

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with the **Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland**. 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](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)

[Other Holyrood](#)

[Other Westminster](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job 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 and requests to be added to circulation to mail@bemis.org.uk

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration

Oliver Letwin [247227]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for indefinite leave to remain in the UK remained to be processed seven years or more after the date of application at the end of 2008.

Reply from Phil Woolas: At the end of 2008 there were 13 applications that remain to be processed seven or more years after the date of application.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090629/text/90629w0016.htm#09062939000020>

Entry Clearances

Paul Burstow [253862]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications from (a) India, (b) Sri Lanka and (c) Zimbabwe have had their applications refused in each of the last three years; of those how many have appealed; how many such appeals have succeeded; how many decisions have been withdrawn prior to determination of the appeal; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The number of UK visa applications refused in India and Sri Lanka in each of the calendar years 2006-08 is shown in the following table, together with the number of appeals received and appeals allowed.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The same information is shown in the table for Zimbabwe, but this is based on applications made globally by Zimbabwe nationals rather than just those lodged in Zimbabwe as those data are not available.

We are unable to readily separate applications where a decision has been revoked following receipt of an appeal from those where a decision has been revoked following an Asylum and Immigration Tribunal determination. This information could be provided only by checking individual applications and therefore at disproportionate cost.

	2006	2007	2008
<i>India</i>			
Visas refused	77,291	81,234	78,458
Appeals received	22,164	26,421	33,511
Appeals allowed	11,696	13,181	12,740
<i>Sri Lanka</i>			
Visas refused	8,434	8,231	7,875
Appeals received	1,467	954	1,046
Appeals allowed	1,184	671	547
<i>Zimbabwe</i>			
Visas refused	7,660	6,463	6,433
Appeals received	2,463	2,697	2,577
Appeals allowed	741	1,186	1,110
<i>Note:</i> These data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional. <i>Source:</i> Central Reference System			

Stephen O'Brien [280857]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will include medical qualifications in the criteria for awarding a Tier 1 visa.

Reply from Phil Woolas: On 23 February the Home Secretary asked the Migration Advisory Committee what further changes to the criteria for Tier 1 there should be in 2010-11, given the changing economic circumstances. The Committee are due to report back to the Government in October. There are no plans to amend the Tier 1 points criteria before that time.

However, this is not to say that overseas doctors are unable to work in the UK. It is open for them to do so through Tier 2. Where they are a postgraduate doctor who has studied in the UK the UK Border Agency will, exceptionally, allow the NHS and others to recruit graduates of UK medical schools from overseas under Tier 2 of the points based system without first testing the resident labour market. This concession, which we will apply to the current round of recruitment, will allow these doctors open access to jobs in the UK's health sector, allowing them to continue their careers here.

Nicholas Winterton [282217]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for the UK Border Agency's Tier One (General) Category Visa Programme have been (a) denied and (b) subsequently upheld at appeal since the introduction of new rules on 29 February 2008; and if he will make a statement.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Phil Woolas: As of 31 May 2009, 7,279 overseas visa applications under tier 1 (general) of the points based system had been refused. There is no right of appeal on immigration grounds against decisions to refuse visa applications under the points based system, including tier 1.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090701/text/90701w0010.htm#09070170000016>

Immigration: Marriage

Baroness Warsi [HL4329]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many individuals subject to immigration controls have in each of the past six years (a) applied to receive written permission from the Secretary of State for the Home Department to marry in the United Kingdom, and (b) been refused permission following an application for marriage by the Secretary of State for the Home Department under Section 19 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The "certificate of approval" scheme for deciding whether individuals subject to immigration controls are able to marry in the UK has been in operation since February 2005. Since that time, the following numbers have (a) applied for and (b) been refused permission by the Secretary of State for the Home Department under Section 19 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004.

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
No. of cases	13,877	17,962	17,320	18,717	11,461
Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
No. of cases	1,374	692	571	752	312

Please note: The above data is not provided under National Statistics protocols. It has been derived from local management information and is therefore provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90701w0003.htm#09070168000778>

Work Permits

James Clappison [281116]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits have been issued to non-UK nationals in each quarter since 1 January 2007.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The number of work permit applications approved for non-UK nationals in each quarter for the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2008 is shown in the following table:

		<i>Number</i>
Q1	2007	35,510
Q2	2007	33,160
Q3	2007	34,010
Q4	2007	28,380
Q1	2008	28,260
Q2	2008	32,335
Q3	2008	38,460
Q4	2008	24,655
Total	—	254,765

Notes: 1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5. 2. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

James Clappison [281117]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2057W, on work permits, how many applications for a work permit on the basis of an intra-company transfer in respect of non-UK nationals were (a) made and (b) granted in each quarter since January 2004.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The number of work permit applications made and approved for Intra-Company Transfers in each quarter since January 2004 is shown in the following table:

<i>Work permit intra-company transfer applications made and approved for each quarter during the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2008</i>					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
2004					
Applications made	8,235	8,005	9,355	8,050	33,645
Applications approved	8,060	7,765	9,140	7,805	32,770
2005					
Applications made	8,460	8,845	8,900	8,475	34,680
Applications approved	8,250	8,595	8,610	8,290	33,745
2006					
Applications made	10,860	10,745	11,200	11,145	43,950
Applications approved	10,625	10,520	10,960	10,945	43,050
2007					
Applications made	12,865	12,960	12,945	11,460	50,230
Applications approved	12,590	12,685	12,440	11,020	48,735
2008					
Applications made	12,375	13,385	14,565	9,385	49,710
Applications approved	11,870	12,930	14,135	9,080	48,010
Notes:					
1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.					
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.					
3. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.					

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090629/text/90629w0018.htm#09062939000035>

Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004

Baroness Warsi [HL4327]: To ask Her Majesty's Government which countries are designated as safe countries under the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Countries which are designated as safe under the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004 are as

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

follows: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Republic of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90701w0001.htm#09070168000759>

Asylum Seekers

Baroness Greengross [HL4271]: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their decision in August 2007 to withdraw asylum seekers' rights to English language training for the first six months in the United Kingdom, or until their claim for refugee status has been agreed, complies with the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in respect of the right to education.

Reply from Lord Young of Norwood Green: In making decisions about asylum seekers' eligibility for English language training, the Government carried out a race equality impact assessment (REIA) in early 2007. As a result of the full impact assessment, the Government decided that asylum seekers who had not received a decision on their application after six months, and also asylum seekers unable to leave the country for reasons beyond their control, would be eligible for English language training. The Government believe that the current policy is compliant with human rights legislation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90629w0001.htm#09062914000537>

Asylum Seekers: Detention of Children

Baroness Williams of Crosby: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to cease the detention of children of asylum seekers and their carers in detention centres for periods exceeding one week.

Lord Brett: My Lords, we all believe that it is much better that those families who have been found by the courts not to need our protection should go home under their own steam, and we provide help for them to do so. We detain families only as a last resort and for as short a time as possible when they refuse to return voluntarily. The alternative would be to separate the families. Speeding up the asylum process also seeks to address this problem.

Baroness Williams of Crosby: My Lords, I trust the Minister will be tempted when I say that many families are affected by the inability to return home to areas of great danger to themselves, of which Zimbabwe is just one example.

The Children's Commissioner, Sir Al Aynsley-Green, has made it clear that the detention of children is "harmful to their health and wellbeing". Furthermore, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, on her recent visit to Yarl's Wood and other detention centres, found that in the past four months alone no fewer than 83 children had been detained for either 28 days or longer, with no clear indication when they would come out of detention. Therefore, will Minister consider looking at community-based schemes for families who are awaiting return to their homes or who may not be able to be returned to their homes, as has happened in other countries? Will he also consider that those families who have been in Britain for many years, in some cases with children born and entirely educated here, might be eligible for a humanitarian system of amnesty, because it is difficult to return people who from birth onwards have had no links with any country except our own?

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90630-0002.htm#09063062000311>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Detainees: Children

Fabian Hamilton [281227]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the UK's level of compliance with the standards for the detention of children established by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in respect of immigration removal centres.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Detention of children takes place because of the desire not to separate children from parents who have flagrantly abused the immigration laws. The detention of children under Immigration Act powers complies with the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

A statutory Code of Practice for Keeping Children Safe from Harm was introduced in January and sets out the key principles governing how the Agency treats children, especially in detention. The Code is due to be replaced by a statutory duty to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children in the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090629/text/90629w0015.htm#09062939000015>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Adrian Sanders[280743]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultation his Department carried out on proposals affecting student visas before the recent changes to the regulations were made.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Tier 4, the student tier of the Points Based System (PBS), was introduced on 31 March 2009 and was the culmination of the extensive changes to the immigration system first announced in 2004. Before introducing these changes, we consulted widely and in July 2005 published a consultation document: "Selective Admission: Making Migration Work for Britain"; this consultation ran for an extended period until November 2005.

The Joint Education Taskforce (JET) is the UK Border Agency's principal mechanism for consultation with the education sector. The JET was also established in 2005 and comprises senior figures and representative bodies from all parts of the education sector and it and its sub-groups continue to meet on a regular basis. In July 2008 we published "Students under the Points Based System—(Tier 4) Statement of Intent". While this was not a further consultation, we welcomed comments from stakeholders affected by the changes proposed which were incorporated where appropriate. Both documents are available in the House Library.

Mark Oaten [281394]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are employed to conduct sponsor inspections under the Tier 4 regulations on immigration; and what training has been provided by his Department for such post-holders.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency currently employs 125 staff nationally to conduct visits to sponsors and prospective sponsors under the Points Based System which includes Tier 4.

All visiting staff receive ongoing training and development on and off the job to enable them to carry out their duties in a professional and effective manner.

Mark Oaten [281596]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether guidance issued by his Department on Tier 4 immigration regulations is publicly available.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Policy guidance on Tier 4 policy, which expands on the immigration rules provides the evidential requirements a migrant must meet is published, as is the Points Based Sponsor guidance which provides the evidential requirements a sponsor must meet. These documents are on the UK Border Agency website.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions *(continued)*

The Tier 4 caseworking instructions, which provide step by step process instructions to assessing officers as to how to physically consider an application, are currently being considered for publication.

Mark Oaten [281597]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether student visa applications made before 31 March 2009 are determined in accordance with the immigration rules in force at that time.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Yes. Student visa applications submitted prior to 31 March 2009 are determined under the immigration rules in force at that time.

Mark Oaten [281598]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect on visa application rates of the requirement under the Tier 4 rules on immigration for certified translations of all documents.

Mr. Woolas [*holding answer 22 June 2009*]: The requirement for certified translations of all documents does not appear so far to have had a significant effect on application rates. However, as Tier 4 of the Points Based System was only introduced on 31 March 2009, it is too early to draw any definitive conclusions.

Mark Oaten [282215]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason students under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system may not undertake a paid or unpaid work experience or internship as part of their course of study.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Students under Tier 4 of the Points Based System may undertake a work placement as part of their course, as long as it is an assessed part of the course and the work placement does not equate to more than 50 per cent. of the length of the course in the United Kingdom. In addition, students can undertake a work placement where their course includes a legal (statutory) requirement for this.

Mark Oaten [282233]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the new online system for the registration of overseas students to be in operation.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The next stage of the online system for the registration of overseas students will be launched in autumn 2009. The roll-out of the new system will be complete by the end of March 2010.

Mark Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has made an assessment of the effects on the integration of non-EU domiciled students of requiring academic institutions to register their attendance. [282234]

Reply from Phil Woolas: All academic institutions have their own procedures in place to be able to monitor their students' attendance both to ensure their continued progress on a course but also to fulfil their duty of care. The reporting requirements placed on institutions as part of their sponsor duties under Tier 4 are sufficiently robust to ensure that students who are no longer attending are reported to the UK Border Agency, while also being sufficiently flexible to allow for the different ways in which institutions monitor student attendance.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090629/text/90629w0015.htm#09062939000018>

Press Releases

Filipino fishing crews

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/07/02141151>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

UK Border Agency to look at accelerating rollout of identity cards for foreign nationals

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/july/id-card-rollout-accelerated?area=allNews>

Visa requirement for South Africa enforced today

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/july/visa-requirement-for-sa-enforced?area=allNews>

News

Changed law forces family from UK

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/06/30/newsstory13379496t0.asp>

Filipino crew win temporary reprieve over deportation

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2517907.0.Filipino_crew_win_temporary_reprieve_over_deportation.php

Deportation reprieve for skippers

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/scotland/Deportation-reprieve-for-skipper.5425948.jp>

Red tape may force foreign teachers out

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/07/04/newsstory13404599t0.asp>

Visas checked 'in minutes'

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Visas-checked-39in-minutes39.5430093.jp>

Migrants are going to Britain, come hell or high water

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/france/5744213/Migrants-are-going-to-Britain-come-hell-or-high-water.html>

Migrants in Calais need our help

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/libertycentral/2009/jul/04/migrants-calais>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Westminster Debate

Diversity in Public Appointments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090701/halltext/90701h0004.htm#09070156000002>

News

Scottish MPs send home a ticking-off on immigration

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Scottish-MPs-send-home-a.5412919.jp>

Equality

News (continued)

Watchdog warned 'steer clear of reserved issues'

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2517430.0.Watchdog_warned_steer_clear_of_reserved_issues.php

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

News

Man 'on cusp' of bombing campaign

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8124449.stm>

Court told of racist assault on student

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/07/01/newsstory13385722t0.asp>

Mosque threat man to be held in hospital

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2518130.0.mosque_threat_man_to_be_held_in_hospital.php

What's in a name? Certainly not a job if it sounds ethnic

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest_contributors/article6638377_ece

School tells girl to remove cross despite allowing Sikh bangles

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/religion/5711952/School-tells-girl-to-remove-cross-despite-allowing-Sikh-bangles.html>

Black family wrongly accused outside West End theatre wins police damages

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2009/jul/04/black-family-west-end-police-damages>

[TOP](#)

Other Holyrood

Press Releases

Now we are 10: it's Parliament's big birthday

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-09/pa09-023.htm>

Her Majesty the Queen addresses Parliament

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-09/pa09-024.htm#queen>

Presiding Officer's address to Parliament

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-09/pa09-po-speech.htm>

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Ministerial Statements

Forced Marriage Guidelines

Alan Campbell (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department):

Today the Forced Marriage Unit (a joint Home Office/Foreign and Commonwealth Office unit) launches revised forced marriage multi-agency practice guidelines intended for all front-line practitioners (such as teachers, police officers, social and health care professionals, housing officers) to help them to work more closely together to better identify and protect children and adults at risk of forced marriage. These practice guidelines have been designed to provide step-by-step advice to front-line workers and have been produced to complement the statutory guidance, which came into force with the launch of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act in November 2008, which sets out the broader strategic responsibilities of chief executives and senior managers in tackling forced marriage locally.

These new guidelines are available from the House Library, can be accessed on the Forced Marriage Unit's website, www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage, or hard copies can be obtained directly from the Unit at the following address:

Forced Marriage Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room G58, Old Admiralty Building, London SW1A 2PA

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090702/wmstext/90702m0002.htm#09070275000013>

Statement from Gordon Brown: Building Britain's Future

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19847>

Parliamentary Question

Human Rights Act 1998

Lord Lester of Herne Hill [HL4546]: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord Bach on 22 June (WA 255), whether they will legislate to ensure that private bodies carrying out public functions will be subject to the Human Rights Act 1998.

Reply from Lord Bach: Under Section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998, it is unlawful for a public authority to act in a way which is incompatible with a convention right; "public authority" is defined in Section 6(3) as including inter alia "any person certain of whose functions are functions of a public nature" unless, by virtue of Section 6(5), the nature of the act in question is private. A private body carrying out a function of a public nature is therefore subject to the Human Rights Act. The Government note that concerns have been expressed about the courts' interpretation of what constitutes a function of a public nature. The Government note these concerns and remain committed to consulting on this issue in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90701w0002.htm#09070168000775>

Press Release

Building Britain's Future

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19835>

Other Westminster (continued)

New publications

Building Britain's future:

Website <http://www.hmg.gov.uk/buildingbritainsfuture.aspx>

Strategy document http://www.hmg.gov.uk/media/27749/full_document.pdf

New guidance issued as reports of forced marriage increase

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=News&id=20502604>

News

At-a-glance: Draft programme

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8124818.stm

[TOP](#)

Other News

Britain has 85 Sharia courts, says report

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2517197.0.britain_has_85_sharia_courts_says_report.php

Forced marriage plea to schools

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8129466.stm>

A lifeline for those forced to marry

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/jul/04/forced-marriage-guidelines>

Forced marriage: 'I can't forgive or forget what they did to me'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/forced-marriage-i-cant-forgive-or-forget-what-they-did-to-me-1732170.html>

Sharia law UK

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1197478/Sharia-law-UK--How-Islam-dispensing-justice-side-British-courts.html>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Arbitration Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/19-Arbitration/index.htm>

** Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/24-CrimJustLc/index.htm>

Stage 1 evidence from Kenny MacAskill (Cabinet Secretary for Justice)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/or-09/ju09-2102.htm#Col2157>

Bills in Progress (continued) **Westminster**

Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/borderscitizenshipandimmigration.html>

Crown Employment (Nationality) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/crownemploymentnationality.html>

**** Equality Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/equality.html>

amendment paper

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/085/amend/pbc0852606a.313.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/085/amend/pbc0853006m.315-321.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/085/amend/pbc0850207m.345-351.html>

Public Bill Committee Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/085/pro0850702.55-61.html>

[TOP](#)

Consultations (closing date)

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Working together to protect crowded places (10 July 2009)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-crowded-places/working-together-crowded-places?view=Binary>

and

Safer Places: a counter-terrorism supplement

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-crowded-places/safer-places?view=Binary>

UK Consultation on the European Commission Proposal for an Equal Treatment Directive (28 July 2009)

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/international/eu_directive.aspx

Oversight of the Immigration Advice Sector consultation (6 August 2009)

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/oversight_of_the_immigration_adv/oversight_immigration_advice/immigration_advice_consultation?view=Binary

**** Cycling Action Plan for Scotland** (20 August 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/273788/0081826.pdf>

Consultations (continued)

Equality Bill: Policy Proposals for Specific Duties (30 September)

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/PDF/Specific%20Duties%20Consultation%20DocumentWEB.pdf>

**** Freedom of Information: Improving Openness** (30 September)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/278119/0083564.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** this week!**

Working with Interpreters

9 July 2009 in Glasgow

22 September in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to address practical, ethical and professional issues regarding working with interpreters, including briefing on legal obligations and entitlement to services. For information contact 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

17 July 2009 in Glasgow

20 August 2009 in Glasgow

8 October 2009 in Glasgow

8 December 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to identify the issues and concerns participants have in relation to working with asylum seekers and refugees, provide information on legal, political, economic and historical factors in relation to people seeking asylum, share ideas for developing good practice, and to identify strategies and resources for work with refugees. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=73>

**** BA in Community Development**

Closing date for applications: 3 August 2009

The University of Glasgow and BEMIS have reached an agreement that will see BEMIS facilitating support for trainees through a 36 month degree course focusing on Community Learning & Development complemented by extra direct training days/workshops styles. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09vii_bemis.pdf or contact Tanveer Parnez 0141 548 8047 / Tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

UKBA (formerly NASS) Asylum Support - The Essentials

3 September 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course covering the asylum process and the legal framework, support arrangements available to asylum seekers from the beginning to the end of the asylum process, and entitlements for refugees and unaccompanied or separated asylum-seeking children. For information contact SRC 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=60>

**** Scottish Third Sector Research Conference**

26 October 2009 in Edinburgh (9.45 – 5.00)

Conference organised by SCVO in conjunction with the Centre for Public Services Research, Edinburgh University Business School to connect researchers, policy-makers and practitioners to ensure Scotland's Voluntary Sector has the latest knowledge and research at its fingertips. For information contact Ian Lees ian.lees@scvo.org.uk
To find out how to submit a paper for the conference see <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Information/ViewInformation.aspx?al=t&page=&all=&from=DSR&Info=1946&TCID=30&PageName=Impact>

An Introduction to the Needs and Experiences of Refugee Women

12 November 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting women seeking sanctuary in Scotland. For information contact 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Scottish Charity Accounts and Reporting to OSCR**

30 November 2009 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30)

SCVO seminar to look at what OSCR expects from charities in terms of compliance. For information contact Jane Baillie 0131 474 8019 / jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk

[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/>

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Scottish Inter Faith Council <http://www.scottishinterfaithcouncil.org/>

Useful Links (continued)

Equality and Human Rights Commission <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>
Scotland Helpline 0845 604 5510

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

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 (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 Charity SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS (the Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland) 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>



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/>