

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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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

British Citizenship

Iain Gray: To ask the Scottish Executive how many and what percentage of its posts require the jobholder to have British citizenship. (S4W-04041)

Reply from John Swinney: Under the Civil Service Nationality Rules, certain posts where the nature of the work requires special allegiance to the Crown can be deemed to be reserved for UK nationals. There are no posts within the Scottish Government which are reserved for UK Nationals.

The Civil Service Nationality Rules govern eligibility for employment in the UK Civil Service on the grounds of nationality and must be followed in our recruitment and appointment procedures. There are no posts within the Scottish Government which are reserved for UK Nationals, and this has been the case since Devolution in 1999.

What this means is that normally only those people who are nationals of the UK, European Economic Area (EEA), Commonwealth Countries and Dependant Territories can work within the UK Civil Service, including the Scottish Government. Certain family members of EEA nationals who themselves don't meet the nationality rules may be eligible to join the civil service if the EEA national has triggered his or her freedom of movement rights under EC law.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?referencenumber=S4W-04041&isinanything=true&resultsperpage=10>

Human Trafficking

Drew Smith: To ask the First Minister what action the Scottish Government is taking to tackle human trafficking. (S4F-00316)

Reply from tThe First Minister (Alex Salmond): Human trafficking is an abhorrent crime and the Scottish Government is committed to making further progress in tackling the criminals who engage in it. The recent report from Helena Kennedy's Equality and Human Rights Commission acknowledges that the Scottish Government has taken important steps in recent years in anti-trafficking and helpfully sets out recommendations for further action.

We have provided additional funding of £4 million over a two-year period from 2009 to 2011 to the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency to boost capacity to tackle organised crime and, within that, provide Scotland's first dedicated expert resource to build the intelligence necessary to support and improve human trafficking investigation.

Drew Smith: I thank the First Minister for that answer, particularly in the light, as Helena Kennedy says in her report, of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth games. There is some urgency around ensuring that our approach to human trafficking is correct, and Baroness Kennedy raises a number of concerns about the interaction between police and the United Kingdom Border Agency, the low awareness of trafficking in Scotland, the definition in law where two offences exist for the same crime, lack of intelligence, lack of prosecution expertise and lack of services for victims.

Does the First Minister take the view that there is a case for a review of the legislation in this area and will he ask the Cabinet Secretary for Parliament and Government Strategy to bring forward an early debate so that parties across the chamber can discuss this very important issue in more detail?

Reply from the First Minister: I shall speak to the business manager to allow that to happen. Let me quote the words of Baroness Kennedy in a letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice: "In conducting this Inquiry I have learnt not only how seriously you and Alex take the horrifying practice of human trafficking but, in particular, of your personal determination to eradicate it in Scotland. I would also

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

like to reiterate my appreciation for the consistently helpful input and cooperation that you and your Justice Directorate have given to me and my team in conducting this Inquiry.”

Given the enthusiasm with which we co-operated in the conduct of the inquiry, the member can be absolutely certain that we will pursue its welcome recommendations to fruition.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6590&mode=html#iob_60022

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

British Nationality

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has received any applications to reduce the normal time period required for UK naturalisation in each of the last three years; and how many have (a) been received and (b) been successful. [83328]

Reply from Damian Green: No statistical information is available which would record any requests made by applicants for naturalisation as British citizens to reduce the required residence periods.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), does have discretion over absences from the United Kingdom during the qualifying residence period. Discretion is also available to waive the residence requirements under schedule 1 sections 1(3) and 4(d) of the British Nationality Act 1981 when applicants are applying on the basis of Crown or designated service.

However, no discretion is available to waive the requirement to have been physically present in the United Kingdom at the beginning of the residential qualifying period.

The use of discretion is part of the consideration process.

No statistical information is available to record the use of discretion during the consideration process.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111129/text/111129w0001.htm#11112954000008>

Immigration

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria she uses for immigration files placed in the controlled archive. [81286]

Reply from Damian Green: The controlled archive is a hold for those cases where the case resolution directorate (CRD) had tried to establish contact with the applicant through the current set of processes and has been unsuccessful. All checks to establish the applicant's whereabouts have been made and all information on case information database (CID) for the applicant is correct.

When deciding whether to place a case file in the controlled archive, internal electronic records and the case papers must be checked thoroughly to ensure that all steps have been taken to contact the applicant. All cases are subjected to checks against watchlists and the police national computer before being placed in the controlled archive.

The UK Border Agency also has access to a number of further external databases including:

UK Visas Database

Voters registry

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

DVLA records
HM Revenue and Customs
Department for Work and Pensions
NHS Trace line

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how often immigration cases in the controlled archive are checked; what databases are used to carry out such checks; and how many staff perform such checks. [81288]

Reply from Damian Green: The Case Assurance and Audit Unit are responsible for ongoing management of the controlled archive and active management of cases which could not be fully concluded due to a barrier, the unit consists of 126 staff.

Each case is reviewed on a six monthly basis and a range of internal Home Office and external data bases are available.

The Controlled Archive is a hold for those cases where the Case Resolution Directorate (CRD) had tried to establish contact with the applicant through the current set of processes and has been unsuccessful and all checks to establish the applicant's whereabouts have been made and all information on Case Information Database (CID) for the applicant is correct.

When deciding whether to place a case file in the Controlled Archive, electronic records (ASYS, CID), and the case papers must be checked thoroughly to ensure that all steps have been taken to contact the applicant. All cases are subjected to checks against the Police National computer and Warning Index before being placed in the controlled archive. The UK Border Agency also has access to a number of further external databases including:

UK Visas Database
Voters registry
DVLA records
HM Revenue and Customs
Department for Work and Pensions
NHS Trace line

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111201/text/111201w002.htm#11120168000069>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Avebury To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum cases are under consideration by the Criminal Cases Directorate; of these, how many relate to persons arrested on entry to the United Kingdom; and how many of those in turn relate to persons convicted under Section 2 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claims etc.) Act 2004 for not having a travel document at the time an application for leave or asylum was made. [HL13713]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): There are 323 asylum cases under consideration by the Criminal Casework Directorate as of 24 November 2011. It would incur a disproportionate cost to obtain a breakdown relating to persons arrested on entry and convicted for the lack of a travel document.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/111130w0001.htm#11113043000257>

Asylum

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases considered by the UK Border Agency's Case Assurance and Audit Unit have resulted in an individual being (a) removed and (b) granted indefinite leave to remain in each month since July 2011. [79435]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Damian Green: From July 2011 to October 2011 the UK Border Agency's Case Assurance and Audit Unit have considered (a) 1,074 cases which have resulted in a removal of an individual (b) 829 cases leading to a grant of indefinite leave (c) 1,906 cases which have resulted in a grant of temporary leave:

Cases	Granted ILR	Granted temporary leave	Removed
July 2011	290	234	244
August 2011	149	342	317
September 2011	209	670	284
October 2011	181	660	229
Sum	829	1,906	1,074

Source: Local management information provided by UKBA, North West Region Planning and MI team. It is not a national statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111129/text/111129w0001.htm#11112954000006>

Immigrants: Detainees

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the daily average cost of detaining an individual on immigration-related grounds. [82106]

Reply from Damian Green: The average daily cost of holding an individual in the UKBA detention estate for 2011-12 is estimated at £102.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111129/text/111129w0001.htm#11112954000020>

Immigrants: Detainees

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether the UK Border Agency has any plans to review its policy on the time of day at which it visits homes for the removal of failed asylum seekers and illegal immigrants; [82091]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of the guidance provided to immigration officers undertaking home visits; [82092]

(3) whether guidance is provided to immigration officers on the time of day a visit should take place to a home where a child is resident. [82093]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has clear guidance on the considerations that need to be made when planning an enforcement visit, including the time the visit should take place.

Guidance for the timing of operational enforcement visits to residential addresses is set out in chapters 31, 45 and 61 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance which is available for public viewing on the UK Border Agency website at the link below: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/enforcement/

Where enforcement action is being considered to ensure the return of a family with children, an individually tailored return plan will be referred to the independent Family Returns Panel. Enforcement visits will only take place when the Family Returns Panel has advised on the most appropriate time of day to secure the return of the family, while having regard to the welfare of the children.

The timing of visit for cases falling outside of the family returns process is determined and also recorded in the risk assessment that is carried out for each visit. Visits should not normally take place either very late at night or very early in the morning unless operational planning indicates that a visit would be frustrated if

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

carried out at a different time. All existing policy and guidance relating to the timing of enforcement visits is regularly reviewed as part of a programme of nationwide unannounced assurance currently being rolled out by the UK Border Agency's Professional Standards for Enforcement team (PSE).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111201/text/111201w0002.htm#11120168000068>

Detention Centres: Children

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children held by the UK Border Agency in pre-departure accommodation were resident in Scotland prior to the enforcement of their return in each of the last 12 months. [82044]

Reply from Damian Green: One child who was resident in Scotland prior to their removal was in pre-departure accommodation in November 2011.

No other child from Scotland has been in these facilities in the last 12 months.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children resident in Scotland have been moved to Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre since May 2010. [82045]

Reply from Damian Green: Since May 2010 no children resident in Scotland have been moved to Yarl's Wood.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111129/text/111129w0001.htm#11112954000013>

Deportation

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were removed from the UK in (a) 2007, (b) 2008, (c) 2009, (d) 2010 and (e) 2011 to date. [83838]

Reply from Theresa May: The following table shows the total number of removals and voluntarily departures from the UK during 2007-10, and January to September 2011.

<i>Removals and voluntary departures^(1,2), January 2007 to September 2011</i>					
<i>Number of departures</i>					
	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010⁽³⁾</i>	<i>January to September 2011⁽³⁾</i>
Total removals and voluntary departures	63,367	67,981	67,214	60,244	38,865

⁽¹⁾ Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken. ⁽²⁾ Figures include enforced removals, non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed, people departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, people leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by Refugee Action (prior to April 2011, run by the International Organisation for Migration) and people who it has been established left without informing the immigration authorities. ⁽³⁾ Provisional figures.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111129/text/111129w0001.htm#11112954000011>

Press Releases

Commission in Scotland presents findings of its Inquiry into Human Trafficking

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2011/november/commission-in-scotland-present-findings-of-its-inquiry-into-human-trafficking/>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

Scottish Refugee Council Protection Appeal

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/1434_this_winter_support_our_protection_appeal

Asylum policy: Less talk, more solidarity

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/1493&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Asylum policy: More trust through more solidarity between EU Member States

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/861&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Human Rights based approach to trafficking

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/HumanRightsbasedapproachtotrafficking.aspx>

New Publications

Inquiry into Human Trafficking in Scotland

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/Scotland/Human_Trafficking_in_Scotland_inquiry_into_human_trafficking_in_scotland-full-report.pdf

Working on integration at local level

http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/publications/Toolkit_EN_low%20final.pdf

To Stay or Not to Stay

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/ToStayOrNotToStay-2011.pdf>

News

Foreign undergraduates think visa changes make them unwelcome

http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/education/foreign_undergraduates_think_visa_changes_make_them_unwelcome_1_1988018

Immigration cuts: Londoners and Scots 'more opposed'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-15991116>

Wanted: more immigrants to boost British economy

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/wanted-more-immigrants-to-boost-british-economy-6271541.html>

Attempts to stop human trafficking are 'piecemeal'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/attempts-to-stop-human-trafficking-are-piecemeal-1.1136860>

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Race Relations

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S4M-01462 Clare Adamson: North Lanarkshire Muslim Women and Family Alliance—That the Parliament congratulates North Lanarkshire Muslim Women and Family Alliance on its Hajj - Eid Al Adha Festival celebration on 26 December 2011; considers that the children who acted and explained Hajj rituals to attendees gave a wonderful performance, and recognises the Muslim and Abrahamic Roots Group that fosters mutual understanding of the Muslim and Christian faiths in the North Lanarkshire community.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?referencenumber=S4M-01462&isinanything=true&resultsperpage=10>

New Publications

From Segregation to Inclusion: Roma Pupils in the United Kingdom

http://equality.uk.com/Education_files/From%20segregation%20to%20integration_1.pdf

White working-class views of neighbourhood, cohesion and change

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/working-class-community-cohesion-full.pdf>

White working-class neighbourhoods: Common themes and policy suggestions

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/working-class-neighbourhoods-summary.pdf>

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Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Equality Act 2010

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government which persons or organisations within the United Kingdom opposed the bringing into force of Section 9(5)(a) of the Equality Act 2010, as claimed in a statement by Mr Hoggan to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 24 August.[HL13474]

Reply from Baroness Verma: The statement made by the UK delegation to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination did not refer to specific persons or organisations but related to the fact that, in the UK Government's view, there is no consensus of opinion in the UK with regards to the need for legislative protection against caste discrimination, even among those communities potentially most affected by it. For example, the Minister for Equalities, Lynne Featherstone, together with various government officials, attended an independent meeting on 15 March chaired by Lord Dholakia, at which the issue of caste legislation was discussed. At that meeting a number of participants spoke to oppose the bringing into force of Section 9(5)(a) of the Equality Act 2010. However, this was an independent meeting organised by concerned groups and individuals to lobby the Government on the issue, and no government record of who participated or spoke exists.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/111128w0001.htm#1111288000630>

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Equality

Lord Stoddart of Swindon: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord McNally on 16 November (*Official Report*, col. 683), whether the "tipping point" criterion constitutes discrimination against white men from the ethnic majority and undermines their human rights; and whether they will explain how the choice will be made between women and ethnic minorities and among the ethnic minorities themselves.[HL13645]

Reply from the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): The application of the "tipping point" provisions contained within the Equality Act 2010 does not constitute discrimination against any applicant.

The Ministry of Justice has recently published a consultation, which includes the proposal that the appointments process should be amended to enable the utilisation of the Equality Act 2010 positive action provisions where the merits of the candidates are essentially indistinguishable. This proposal retains the fundamental principle that judicial appointments should always be made on merit. However, where at the end of the selection process two candidates are essentially indistinguishable, then any of the eight protected characteristics could be applied to decide who to select for appointment.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/111128w0001.htm#1111288000629>

The answer to which the above question refers can be read at

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/111116-0001.htm#11111636000525>

News

'Mindless' equality monitoring costing employers £1bn a year

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/8918902/Mindless-equality-monitoring-costing-employers-1bn-a-year-report.html>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Stewart Maxwell (West Scotland) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will provide a breakdown of recorded religious hate crimes in 2010-11 expressed as the number of incidents per 1,000 members of each religious affiliation. (S4W-04247)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: The report *Religiously Aggravated Offending in Scotland 2010-11* was published on 18 November 2011 and presented information on the number of religious aggravation charges (from Section 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003) that were reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) by the police in 2010-11. This report only presented information about the nature of the religious belief that was targeted through the offensive conduct and not about the religious affiliation of the victims of incidents.

The following table shows religious aggravations charges which were reported to

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

COPFS in 2010-11 for conduct which was derogatory to each religious affiliation, and the number of charges per 1,000 members of each, as recorded in the 2001 census.

Religious aggravation charges derogatory to religion in Scotland in 2010-11 per 1,000 members:

Religion Targeted ^{1,2}	Number of Charges ³	Number of Members (000) ⁴	Charges per 1,000 Members
Christianity ⁵	657	3,294.6	0.2
of which			
Roman Catholicism ⁶	400	803.7	0.5
Protestantism ⁶	253	2,146.3	0.1
Judaism	16	6.4	2.5
Islam	15	42.6	0.3
Unknown	8	N/A	N/A
Total	696	-	-

Notes:

1. Information on religious aggravations charges is taken from *Religiously Aggravated Offending in Scotland 2010-11*, Scottish Government. Available online at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/11/17154035/0>.

2. The number of charges refers to the religion that conduct was derogatory towards and not the number of charges where victims had the relevant affiliation. Information about victims' religious affiliations are not recorded by the police.

3. There were 693 section 74 charges reported to COPFS in 2010-11 but some charges referred to conduct that was derogatory to more than one religious affiliation.

4. Religious group membership information data are taken from the 2001 census. Available online at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/02/20757/53570>

5. There were four charges included in the 657 charge total which referred to conduct which was offensive to Christianity in general and were not directed towards Protestantism or Roman Catholicism.

6. Membership is based on self-reporting in the 2001 census. Christian denominations are presented in the census as "Roman Catholic", "Church of Scotland" and "other Christian". For the purpose of this table only "Church of Scotland" membership has been attributed as "Protestant" because "other Christian" may include a mixture of Protestant and non-Protestant denominations. This may lead to an under-reporting of the "charges by 1,000 members" in the protestant category.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?referencenumber=S4W-04247&isinanything=true&resultsperpage=10>

James Kelly: To ask the Scottish Executive what work it has carried out since 2007 to promote the use of anti-sectarian education resources to teachers. (S4W-03238)

James Kelly: To ask the Scottish Executive what guidance it has provided to local authorities since 2007 for schools to teach about sectarianism. (S4W-03244)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: Curriculum for Excellence, the national curriculum for Scottish schools, aims to provide the right environment to enable young people to develop as informed and responsible citizens. Curriculum for Excellence challenges schools to develop children and young people as responsible citizens who show respect for others; who can understand different beliefs and cultures, and who are developing informed, ethical views of complex issues.

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Curriculum for Excellence also challenges schools to support the health and wellbeing of their pupils. Learning through health and wellbeing promotes confidence, independent thinking and positive attitudes. It supports children and young people to develop respect for others, to acknowledge diversity and to understand that it is everyone's responsibility to challenge discrimination.

Anti-sectarian education plays a really important role in all of this. Many different curriculum areas can be involved.

Since 2007 the Scottish Government has provided funding to a wide range of organisations to deliver projects to tackle sectarianism and all forms of religious intolerance across all aspects of Scottish society. A number of these organisations have offered support to schools and local authorities.

Education Scotland, a Scottish Government agency, is the national body responsible for supporting quality and improvement in learning and teaching from early years to adult and community learning in Scotland.

In 2007 Education Scotland, the then HMIE, published a report: Count us in Promoting Understanding and Combating Sectarianism Practical Examples from Primary, Secondary and Special Schools which aims to promote inclusive practices. The booklet brings together some examples of successful practice in promoting mutual understanding and combating sectarianism. It offers guidance on good practice and examples of resources to combat sectarianism. The report can be found at: <http://www.hmie.gov.uk/documents/publication/cuipepss.html>.

Education Scotland, and previously HMIE, will comment and publish reports on schools which are of good practice or where areas for improvement are identified in regard to sectarianism and twinning approaches where appropriate.

The Education Scotland website also offers lesson plans, resources and aspects of good practice in teaching and learning with regards to tackling sectarianism.

As part of the work being taken forward in Scotland to tackle sectarianism we will work with partners to support use of sectarianism as a context for learning which inspires and engages young people.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?referencenumber=S4W-03238&isinanything=true&resultsperpage=10>

James Kelly: To ask the Scottish Executive what funding it has allocated to anti-sectarian initiatives in (a) 2011-12, (b) 2012-13, (c) 2013-14 and (d) 2014-15 and from which budget lines. (S4W-03239)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government announced a package of £527,000 of funding to organisations working to tackle sectarianism in 2011-12 on 8 March 2011, information on this is provided in the document Funding to Tackle Sectarianism 2010-11: Scottish Government Press Release: a copy of which has been placed in the Scottish Parliament's Information Centre (Bib. number 53302).

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/03/08152206>. No funding decisions have been taken beyond the current financial year.

I also refer the member to the answer to question S4W-03235 on 25 November 2011. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?referencenumber=S4W-03239&isinanything=true&resultsperpage=10>

James Kelly: To ask the Scottish Executive what plans it has to update the 2006 Action Plan on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland. (S4W-03240)

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: The actions set out in the Action Plan on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland, introduced by the last Scottish Labour-led administration, have been completed and this document is therefore historic. There are no plans to use this as the basis for future Scottish Government work to tackle sectarianism.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?referencenumber=S4W-03240&isinanything=true&resultsperpage=10>

James Kelly: To ask the Scottish Executive what action it is taking to ensure that its directorates have a joined-up approach to dealing with sectarianism. (S4W-03242)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: On 23 November, I announced the formation of a Ministerial Group on Tackling Sectarianism to coordinate the Scottish Government's long term work to tackle sectarianism. This group will work across all portfolio areas to ensure that our approach to tackling sectarianism is joined up, cross cutting and covers all policy areas.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?referencenumber=S4W-03242&isinanything=true&resultsperpage=10>

James Kelly: To ask the Scottish Executive how many (a) charges and (b) convictions there have been under section 38 of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010. (S4W-03243)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: (a) There have been 29,545 charges reported to the Procurator Fiscal under section 38 of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 between the time this section of the act came into force (6 October, 2010) and 30 September 2011.

Source – Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Services.

(b) Information on convictions for 2010-11 will not be available until publication of the Criminal Proceedings in Scotland, 2010-11 Statistical Bulletin. This is due to be published in December 2011.

Source – Justice Analytical Service.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?referencenumber=S4W-03243&isinanything=true&resultsperpage=10>

James Kelly: To ask the Scottish Executive what guidance it has provided to local authorities since 2007 on dealing with sectarianism. (S4W-03245)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: I met with COSLA on 14 September and SOLACE on 19 July to discuss issues relating to sectarianism including the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Bill. No guidance has been issued to local authorities on dealing with sectarianism.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?referencenumber=S4W-03245&isinanything=true&resultsperpage=10>

James Kelly: To ask the Scottish Executive whether it plans to review the operation of section 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003. (S4W-03246)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: On 18 November the Scottish Government published A breakdown of religious aggravations charges (section 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2010) in Scotland in 2010-11. We are also committed to annual analysis of the data collected in relation to religiously aggravated offences. The report can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/11/17154035/0>.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?referencenumber=S4W-03246&isinanything=true&resultsperpage=10>

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

James Kelly: To ask the Scottish Executive how many football banning orders have been issued to people convicted of (a) racist or (b) sectarian behaviour since their introduction. (S4W-03725)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: A total of 166 football banning orders have been issued on conviction between 1 September 2006 and 31 October 2011. Of these, 12 have been issued in relation to racist behaviour, and 62 in relation to sectarian behaviour.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?referencenumber=S4W-03725&isinanything=true&resultsperpage=10>

James Kelly: To ask the Scottish Executive when the Ministerial Delivery Group on Tackling Sectarianism last met. (S4W-03727)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: The Ministerial Delivery Group on Tackling Sectarianism was an initiative of a previous administration, when an administration changes at the end of a parliamentary term, all Cabinet Sub-Committees, Ministerial and Delivery Groups cease to exist. Information about the group can be found on the Scottish Government website using the attached link: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/14944/23093>.

The Scottish Government has consistently championed work to tackle sectarianism through funding organisations like Sense Over Sectarianism, Nil By Mouth, the Iona Community, Show Racism the Red Card, Show Bigotry the Red Card and YouthLink Scotland to develop resources and deliver specific projects and initiatives to tackle sectarianism. During the period of the last administration we expanded the range of work being delivered from being largely focussed on school age children and young people, to also include work aimed at adults and supported the development of resources to tackle sectarianism in the workplace and work to tackle sectarianism among adult prisoners. This work continues and in the 2011-12 financial year alone we will be providing £527,000 to such organisations to work in communities, schools, workplaces and prisons to prevent abusive sectarian behaviour from occurring.

In 2007 Education Scotland, the then HMIE, published a report: Count us in Promoting Understanding and Combating Sectarianism Practical Examples from Primary, Secondary and Special Schools which aims to promote inclusive practices. The booklet brings together some examples of successful practice in promoting mutual understanding and combating sectarianism. It offers guidance on good practice and examples of resources to combat sectarianism. The report can be found at <http://www.hmie.gov.uk/documents/publication/cuipess.html>. Education Scotland is building on this work by developing work in schools using the Curriculum for Excellence and, over the next few months, they will be aiming to find good practice, to help improve resources to support teaching and learning, and to support and encourage discussion across the country about how we can eradicate sectarianism through education from cradle to grave. This is a very positive step in ensuring that educational tools and approaches to tackling sectarianism are robust and fit for purpose.

The Joint Action Group – including representation from the Scottish Football Association, the Scottish Premier League, the Scottish Football League, Celtic Football Club, Rangers Football Club, Strathclyde Police and the Scottish Government – has worked in partnership to develop and deliver measures to tackle alcohol misuse, violence and sectarian bigotry associated with football. This work is also ongoing. We have introduced the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Bill to stamp out offensive behaviour at football.

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

On 23 November I announced unprecedented funding of £9 million over the next three years to tackle sectarianism in all its forms and to deliver wide-ranging initiatives and projects across the country. I also announced that we are making up to £60,000 available in the current financial year to allow the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) and Voluntary Action Fund (VAF) to pilot work in seven locations across Scotland to test the impact and effectiveness of working directly with communities to develop tailored solutions to the sectarian problems they experience, and support the delivery of those solutions.

We also published an analysis of religiously aggravated offences – Section 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003 – covering a one year period from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 on 18 November and are committed to undertaking year-on-year analysis of this aggravation so that this data can be analysed along with other available evidence currently available to map out and better target initiatives as well as informing the development of future work.

In addition I have formed, and will chair, a Ministerial Group on Tackling Sectarianism which will include the Minister for Learning and Skills; Minister for Local Government and Planning; and Minister for Sport; and Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs. This group will work together to coordinate all of the Scottish Government's activities on tackling sectarianism and ensure that all portfolios are contributing to this agenda.

I also refer the member to the answer to question S4W-03242 on 25 November 2011. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?referencenumber=S4W-03727&isinanything=true&resultsperpage=10>

News

Charity launches radical 13-point plan to combat the scourge of sectarianism

http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/charity_launches_radical_13_point_plan_to_combat_the_scourge_of_sectarianism_1_1990157

Call for sectarian incident mapping

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/call-for-sectarian-incident-mapping-1.1137778>

Charity Nil By Mouth in bigot rehabilitation call

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-16000582>

Tram passenger who allegedly hurled racist abuse arrested

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/nov/28/tram-passenger-racist-abuse-arrested>

'My tram experience' is shocking – but should it be cause for arrest?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/nov/29/my-tram-experience-croydon>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Motion

S4M-01451 Bob Doris: Supporting Amnesty International's Write for Rights Campaign—That the Parliament supports Human Rights Day on 10 December 2011 and celebrates the 63rd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; however, while it laments that human rights violations still occur globally on a daily basis, it strives to protect human rights in Scotland and internationally and, accordingly, supports Amnesty International's Write for Rights campaign which aims to unite people all around the world in writing to figures of authority across the planet urging them to stop human rights violations; recognizes the power of the individual to support the oppressed and challenge oppressors, and encourages the Scottish people, including our elected representatives, to Write for Rights and exercise their freedom of expression by defending the rights of others.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?referencenumber=S4M-01451&isinanything=true&resultsperpage=10>

Press Releases

Community engagement in planning

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/11/29113901>

Celebrating Scotland the world over

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/11/29124355>

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New Publications

UK Giving 2011: An overview of charitable giving in the UK, 2010/11

https://www.cafonline.org/pdf/UK_Giving_2011_Full_Rep.pdf

Urban Disorder and Gangs

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/UrbanDisorderandGangs-2011.pdf>

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Other News

Churches, youth groups, sports clubs and other charities are being given the chance to voice their opinion on the challenges of attracting and enthusing volunteer helpers

<http://www.vds.org.uk/NewsEvents/News/tabid/145/Default.aspx?newsItemID=4229>

VDS and STUC join forces to strengthen relations

<http://www.vds.org.uk/NewsEvents/News/tabid/145/Default.aspx?newsItemID=4230>

Muslim professor a first for university

http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/education/muslim_professor_a_first_for_university_1_1988122

Other News (continued)

Should animals be stunned before slaughter?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-14779271>

New law aims to help those being forced into marriage

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/politics/new-law-aims-to-help-those-being-forced-into-marriage-1-1987685>

Young women and girls most likely to be victims

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/young-women-and-girls-most-likely-to-be-victims-1-1987687>

Case study: 'I have to share my life with someone I don't really want to be with'

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/politics/case-study-i-have-to-share-my-life-with-someone-i-don-t-really-want-to-be-with-1-1987686>

Forced marriages law welcomed

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/forced-marriages-law-welcomed-1.1136897>

Inside an arranged marriage

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/inside-an-arranged-marriage-1.1136781>

'Honour' crimes against women in UK rising rapidly, figures show

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/dec/03/honour-crimes-uk-rising>

'Honour attacks' soar by nearly 50%

<http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/scotland/honour-attacks-soar-by-nearly-50-1-1990912>

Protest against same-sex marriage at Holyrood

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-15961903>

Kirk joins fight against homosexual marriages

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/politics/kirk-joins-fight-against-homosexual-marriages-1-1990223>

'Many will quit Kirk over stance on gay marriage' says minister

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/politics/many-will-quit-kirk-over-stance-on-gay-marriage-says-minister-1-1990598>

Kirk 'may soften stance' against gay marriage

<http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/politics/kirk-may-soften-stance-against-gay-marriage-1-1990916>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Holyrood

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/29678.aspx>

Bills in Progress (continued) Westminster

Human Trafficking (Further Provisions and Support for Victims) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/humantraffickingfurtherprovisionsandsupportforvictimshl.html>

Scotland Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/scotland.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Aviation security: Consultation on a statutory authority to carry scheme

(6 December 2011)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/authority-to-carry/>

**** closes this week!**

The Registration of Civil Partnerships Same Sex Marriage (9 December 2011)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/254430/0120640.pdf>

Migration Advisory Committee: level of the 2012/13 annual limit on tier 2 and associated policies (21 December 2011)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/mac-evidence-document>

Public Focus Strategy (closes 23 December 2011)

http://www.oscr.org.uk/media/279989/public_focus_strategy.pdf

Right to family reunification of third-country nationals living in the EU

(1 March 2012)

http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/consulting_public/consulting_0023_en.htm

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Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Collecting & Using Equalities Information

7 December 2011 in Glasgow (10.30 – 4.30)

GCVS training to provide best practice examples, ideas on how to use the information you collect and practical tips for implementing successful monitoring systems. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/5ta8f3p>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

Working with Interpreters

8 December 2011 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an understanding of best practice when working with interpreters, learn about service providers' responsibilities, and how to develop or improve existing practice. Participants will also learn how to communicate effectively with their service-users when using interpreters. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/3gt2h8b> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** this week!**

Equality in Scotland's Third Sector

8 December 2011 in Glasgow (10.30 – 2.30)

Glasgow Council for Voluntary Services launch of a new online equality resource. For information contact Stacey Anderson stacey.anderson@gcvs.org.uk / 0141 332 2444.

**** this week!**

Third Sector Forum Launch

9 December 2011 in Glasgow (2.00 – 3.30)

The Third Sector Forum will bring together voluntary organisations, social enterprises and volunteering organisations from across Glasgow. For information contact Tom Warrington tom.warrington@gcvs.org.uk.

**** this week!**

Photography Road Show

10 December 2011 in Edinburgh (10.00 5.00)

The Autograph ABP Photography Road Show calls on Scots from culturally diverse backgrounds to unearth their photographic treasures. From birthday and street parties to intimate scenes of domestic life and high street studio portraits, Autograph ABP is searching for images that capture the 'missing chapter' of Britain's cultural history. For information see

http://www.autograph-abp.co.uk/C.aspx?VP3=CMS3&VF=ABP_Programme&FRM=CMSRightFrame:ABP_525

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children & Young People

16th (9.30-4.30pm) & 17th (9.30-12.30pm) January 2012 in Edinburgh

13th (9.30-4.30pm) & 14th(9.30-12.30pm) February 2012in Edinburgh

19th(9.30-4.30pm) & 20th(9.30-12.30pm) March 2012in Edinburgh

Shakti training to increase awareness and understanding of issues facing Minority Ethnic women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse. For information contact Mridul, Lisa, or Aleksandra 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

Research, Ethics and Active Citizenship: Towards Guidelines for Ethical Research Practice

18 January 2012 in Glasgow (11.30 – 3.30)

BEMIS and GRAMNet seminar to discuss how changes in social science and humanities research methods have led to a deeper commitment to active citizenship and human rights education. For information contact seminar@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047 or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/12ii_bemis.pdf.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Towards Guidelines for Ethical Research Practice

Week of 13 February – date still to be confirmed – in Edinburgh

BEMIS and GRAMNet consultation on the subject of guidelines for ethical research practice in social sciences and humanities. For information contact seminar@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047 or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/12ii_bemis.pdf.

New Muslim Cool

22 March 2012 in Glasgow (all day)

Faith Matters event about the work of Hamza Perez a Muslim Hispanic American whose multi-faith work has seen Christians and Jews support him during difficult times post 9/11. For information contact pa@faith-matters.co.uk / 0207 554 8847 or see <http://faith-matters.org/images/stories/Faith%20Matters%20New%20Muslim%20Cool%20UK%20Tour%20March%202010.pdf>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOofCentralGovernment/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/>

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>

Useful Links (continued)

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

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

BBC News24 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/default.stm>

BBC Parliament online

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

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The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (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 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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