration.

This Government has adopted an alternative approach of introducing stronger controls on immigration and addressing the "pull" factors that previously led to unsustainable impacts on this country. The Prime Minister recently outlined our plans to tackle benefit tourism and the abuse of free movement rights within the European Union.

We also have clear integration strategy to bring together disparate communities, including, for example, supporting English language training.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131211w0001.htm#13121187000315>

Travellers

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of Roma currently residing in the UK. [179018]

Reply from Nick Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Caron Walker, dated December 2013: ... ONS is responsible for the census in England and Wales. The census is a devolved matter in Scotland and Northern Ireland, where it is the responsibility of the Registrars General for Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively. However, ONS has a responsibility to collate statistics for the UK where possible.

There was not a separate category for 'Roma' in the ethnic group questions in any of the UK censuses. However, anyone who wished to record their ethnicity as 'Roma' could do so by using the write-in options. The number of people who described themselves as 'Roma' is not included in any census standard outputs. In order to supply you with the information requested, the three census offices have produced a table (CT0112) which shows the number of people in the UK who described themselves as Roma is 785.

Although you have asked for information on Roma, you may be interested in statistics of Gypsy/Traveller/Irish Traveller. Information has been extracted from published 2011 Census Key Statistics tables KS201EW, KS201SC and KS201NI. The ethnic group question categories were not labelled the same in each of the UK censuses but they do provide comparable statistics. The question category labels and the relevant statistics are shown as follows.

England and Wales: 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller'—57,680

Scotland: 'Gypsy/Traveller'—4,212

Northern Ireland: 'Irish Traveller'—1,301

Table KS201EW is available from

<http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/ks201ew>

Table KS201SC is available from

<http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/documents/censusresults/release2a/scotland/KS201SC.xls>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Table KS201NI is available from

<http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/pivotgrid.aspx?dataSetVars=ds-2484-lh-44-yn-2011-sk-136-sn-Census%202011-yearfilter-->

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131212/text/131212w0003.htm#13121293000065>

Immigration

George Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of Bulgarian and Romanian migrants who will come to the UK after accession; and what estimate she has made of the number of those migrants who will claim welfare benefits. [179553]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Home Office regularly monitors and analyses overall migration data to help inform policy decisions. However, we have not prepared forecasts of likely inflows from Romania and Bulgaria once restrictions are lifted. The Government accept the view of the independent Migration Advisory Committee that to produce such estimates would not be sensible, or helpful to policymakers.

Rather than produce speculative forecasts, we are focusing on cutting out the abuse of free movement between EU member states and addressing the factors that drive European immigration to Britain. Across Government, we are working to ensure that our controls on accessing benefits and services, including the NHS and social housing are among the tightest in Europe. On 27 November 2013 the Prime Minister announced a number of measures to put this principle into effect.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131212/text/131212w0001.htm#13121273000037>

Immigration Controls

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had at the EU on delaying the relaxation of the UK's border restrictions due to take place on 1 January 2014. [177558]

Reply from Mark Harper: In June 2005, the previous Government signed the accession treaty with Romania and Bulgaria. In doing so, they granted all Romanians and Bulgarians the right to come to Britain for an initial period of three months, and then longer if they are exercising treaty rights to work or study; or are otherwise self sufficient. The treaty came into effect in 2007, and as a result the seven-year transitional controls relating to unrestricted working will end this year. From 1 January 2014, Romanians and Bulgarians will have the right to free movement across Europe on the same terms as other EU nationals.

The Government is clear that EU citizens who benefit from the right to free movement must adhere to the responsibilities this brings with it. The Government does not tolerate the abuse of free movement rights and is working at a domestic level and with other member states to tackle such abuse. The Government has consistently raised the problem of the abuse of free movement at meetings of the Council of Ministers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131212/text/131212w0001.htm#13121273000038>

Visas

Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbots: To ask Her Majesty's Government what research was undertaken to support the statement in the Home Office Research Report 71 Student Visitors that abuse of the student visitor visa system is "minimal". [HL3474]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord

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Taylor of Holbeach): The research examined a sample of student visit visa applications between 2011-12 taken from the Home Office Central Reference System and a sample of student visitors not requiring visas arriving at Heathrow airport in November 2012.

The results show that the visitor route is being used as the government intended— attracting high value, low risk migrants who contribute positively to economic growth. It also makes clear that short-term students are attending accredited institutions and most are doing English language programmes or university exchanges. There is no evidence of displacement from the main student route, for longer periods of study at higher levels, into the student visitor route.

Key indicators of abuse—including forgeries and enforcement arrests—for those who entered the UK on a student visitor visa are low.

Home Office Research Report 71 Student Visitors:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/205318/horr71.pdf

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131211w0001.htm#13121187000328>

Entry Clearances: Married People

Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the proportion of wage earners who fall below the £18,600 threshold for spousal visas in (a) the UK and (b) Wales. [177539]

Reply from Mark Harper: The income threshold was set after considering advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) on what the threshold should be to ensure that the sponsor could support their spouse or partner and any dependants independently without them becoming a burden on the taxpayer. The MAC's report was published in November 2011 and is available at the following link.

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/family-migration-route/family-migration-route.pdf?view=Binary>

The MAC estimated that an income threshold of £18,600 to sponsor a spouse or partner would not be met by around 45 % of applicants. This was based on the sponsor's earnings in the UK in a sample of applicants of high-volume nationalities.

In addition, the impact assessment of the new family immigration rules noted at page 19 that the Annual Survey for Hourly Earnings suggested that around 40% to 45% of UK residents earned less than £18,600 a year. The impact assessment was published on 13 June 2012 and is available at the following link. It did not discuss earnings in Wales or any other part of the UK.

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/june/13-family-migration>

Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if her Department will give consideration to amending the spousal visa application system to take into account potential job offers of the migrant spouse towards the minimum income threshold. [177540]

Reply from Mark Harper: We have no current plans to take into account potential job offers of a migrant spouse or partner when they apply for entry clearance to come to the UK. This is subject to the outcome of the Secretary of State's appeal in MM and Others, in which this and other detailed aspects of the Immigration Rules for the minimum income threshold are being considered.

A migrant spouse or partner with an appropriate job offer here can apply under Tier 2 of the Points Based System. Those using the family route to come to the

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UK must be capable of being independently supported by their sponsor or by their joint savings or other income. Where, or once, the migrant spouse or partner is in the UK with permission to work, we will take their earnings from employment here into account.

Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if her Department will give consideration to introducing a regionalised minimum income level for spousal visa applications. [177541]

Reply from Mark Harper: We have no current plans to introduce a regionalised minimum income threshold for spouse or partner visa applications. The independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) considered this issue in its November 2011 report on the income threshold, which is available at the following link:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/family-migration-route/family-migration-route.pdf?view=Binary>

The MAC noted a number of arguments against setting a different income threshold by region and concluded that there was no clear case for doing so.

For example, it would mean that a better-off sponsor in a relatively less well-off region would have to meet a lower income threshold than a poorer sponsor in a higher income region, and a requirement that varied by region could lead to sponsors moving to a lower threshold area in order to meet the requirement before returning once a visa was granted. The Government agreed with this assessment. Having a single, national income threshold also provides clarity and simplicity for applicants and caseworkers. The lawfulness of this approach was endorsed by the High Court in MM and Others.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131212/text/131212w001.htm#13121273000033>

Illegal Immigrants

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of illegal migrants currently in the UK. [178317]

Reply from Mark Harper: Government estimates on the number of illegal migrants currently in the UK are not available. Given the clandestine nature of illegal migrants, any estimation is extremely difficult and there would be considerable uncertainty around any estimates.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131212/text/131212w001.htm#13121273000035>

Asylum: Finance

Barry Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what financial provisions are available to successful applicants for support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999; what underlying principles her Department relies upon to determine the exact level of financial support offered under that section; and what calculations her Department used to determine that this level of financial support is adequate to cover medical, food and transport costs of such applicants. [178714]

Reply from Mark Harper: Successful applicants are provided with accommodation and an "Azure Card" that can be used to buy food and other essential items to the value of £35.39 per week. They are also eligible to receive free health care and can apply for extra assistance to cover the costs of travel to essential appointments.

The level of assistance is customarily reviewed annually. When last considering whether to change the level of financial support provided the Government took into account a range of comparators, such as the level of income support, the

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Office for National Statistics and the Department for Work and Pensions survey data on average household spending and the rates paid in other EU member states. The level of support agreed also reflects the temporary nature of the support provided and the fact that accommodation is provided fully furnished with no utility costs to pay.

Barry Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to broaden the range of (a) supermarkets and (b) local retail shops that accept Azure payment cards. [178755]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Azure Card is already accepted by Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury's, Morrison's, the Co-operative, Boots, Peacocks, The British Red Cross, the Salvation Army and a few small independent retailers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131211/text/131211w0001.htm#13121198000018>

Asylum: Legal Aid Scheme

Barry Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what impact assessment his Department has carried out to determine the effect of changes to legal aid on people in the process of (a) applying for asylum, (b) reapplying for asylum and (c) applying for support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. [178713]

Reply from Shailesh Vara: As part of our consultation "Transforming Legal Aid: Next Steps" we have published an impact assessment which is available at:

https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/transforming-legal-aid-next-steps/consult_view

Impact assessments produced at the time of royal assent to LASPO can be found at: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/legislation/bills-and-acts/acts/legal-aid-and-sentencing-act/laspo-background-information>

The Government will be undertaking a post-implementation review of the legal aid provisions within LASPO in three to five years' time, which will also include a review of the civil legal aid proposals that are taken forward as part of Transforming Legal Aid.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131212/text/131212w0001.htm#13121293000012>

Asylum

Matthew Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum applicants have successfully asserted Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights as mitigation in asylum appeals in each of the last five years. [177913]

Reply from Mark Harper: The information is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Graham Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she has given to companies managing contracts for the dispersal of asylum seekers as to the minimum notice period which should be provided to local authorities before significant numbers of asylum seekers are placed in their local authority area. [178288]

Reply from Mark Harper: There is no minimum notice period to be served prior to asylum seekers being placed in a local authority area. However under the COMPASS contract, providers are required to consult with local authorities to minimise the impacts of the dispersal of asylum seekers on local services and ensure planning is not adversely affected.

Angus Brendan MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to allow British citizens to be permitted to work while checks are being undertaken under the Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. [178653]

Reply from Mark Harper: British citizens can evidence their right to work to an

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employer under the checks to prevent illegal working in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 by simply producing their UK passport, or their National Insurance number in combination with their full birth or adoption certificate or certificate of naturalisation or registration as a British citizen. Employers should conduct this straightforward document check before the person's employment commences. An employer is not required to contact the Home Office to seek confirmation of someone's right to work, except in specified circumstances involving non-EEA nationals with a time-limited status in the UK.

Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2013, *Official Report*, column 906W, on asylum, what steps she is taking to ensure that all failed asylum applicants are recorded whether they leave the UK voluntarily or otherwise. [179544]

Reply from Mark Harper: Any removal of a failed asylum seeker organised by the Home Office, whether enforced or voluntary, is recorded on our Case Information Database (CID). There are, however, instances where applicants leave the United Kingdom voluntarily without informing the Home Office. In such cases, we are able to retrospectively record the departure on CID after conducting 'post departure checks'. However, these checks do not cover all possible departure routes, or eventualities—such as when an individual leaves on false document. As a result, we are unable to ensure 100% of departures are recorded.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131212/text/131212w0001.htm#13121273000028>

Asylum: Appeals

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many asylum cases where the applicant has appealed to HM Courts and Tribunal Service has the Secretary of State's decision been withdrawn prior to the scheduled hearing date in the last 12 months; and how many of the cases where decisions have been withdrawn by the Secretary of State have subsequently had no further decision issued. [175606]

Reply from Mark Harper: In the last 12 months the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) has withdrawn the appeal prior to the hearing date in 20 cases. In all 20 cases, the Home Office has made a further decision.

The data on which our response is based are management information which have been subject to internal quality checks. The information has been provided by and assured by the Home Office Performance Unit but has not been quality assured under national statistics protocols.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131212/text/131212w0001.htm#13121273000029>

Immigration

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government how the policies in Detention Service Order 03/2013 and Chapter 55.10 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance are being applied to food- and fluid-refusing detainees whose condition deteriorates to a point where they are critically ill or at end of life; and whether there are additional policy criteria which are being applied to the continued detention of food- and fluid-refusers.[HL3812]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The policies and procedures set out in the Detention Services Order and Chapter 55.10 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance are being applied consistently in line with established legal principles. The Home Office's general approach to the handling of cases of food and fluid refusal in

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immigration detention has been consistently upheld by the Courts, most recently by the Court of Appeal.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131211w0001.htm#13121187000309>

Immigrants: Detainees

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people currently held in a prison solely on immigration grounds have never been found guilty of a criminal offence in the UK. [178696]

Reply from Mark Harper: For the week commencing 2 December 2013, there were 957 immigration detainees held in prisons.

This includes a small number of individuals who have never served a custodial sentence. These individuals present specific risk factors that indicate they pose a serious risk of harm to the public or to the good order of an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC), including the safety of staff and other detainees, which cannot be managed within the regime applied in IRCs.

In order to extract the small number of cases who have not served a custodial sentence would incur a disproportionate cost as this would involve looking at individual records.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131212/text/131212w0001.htm#13121273000036>

Deportation: Appeals

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unsuccessful appeals by foreign nationals deported under section 32 of the UK Borders Act 2007 there were using (a) the European Convention on Human Rights and (b) the 1951 Refugee Convention in each year since the implementation of that Act. [178454]

Reply from Mark Harper: We are only able to report on data that is captured in certain mandatory fields on the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID). Additional data relating to the specific details of appeals lodged against the European Convention on Human Rights and Refugee are only recorded in the case notes sections within the database or held solely on the case file. In order to provide the requested information on the reasons given for lodging an appeal, we would need to undertake a manual case by case search of records. We have estimated that to gather and collate the information you have requested would exceed the cost threshold.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what articles of the European Convention on Human Rights were used as part of the appeal by foreign nationals deported under section 32 of the UK Borders Act 2007 who unsuccessfully appealed against their deportation in each year since the implementation of that Act. [178455]

Reply from Mark Harper: We are only able to report on data that is captured in certain mandatory fields on the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID). Additional data relating to the specific details of appeals lodged against the European Convention on Human Rights and Refugee are only recorded in the case notes sections within the database or held solely on the case file. In order to provide the requested information on the reasons given for lodging an appeal, we would need to undertake a manual case by case search of records. We have estimated that to gather and collate the information you have requested would exceed the cost threshold.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131211/text/131211w0001.htm#13121198000020>

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Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether witnesses to the investigation into allegations of sexual abuse of detainees at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre have been deported; and whether such witnesses were interviewed before any deportation took place. [175942]

Reply from Mark Harper: No individuals identified to date as witnesses have been removed since the allegations were made.

Bedfordshire police are investigating the allegations and the Home Office is offering full assistance to that investigation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131212/text/131212w0001.htm#13121273000047>

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many calls have been made to the confidential UK Border Agency hotline for airlines to report human trafficking concerns before an aeroplane lands since it was launched in October 2011. [177622]

Reply from Mark Harper: The hotline to report human trafficking concerns, managed by Border Force, has received three calls from airlines since its launch in October 2011. All three calls related to trafficking concerns identified by airline staff on board flights bound for the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131212/text/131212w0001.htm#13121273000034>

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the success of the human trafficking free phone number 0800 783 2589 since it was launched in June 2011; and how widely that number is publicised. [177995]

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Metropolitan police free phone number is used for reporting trafficking concerns to the specialist human trafficking unit. At the time of launch the number was publicised through a non-governmental organisation developed poster campaign aimed at target communities and partner agencies where potential victims or those who support them might see the number. It is also available on a range of websites.

No formal assessment has been made of the Metropolitan police hotline. However, since its launch in 2011 it has received 133 calls reporting trafficking suspicions or seeking anti-trafficking advice.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children under 18 years have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) as being trafficked for (a) domestic servitude and (b) other forms of exploitation since the NRM came into operation. [177997]

Reply from James Brokenshire: Between 1 April 2009 and 3 December 2013 there were 1,190 minors referred into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Of these, 105 were recorded as cases of domestic servitude. There were 1,085 child referrals recorded as other types of exploitation.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether National Referral Mechanism (NRM) statistics are adjusted to reflect circumstances in which a victim of trafficking is initially given a negative NRM decision but then receives a subsequent decision that they are conclusively a victim of trafficking either in a court of law or as a result of a competent authority settling before a judicial review. [177998]

Reply from James Brokenshire: The National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

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captures amendments to trafficking decision outcomes. Quarterly NRM statistics reflect the status of a person's case at the time of publication.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131210/text/131210w0001.htm#1312114000072>

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department's counting rules include a separate category of crime for (a) human trafficking and (b) other forms of modern slavery. [177993]

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office Counting Rules for crime (HOCR) has a separate category for crimes of human trafficking for sexual exploitation. Other crimes relating to trafficking and modern slavery are not separately categorised within the HOCR but are included within other offence classifications.

Nigel Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent consultation she has had with the devolved administrations on the prevention of human trafficking. [179653]

Reply from James Brokenshire: Ministers from the devolved Administrations are members of the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on human trafficking which I chair. This group meets regularly to provide the strategic coordination and oversight of efforts to tackle this horrendous crime.

We are also engaged with the devolved Administrations in the development of the forthcoming Modern Slavery Bill.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131209/text/131209w0001.htm#13120937000009>

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether aftercare providers under his Department's contract supporting victims of trafficking require a data subject access request before releasing information from a victim's file in order for other organisations outside the contract to provide assistance to the victim. [177992]

Reply from Damian Green: Under the terms of their contract with the Ministry of Justice, the Salvation Army and their sub-contractors work closely with a range of other partners to support all victims to secure appropriate support. Victims can be referred to other services without the need for providers to submit a Subject Access Request and this is working well.

The contract is aimed at helping some of the most vulnerable people in society and therefore protecting their safety and security is our primary concern. Personal data relating to victims supported by the Salvation Army and its sub-contractors are handled in line with the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

Given its sensitive nature, the Ministry of Justice's contract with the Salvation Army contains a standard clause to ensure victims' personal data (their case files) are not divulged to any third party unless this has been directed in writing by the Department. This is to help protect vulnerable people from being put at risk.

Where other organisations have requested access to a victim's case file, the Salvation Army is contractually obliged to notify the Ministry of Justice who will consider it as a formal Subject Access Request.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131211/text/131211w0003.htm#13121119000140>

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New Publication

The Border Force: securing the border

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmpubacc/663/663.pdf>

News

Scottish Refugee Council launches unique family service

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/2225_scottish_refugee_council_launches_unique_family_service

Integration Strategy to help refugees rebuild lives is launched

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/2222_integration_strategy_to_help_refugees_rebuild_lives_is_launched

Human rights: The core of all that we do

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_blogs/2226_human_rights_the_core_of_all_that_we_do

75,000 EU migrants cap proposed

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/75000-eu-migrants-cap-proposed-9005994.html>

QCs demand tougher laws for people traffickers

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/qcs-demand-tougher-laws-for-people-traffickers-1-3227227>

Border Force 'neglecting duties', say MPs

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-25310832>

Border Force failing to protect national security

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/border-force-failing-to-protect-national-security-1-3226534>

Migrants to be quizzed on English skills before benefits

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-25360167>

Speak English or lose benefits: Government to introduce tougher tests for migrants

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/government-to-introduce-tougher-tests-for-migrants-claiming-benefits-9001528.html>

EU migrants face 100 new questions to make it harder to obtain benefits

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/dec/13/eu-migrants-new-questions-benefits-romanians-bulgarians>

Migrants from poorer countries could be banned from Britain to curb benefits tourism

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2523220/Migrants-poorer-countries-banned-Britain-curb-benefits-tourism.html>

EU in court threat over English tests for migrants: Brussels warned Britain over 'xenophobic' plans

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2523549/EU-court-threat-English-tests-migrants.html>

Home Office published names of 1,600 illegal immigrants in error

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-25353311>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Asylum seeker Isa Muazu given new deportation date

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-25352629>

Romanians and Bulgarians taught how to claim UK benefits in return for joining union

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2523553/Romanians-Bulgarians-taught-claim-UK-benefits-return-joining-union.html>

Government delays EU immigration report because it is too positive

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/government-delays-eu-immigration-report-because-it-is-too-positive-8994264.html>

Immigration minister: pay higher wages to recruit British and EU workers

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/dec/10/immigration-harper-higher-wages-recruit-eu-workers>

Extra help to protect victims in trafficking court cases

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article3949005.ece>

'Toxic' immigration debate is giving Asia jitters, expert warns

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/toxic-immigration-debate-is-giving-asia-jitters-expert-warns-9005428.html>

UK Changes Rules on Surinder Singh Route

<http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/eu-rights-clinic/2013/12/08/uk-changes-rules-on-surinder-singh-route/>

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Equality

European Parliament Resolution

Progress made in the implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategies

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=B7-2013-0555&language=EN>

Press Releases

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Gender Segregation

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2013/december/gender-segregation/>

Roma discrimination: end illegal expulsions and ethnic profiling, MEPs say

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20131206IPR30032/html/Roma-discrimination-end-illegal-expulsions-and-ethnic-profiling-MEPs-say>

Austerity undermines human rights in Europe

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/2013-12-09%20human%20rights%20day.pdf>

Equality (continued)

New Publications

Public Sector Equality Duty Implementation of Scottish Specific Duties: Views from public authorities

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0043/00439844.pdf>

Under-representation by gender and race in Apprenticeships: Research summary

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/UnderRepresentationInApprenticeships.pdf>

News

Organisations commit to human rights plan

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/organisations-commit-to-human-rights-plan.22924672>

University segregation advice may need court ruling

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-25353882>

University segregation row: Ministers call for clarity

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-25378713>

Downing Street joins university segregation row

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-25365658>

Gender segregation guidance withdrawn following outcry

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/wider-political-news/gender-segregation-guidance-withdrawn-following-outcry.22950429>

Michael Gove: university gender segregation is 'pandering to extremism'

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2013/dec/13/michael-gove-university-gender-segregation>

Official watchdog says university sex segregation plans 'not permissible'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10514551/Official-watchdog-says-university-sex-segregation-plans-not-permissible.html>

Gender segregation guidelines to be reviewed as Cameron steps in

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10515651/Gender-segregation-guidelines-to-be-reviewed-as-David-Cameron-steps-into-row-for-the-first-time.html>

Universities pull back from sex segregation as Cameron weighs in

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/universityeducation/10516581/Universities-pull-back-from-sex-segregation-as-Cameron-weighs-in.html>

Universities UK withdraws rules on gender segregation

<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/news/universities-uk-withdraws-rules-on-gender-segregation-9003750.html?origin=internalSearch>

'We should not pander to extremism': Michael Gove warns over segregation of men and women in university lectures

<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/news/we-should-not-pander-to-extremism-michael-gove-warns-over-segregation-of-men-and-women-in-university-lectures-9002718.html>

Equality

News (continued)

Outcry at 'gender apartheid' in new guidance for UK universities

<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/news/outcry-at-gender-apartheid-in-new-guidance-for-uk-universities-8997861.html?origin=internalSearch>

As a Muslim, I oppose gender segregation in universities. But its advocates have every right to their opinion

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/as-a-muslim-i-oppose-gender-segregation-in-universities-but-its-advocates-have-every-right-to-their-opinion-9000088.html?origin=internalSearch>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Question

Religious Tolerance

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to promote religious tolerance in the workplace.[HL3714]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Viscount Younger of Leckie): Legal protection for employees from direct and indirect discrimination as well as from harassment or victimisation because of religion and belief is provided by the Equality Act 2010.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)—the UK body with the statutory remit to protect, enforce and promote equality—has issued a targeted guide for employers which can be accessed on their website at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/your-rights/religion-and-belief/>

This good practice guide aims to help employers understand how to recognise and manage expressions of religion or belief in the workplace and includes examples of requests that employees may make and how employers might deal with them.

The EHRC have also published *Shared understandings: a new EHRC strategy to strengthen understanding of religion or belief in public life*. Part of this work will seek to assess whether there is currently sufficient protection for people with a religious or other belief.

In addition, the public sector equality duty (PSED), requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation on grounds of religion and belief; to advance equality of opportunity; and to foster good relations between people of different religions.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131211w0001.htm#13121187000320>

Press Releases

Racist incidents fall by 14 per cent

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Racist-incidents-fall-by-14-per-cent-726.aspx>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Press Releases (continued)

Racist incidents 2012-13

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Racist-incident-2012-13-725.aspx>

Tackling sectarianism

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Tackling-sectarianism-74f.aspx>

Tackling sectarianism

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Tackling-sectarianism-750.aspx>

New Publications

Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland, 2012-13

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0043/00439845.pdf>

Advisory Group On Tackling Sectarianism In Scotland - Advice To Scottish Ministers And Report On Activity 9 August 2012 - 15 November 2013

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0044/00440386.pdf>

News

Fall in racist incident figures in Scotland

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-25316080>

Racist incidents in Scotland fall by 14%

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/racist-incident-figures-in-scotland-fall-by-14-1-3227148>

Racism falls amid rise in number of anti-English incidents

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article3945634.ece>

Sectarianism not caused by denomination schools, says expert group

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/sectarianism-not-caused-by-denomination-schools-says-expert-group.22939342>

Scotland's denominational schools 'do not cause sectarianism'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-25363841>

Sectarianism in Scotland report says schools are not to blame and calls for sanctions to tackle problem in football

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/sectarianism-scotland-report-says-schools-2922372>

Scotland growing tired of sectarianism, says new report

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/scotland-growing-tired-of-sectarianism-says-new-report-1.165329>

Old Firm involvement in tackling sectarianism

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-view/old-firm-involvement-in-tackling-sectarianism.22924875>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Old Firm still to meet bigotry study group after 16 months

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/old-firm-still-to-meet-bigotry-study-group-after-16-months.22953905>

Football teams must do more to tackle sectarianism

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/football-teams-must-do-more-to-tackle-sectarianism-1-3232406>

Beating sectarianism 'must start in schools'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article3949026.ece>

Two men arrested for anti-Semitic tweets after Spurs v West Ham match

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-25364283>

Two arrested over antisemitic tweets posted after Tottenham match

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/dec/13/two-arrested-antisemitic-tweets-tottenham-west-ham>

Two men arrested on suspicion of inciting racial hatred after alleged anti-semitic comments on Twitter following Tottenham v West Ham match

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news-and-comment/two-men-arrested-on-suspicion-of-inciting-racial-hatred-after-alleged-antisemitic-comments-on-twitter-following-tottenham-v-west-ham-match-9002823.html?origin=internalSearch>

Witch sacked for taking Halloween off work to attend Wiccan ceremony wins £15,000 after claiming religious discrimination

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2523435/Witch-sacked-taking-Halloween-work-attend-Wiccan-ceremony-wins-15-000-claiming-religious-discrimination.html>

Why do the Scottish media avert their gaze from anti-Irish racism?

<http://www.theguardian.com/media/greenslade/2013/dec/13/raceandreligion-scotland>

Legal figures call on Holyrood to scrap 'draconian' legislation

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/legal-figures-call-on-holyrood-to-scrap-draconian-legislation.22954082>

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Scottish Independence Referendum

Scottish Parliament Questions

Independence (Equality)

Christina McKelvie: To ask the Scottish Government how the written constitution outlined in the white paper on independence would protect and promote equality. (S40-02690)

Reply from the Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport (Shona Robison): A written constitution would set out principles and rules that would apply to the institutions of the state, and would underpin the relationship between citizens and the state to protect rights and secure fairness and equality. In addition, the Scottish Government intends that an equality provision would be

Scottish Independence Referendum

Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

included in the interim constitution that would be put in place at the time of independence. After independence, a constitutional convention would consider how to protect and promote equality further.

Christina McKelvie: As we all know, equality comes in many forms. I take the opportunity to welcome the commitment in the white paper to end detention and to close Dungavel. Given that it is migrants' rights week next week, can the minister tell us what provisions will be put in place to make refugees and those who seek sanctuary feel welcome in an independent Scotland, as outlined in "Scotland's Future"?

Reply from Shona Robison: As a nation that will play a socially responsible role in the world, an independent Scotland would continue to provide a place of safety for people who seek asylum. The asylum process in an independent Scotland will be robust and humane, with clear adherence to human rights and equality principles and to the rule of law.

As Christina McKelvie mentioned in her question, we would close Dungavel and end the inhumane practice of dawn raids. However, independence would also enable us to address asylum seekers' access to employment, education and accommodation. As she did, I welcome migrants' rights week next week. I am sure that it will be an opportunity to highlight many of the issues.

Kezia Dugdale: Can the minister tell us why the white paper guarantees us our own Eurovision entry but does not guarantee gender equality in an independent Scotland?

Reply from Shona Robison: Gender equality is a significant part of the white paper—on page 106, as Kezia Dugdale has been told on a number of occasions. We will consult on a target for female representation on company and public boards and we will, if necessary, legislate as appropriate. I do not understand what Kezia Dugdale's alternative to that is, because I cannot see it anywhere. The white paper has put gender equality very much on the agenda and will allow us to move forward to becoming the progressive Scotland that we all want.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8695&mode=html#job_78638

Scottish Government Publication

New Scots: Integrating Refugees in Scotland's Communities

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0043/00439604.pdf>

Other Publications

MEMO+ "Scotland's Future: Scottish Government White Paper on Independence"

In addition to providing general information about the White Paper, this series of thirteen briefing papers summarises the Scottish Government's proposals on the topics of Culture and Communications, Defence and Security, Economy and Finance, Education and Employment, Energy and Resources, Environment and Agriculture, Equality and Human Rights, Health and Wellbeing, Immigration and Asylum, International Relations, Justice, and Third Sector and Civic Society.

<http://www.scojec.org/memo+/memo+.html>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Motions

S4M-08544 Roseanna Cunningham: Human Rights—That the Parliament welcomes the publication of Scotland's first National Action Plan for Human Rights; recognises it as a historic milestone in Scotland's progress toward a vision, shared across the whole of Scottish society, of ensuring that everyone in the country can live with fundamental human dignity through the realisation of the universal and inalienable human rights proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and recognised in international law; commends the Scottish Human Rights Commission and all those from across the public, private and voluntary sectors, and from Scottish civil society at large who have contributed to the inclusive and cooperative process of developing this first National Action Plan for Human Rights, and looks forward to future opportunities over the lifetime of the plan to hear reports of the actions taken, and the progress achieved, in better realising the human rights of all in Scotland through realising the vision and achieving the outcomes mapped out in the plan.

Supported by: Kenny MacAskill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-08544&ResultsPerPage=10>

S4M-08544.1 Jenny Marra: Human Rights—As an amendment to motion S4M-08544 in the name of Roseanna Cunningham (Human Rights), insert at end "; notes the risk of female genital mutilation in Scotland; further notes that there have been no prosecutions for female genital mutilation despite the fact that 3,000 women in Scotland are at risk; further notes the Scottish Government's information that the number at risk is likely to be 'significantly higher' in light of new data in the 2011 census, and asks the Scottish Government to bring forward a strategy in the next six months to prevent female genital mutilation and enforce the existing legislation".

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-08544.1&ResultsPerPage=10>

News

Scottish Government back Westminster's forced marriage legislation

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scottish-government-back-westminsters-forced-2911302>

Jail plan for forced marriage law faces backlash

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/wider-political-news/jail-plan-for-forced-marriage-law-faces-backlash.22914153>

Forced-marriage families to face jail terms

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/forced-marriage-families-to-face-jail-terms-1-3226610>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Question

Female Genital Mutilation

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Attorney-General how many cases of female genital mutilation are currently being considered for criminal charges by the Crown Prosecution Service. [179670]

Reply from the Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service is currently considering six cases of female genital mutilation to advise the police on lines of inquiry and charging advice.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131209/text/131209w0001.htm#13120935000006>

Press Release

Protecting our mosques and religious institutions

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/protecting-our-mosques-and-religious-institutions>

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New Publications

Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights 2013 - 2017

<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/application/resources/documents/SNAP/SNAPpdfWeb.pdf>

State of the [Voluntary] Sector 2013

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/PDFs/State-of-the-Sector-2013.pdf>

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Other News

Launch of Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights

<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/latestnews/article/snapnews2013>

Charity to launch legal action to reclaim £626,000 allegedly misspent by Lord Bhatia

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/news/1223929/Charity-launch-legal-action-reclaim-626000-allegedly-misspent-Lord-Bhatia/>

Ethnic minorities' stem cell donor match rates double in 15 years

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2013/dec/09/ethnic-minority-stem-cell-donor-match-blood-cancer>

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Scottish Parliament

**** Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill (UK Parliament): Supplementary Legislative Consent Motion**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/LegislativeConsentMemoranda/AntiSocialBehaviourAmendedLCM.pdf>

Justice Committee evidence session, including discussion of measures against forced marriage (starting from col 3936)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8694&mode=pdf>

Assisted Suicide Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/69604.aspx>

**** Children and Young People Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/62233.aspx>

Proposed amendments

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Children%20and%20Young%20People%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b27s4-stage2-ml1.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Children%20and%20Young%20People%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b27s4-stage2-ml1.pdf)

**** Criminal Justice Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/65155.aspx>

Justice Committee Stage 1 consideration of evidence

(starting from col 3954)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8694&mode=pdf>

**** Marriage and Civil Partnership Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/64983.aspx>

Proposed amendments

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Marriage%20and%20Civil%20Partnership%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/websiteamendments.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Marriage%20and%20Civil%20Partnership%20(Scotland)%20Bill/websiteamendments.pdf)

**** Victims and Witnesses Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/59133.aspx>

Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing on the Bill at Stage 3

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_13-81.pdf

Proposed amendments

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Victims%20and%20Witnesses%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b23as4-stage3-ml.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Victims%20and%20Witnesses%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b23as4-stage3-ml.pdf)

Stage 3 consideration of amendments

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8699&mode=html#job_78706

Stage 3 debate

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8699&mode=html#job_78707

Bill as passed

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Victims%20and%20Witnesses%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b23abs4-aspassed.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Victims%20and%20Witnesses%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b23abs4-aspassed.pdf)

Bills in Progress (continued) **UK Parliament**

Asylum Seekers (Return to Nearest Safe Country) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/asylumseekersreturntonearestsafecountry.html>

Asylum (Time Limit) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/asylumtimelimit.html>

Charitable Status for Religious Institutions Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/charitablestatusforreligiousinstitutions.html>

Collection of Nationality Data Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/collectionofnationalitydata.html>

Face Coverings (Prohibition) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/facecoveringsprohibition.html>

Foreign Nationals (Access to Public Services) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/foreignnationalsaccesstopublicservices.html>

Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/illegalimmigrantscriminalsanctions.html>

**** Immigration Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/immigration.html>

Factsheets: part 1 – removal

Removal directions (clause 1)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/250055/Factsheet_01_Removal_directions.pdf

Powers of Immigration Officers (clause 2)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/249391/Factsheet_02_-_Powers_of_immigration_officers.pdf

Immigration Bail (clause 3)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/249392/Factsheet_03_-_Bail.pdf

Biometrics (clauses 4 – 10)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/249099/Factsheet_04_Biometrics.pdf

Immigration Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/immigrationact1971amendment.html>

Lobbyists (Registration of Code of Conduct) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/lobbyistsregistrationofcodeofconduct.html>

Romanian and Bulgarian Accession (Labour Restriction) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/romanianandbulgarianaccessionlabourrestriction.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Inquiry on Lobbying (closing date 10 January 2014)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_StandardsProceduresandPublicAppointmentsCommittee/Inquiries/CfELobbying.pdf

Call for evidence on local policing (closing date extended to 10 January 2014)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/gettinginvolved/69420.aspx>

Proposed Bill: Promoting greater accountability and transparency in local government (closing date 20 January 2013)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_MembersBills/John_Finnie_final_consultation.pdf

**** Inquiry into Scotland's Economic Future Post-2014** (closing date 31 January 2014)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_EconomyEnergyandTourismCommittee/Inquiries/Economic_Future_Inquiry_-_Remit_and_Call_for_Evidence.pdf

Draft Welfare Funds (Scotland) Bill (closing date 7 February 2014)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0043/00438109.pdf>

Water and Sewerage Charges – Exemption Scheme for Small Third Sector Organisations (closing date 14 February 2014)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0043/00437855.pdf>

Inquiry into the procedures for considering legislation (closing date 21 March 2014)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/gettinginvolved/70605.aspx>

Scottish Football Association Equality Survey (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VKJQQ95>

Experiences of Race and Religion-Related Hate Speech in the UK (no closing date given)

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HR7RBZ3>

**** Faith and Belief Scotland** (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/faithandbeliefscotland>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** *this week!***

International Migrants Day

17 December 2013 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (5.30 – 8.00)

International Migrants Day event to recognize and celebrate the significant contribution of migrants to Scotland, and hear their experiences and views on how immigration policy affects their lives. For information and to book a place see

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/our-day-migrants-in-scotland-tickets-4979545956>

GRAMNet Film Series

15 January 2014 in Glasgow (6.00)

12 February 2014 in Glasgow (6.00)

12 March 2014 in Glasgow (6.00)

14 May 2014 in Glasgow (6.00)

18 June 2014 in Glasgow (6.00)

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Film Series organised in partnership between GRAMNet (Glasgow Refugee and Asylum Network), BEMIS, and The Iona Community, showcasing films and documentaries with a theme of Homecoming and Hospitality. Following each film, invited local organisations and community groups will suggest positive actions that can be undertaken locally to address one or more of the issues raised in each film. For information see http://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media_292556_en.pdf

**** Refugee Voices in the Scottish Referendum Debate**

17 January 2014 in Glasgow (1.30 – 4.00)

Public meeting following the Scottish Refugee Council AGM to hear both the 'Better Together' and 'YES Scotland' campaigns to set out their visions for the future of Scotland with a particular focus on refugee issues. For information, and to book a place, contact Anna Cheung or Donna Gibson 0141 248 9799 / events@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Discrimination Law in 2014

20 January 2014 in Edinburgh (9.55 – 4.15)

Equality and Human rights Commission conference to summarise the practical implications of new legislation and key judgments over the past year. For information see http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/Scotland/Legal/discrimination_law_2014_edinburgh_publicity.doc or contact Angela Barclay 0141 228 5951 / equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com

Ethnic Minority 3rd Sector Network Consultation on Scottish Government White Paper on Independence

20 January 2014 in Glasgow (12.30 – 4.00)

4 February 2014 in Inverness (12.30 – 4.00)

6 February 2014 in Kirkcaldy (12.30 – 4.00)

BEMIS in partnership with CEMVO events to enable ethnic minority communities to engage with the Scottish Government White Paper on Independence. For information contact Tanveer Parnez tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk or Fiaz Khan fiaz.khan@cemvoscotland.org.uk

Scottish Refugee Council Education Conference

25 January 2014 in Glasgow

Conference in association with the Scottish Refugee Policy for asylum seekers and refugees to find out their rights and options, share experiences and raise issues about education. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/ktevalr> or contact 07734 030760 / communities@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Migration and the Referendum Debate**

7 February 2014 in Edinburgh (9.00 – 4.00)

Conference to enable politicians from Local, Scottish and UK Government, senior officers from across the public sector, academic experts, representatives from the third sector and the migrant community to engage in dialogue on migration in Scotland. For information contact Kirsty Anderson kirsty.anderson@cosla.gov.uk or see <http://www.migrationscotland.org.uk/news/2013/11/cosla-conference-migration-and-referendum-debate>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Scottish Refugee Council Health Conference

22 February 2014 in Glasgow

Conference in association with the Scottish Refugee Policy for asylum seekers and refugees to find out their rights and options, share experiences and raise issues about health. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/ktevalr> or contact 07734 030760 / communities@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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Useful Links

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

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

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

GovUK (links to UK Government Departments) <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>

One Scotland Many Cultures <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

Scottish Refugee Council <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

Interfaith Scotland <http://www.interfaithscotland.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com>

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

BBC News <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>

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

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The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. <http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

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