

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 Parliament website has recently been redesigned, so that links published in previous issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on the Scottish Parliament website, copy the details from MEMO into the search facility at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/help/searchadvanced.aspx>.

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

The Scottish Parliament is now in recess until 3 September, and the UK Parliament is in recess until 5 September. The next issues of MEMO will be on 20 August, and 10 September.

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Visas

Lord King of West Bromwich: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many bogus colleges' visa sponsorship licences were revoked due to misuse of their licence conditions in (1) 2009, (2) 2010, and (3) 2011.[HL1608]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): The term "bogus colleges" applied to institutions that were not offering any educational or training courses. As such the term does not apply to all sponsors who have had their licences revoked. Licences can be revoked for a variety of non-compliance reasons including when an institution has failed to apply for a renewal of its highly trusted sponsor status.

The number of licences revoked in 2009, 2010 and 2011 is:

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Year	2009	2010	2011
Revoked Licences	15	43	324

This information is taken from local management information which has not been subject to national statistical protocols.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/120723w0002.htm#12072311001071>

Overseas Students

Lord Turnberg: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will ask the Migration Advisory Committee to undertake an assessment of the social and economic impact of non-European Union student immigration. [HL1712]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): No decision has been taken on whether the Government will ask the Migration Advisory Committee to undertake such an assessment of the social and economic impact of non-European Union student immigration.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/120723w0001.htm#12072311001052>

Immigration: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children are currently detained for immigration purposes in (1) removal centres, (2) short-term holding facilities, and (3) pre-departure accommodation. [HL1893]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): Latest published figures show that as at 31 March 2012 there was one child held, solely under Immigration Act powers, at Cedars pre-departure accommodation.

The Home Office releases statistics on detention, solely under Immigration Act powers on a quarterly basis, within Immigration Statistics and on children entering detention on a monthly basis which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Science, Research and Statistics website at: <http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/>.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldtoday/writtens/31072012.htm#toptop>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial, health and social support is available to asylum seekers; and whether they have plans to reform the current system. [HL1844]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are supported by the UK Border Agency under Section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 until their asylum claims are decided.

Accommodation is provided to destitute asylum seekers and dependants and financial support given to meet their essential living needs. The table below sets out the weekly rates available to the categories of dependants that may be supported.

LEVELS OF CASH SUPPORT FROM 18 APRIL 2011	
SINGLE PERSON	£
Aged 18 or over (excluding lone parent)	36.62
Aged 25 years or over (excluding lone parent), where the decision to provide cash support was made before 5 October 2009 and the person reached age 25 prior to that date.	42.62

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

QUALIFYING COUPLES	
Both 18 years or over	72.52
LONE PARENT AGE 18 OR OVER	
Age 18 or over	43.94
PERSONAL ALLOWANCE FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN	
Person aged under 16	52.96
Person aged 16 but under 18 (except where the person is a member of a Qualifying Couple)	39.80

In addition, asylum seekers who have young children aged between one and three years are eligible to receive an extra £3 per week per a child. Children aged less than one year attract an extra £5 per week per a child. Asylum seekers can also apply for a one-off maternity payment of £300 to help with the costs arising from the birth of a child.

The contractual arrangements with accommodation suppliers and voluntary sector partners also provide for information briefings on the rights and responsibilities of the asylum seekers whilst they are in the United Kingdom and practical advice on how they can access health care and legal assistance to pursue their asylum claims. Asylum seekers are entitled to access NHS care without charge while their claim or appeal is being considered.

There are no plans to reform the current system.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial, health and social support is available to asylum seekers whose applications have been refused; and whether they have plans to reform the current system.[HL1845]

Reply from Lord Henley: Failed asylum seekers may supported by the UK Border Agency under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. In order to be granted support, they need to show that they are destitute and can satisfy one or more of the conditions set out in Regulation 3(2) of the Immigration and Asylum (Provision of Accommodation to Failed Asylum-Seekers) Regulations 2005.

Failed asylum seekers in receipt of Section 4 support will continue to receive it until the barrier to leaving the UK, upon which their support relies, is resolved. The support provided under section four consists of self-catering accommodation, plus a weekly allowance for the purchase of food and other essential items. In exceptional cases, full-board accommodation may be provided, depending on availability. The UK Border Agency is explicitly prevented by legislation from providing Section 4 support in the form of cash and therefore the weekly allowance is provided via the Azure payment card. The weekly allowance is set at a flat rate to reflect the temporary nature of the support and is currently set at £35.39 per person per week.

Whilst not entitled to access to NHS care without charge, failed asylum seekers may apply for assistance with health costs under the NHS Low Income Scheme, using an HC1 form.

There are no plans to reform the current system.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will grant asylum seekers permission to work if their applications remain undetermined after six months.[HL1846]

Reply from Lord Henley: The Government believe that it is important to maintain a distinction between economic migration and asylum. For this reason, an asylum applicant's claim needs to have been outstanding for at least one year before they can apply for permission to work. This is in line with our obligations under the EU Reception Conditions Directive.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will grant asylum seekers permission to work if their applications have been refused but they cannot be returned to their country of origin.[HL1847]

Reply from Lord Henley: The Government believe that it is important to maintain a distinction between economic migration and asylum. Therefore there are currently no plans to allow failed asylum seekers who have exhausted their appeal rights to take up employment. Those who the courts have ruled have no right to remain in the UK should return home.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum applications remained undecided at the end of (1) 2009, (2) 2010, (3) 2011, and (4) at present.[HL1848]

Reply from Lord Henley: The number of asylum applications pending an initial decision is published on an annual and quarterly basis. Latest figures are available in Table as.01 and as.01.q of the release *Immigration Statistics, January to March 2012*, available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q1-2012/> .

The number of applications pending an initial decision in 2010 was 11,623 and in 2011 was 11,297. Latest available figures for the first quarter of 2012 show that the number of applications awaiting initial decision was 11,454.

The number of applications awaiting an initial decision prior to 2010 has previously been published but is not available on a comparable basis following a change to the method by which these figures are produced.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum age dispute cases are currently awaiting determination.[HL1895]

Reply from Lord Henley: The data requested are not held in a format compatible with National Statistics protocols, or produced as part of the UK Border Agency's standard reports. However, the UK Border Agency publishes immigration statistics including age disputed asylum applications annually and quarterly, which are available from the Home Office Research and Statistics website. The figures show the number of age disputed asylum applications by nationality. These can be found in the Library of the House, as well as the following website:
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-tabs-q1-2012/asylum4-q1-2012-tabs>.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldtoday/writtens/31072012.htm#toptop>

Asylum Seekers: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many child asylum seekers have been erroneously detained as adults in the last five years.[HL1894]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): The number of child asylum seekers who have been erroneously detained as adults in the last five years cannot be determined without examination of individual records at disproportionate cost. Age dispute asylum applicants will only be considered for detention in the following circumstances:

there is credible and clear documentary evidence that they are 18 years of age or over;
a full "Merton-compliant" age assessment by a local authority has been carried out and is available stating that they are 18 years of age or over.
their physical appearance/demeanour very strongly suggests that they are significantly over 18 years of age and no other credible evidence exists to the contrary.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

All other age dispute applicants are not detained. They are treated as children until a full age assessment has been conducted by a local authority and all available evidence has been duly considered.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldtoday/writtens/31072012.htm#toptop>

Press Release

Changes to the way we manage sponsor requests from Monday 30 July 2012

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/68-sponsor-details>

New Publications

Monthly asylum application tables - May 2012

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/asylum-may-2012>

Children entering detention held solely under Immigration Act powers June 2012

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/child-detention-jun2012?view=Binary>

2011 Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union and on the Activities of the European Asylum Support Office

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/pdf/easo_annual_report_final.pdf

The UK's response to human trafficking: Fit for purpose?

http://www.ippr.org/images/media/files/publication/2012/07/beyondirregularity-trafficking_July2012_9382.pdf

News

UK Border Agency backlog worries MPs

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-18945047>

UK Border's backlog 'size of Newcastle'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/uk-borders-backlog-size-of-newcastle.18223993>

Backlog of 275,000 cases 'will take UK Border Agency years to clear'

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/backlog-of-275-000-cases-will-take-uk-border-agency-years-to-clear-1-2426848>

Murderers and rapists among 250 foreign criminals allowed to avoid deportation

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/murderers-and-rapists-among-250-foreign-criminals-allowed-to-avoid-deportation-1-2426993>

Calls to exclude students from immigration targets

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/calls-to-exclude-students-from-immigration-targets.2012075197>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Hard line on immigrants 'holds back the UK'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/hard-line-on-immigrants-holds-back-the-uk-7979663.html>

Strong immigration pushes population to new record high

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/strong-immigration-pushes-population-to-new-record-high.18345722>

Migration pushes population to highest since records began

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/analysis-migration-pushes-population-to-highest-since-records-began-1-2448112>

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Equality

New Publication

New Scottish Government "Equality Evidence Finder" webpages

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Equality/Equalities>

News

Star: black people 'not part of the fabric of society'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/hei-fi/news/star-black-people-not-part-of-the-fabric-of-society-7972712.html?origin=internalSearch>

English law is fair to women, not 'unfair' to Muslims

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/relationships/divorce/9434099/English-law-is-fair-to-women-not-unfair-to-Muslims.html>

'Blind marking' urged to raise exam score of pupils from ethnic minorities

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jul/29/race-schools-education-banks-lib-dems>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Press Releases

Anti-Muslim prejudice hinders integration

<http://tinyurl.com/ctzacyf>

For Roma Holocaust Remembrance Day, States must confront modern-day hatred, violence and discrimination against Roma

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Media.aspx?IsMediaPage=true&LangID=E>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) **New Publication**

Multiple discrimination against Muslim women in Europe

<http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/Doc/XrefViewPDF.asp?FileID=18748&Language=EN>

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Other Holyrood

Press Releases

Same sex marriage to be legalised

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/07/same-sex25072012>

Scotland's population highest ever

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/08/scotlands-population02082012>

New Publications

Registration of Civil Partnerships, Same Sex Marriage: Consultation Analysis

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00397030.pdf>

Consultation on the registration of civil partnership and same sex marriage - responses from organisations

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/07/9221/downloads>

Scotland's Population 2011 - The Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/at-a-glance/annrev/2011/index.html>

News

Gay marriage to be introduced in Scotland

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-18981287>

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Other News

OSCR Online reaches first milestone

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/oscr-online-reaches-first-milestone/>

Protecting the victims of forced marriage

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/protecting-the-victims-of-forced-marriage.18356838>

Forced marriage advice to help victims with learning disabilities

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-19074557>

Other News (continued)

Hidden world of female genital mutilation in the UK

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-18900803>

Why are black women less likely to breastfeed?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2012/jul/23/kimberly-seals-allers-breastfeeding-advocate>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Equality Act 2010: employer liability for harassment of employees by third parties

(closing date 7 August 2012)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/third-party-harassment/consultation-document?view=Binary>

**** closes this week!**

Equality Act 2010: repeal of two enforcement provisions (closing date 7 August 2012)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/equality-act-wider-enforcement/consultation-document?view=Binary>

**** closes this week!**

Freedom of Information (Amendment) Bill (closing date 8 August 2012)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/52148.aspx>

Rules on the entry and residence of non-EU national researchers, students, school pupils, unremunerated trainees and volunteers in the EU

{closing date 23 August 2012)

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/public-consultation/2012/consulting_0024_en.htm

Draft Communications Data Bill (closing date 23 August 2012)

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/joint-committees/communications-data/commsdataCfE.pdf>

Ethnic minority female unemployment (closing date 3 September 2012)

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/projects-and-publications/parliament/appg-2/appg-inquiry.html>

Interpretation and Translation services and the Applied Language Solutions contract (closing date 3 September 2012)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/justice-committee/news/interpretation-and-translation-services/>

Runnymede Equality Survey (closing date 7 September 2012)

<http://rminsight.co.uk/surveys/runnymede/>

Your rights, your future (closing date 9 September 2012)

<http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=EUCitizenship3&lang=en>

Integration index (closing date 10 September 2012)

<https://www.survey.bris.ac.uk/bham/refugeeintegration/>

Consultations (continued)

Investing In and Paying for Your Water Services from 2015

(closing date 11 September 2012)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00395226.pdf>

A Scotland for Children: A Consultation on the Children and Young People Bill

(closing date 25 September 2012)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00396537.pdf>

Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill (26 September 2012)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00394524.pdf>

Reforming Scots Criminal Law and Practice: The Carloway Report

(closing date 5 October 2012)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00396483.pdf>

Proposed Lobbying Transparency Bill (closing date 29 October 2012)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_MembersBills/20120706_Lobbying_Transparency_consultation.pdf

Here to Stay: People with learning disabilities from ethnic minority communities including new migrants (no closing date given)

<http://www.snapsurveys.com/swh/surveypreview.asp?k=132127029508>

Facing Facts: EU project to improve monitoring and recording of hate crimes and incidents throughout the European Union (no closing date given)

http://www.ceji.org/facingfacts/?page_id=158

Future rules on the entry and residence of non-EU national researchers, students, school pupils, unremunerated trainees and volunteers in the EU (no closing date given)

<http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=Immigration2012>

**** Football Equity: Make your voice heard** (no closing date given)

http://www.scottishfa.co.uk/scottish_fa_news.cfm?page=1848&newsCategoryID=4&newsSID=10127

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

Supporting Communities to Tackle Sectarianism

Closing date 31 August 2012-08-05

Scottish Government funded programme to support community-led projects that recognise sectarianism as an issue in their community and want to explore approaches to tackling it effectively. For information and an application form, see

<http://tinyurl.com/cbfnzmc>

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**** *this week!***

What Makes a Person Scottish?

7 August 2012 in Edinburgh (12.30 – 1.30)

Festival of Spirituality and Peace debate: Does Scottishness and Scotland need re-inventing for the twenty-first century? For information see <http://s372540234.initial-website.co.uk/2012-programme/conversation/>

**** *this week!***

Scotland's Apartheid – Can We Overcome the Green and Orange Sectarian Divide?

11 August 2012 in Edinburgh (12.00 – 1.00)

Festival of Spirituality and Peace in partnership with the Scottish Government: Roseanna Cunningham MSP invites Bishop David Chillingworth, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, and Duncan Morrow, former CEO of Ulster Community Relations Council to reflect on current approaches taken by politicians, churches and social initiatives to guide their communities to peaceful co-existence. For information see <http://s372540234.initial-website.co.uk/2012-programme/conversation/>

**** *next week!***

Festival of Politics

17 – 25 August 2012 at the Scottish Parliament

[http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/pdf/2012 Festival of Politics Programme.pdf](http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/pdf/2012%20Festival%20of%20Politics%20Programme.pdf)

**** *next week!***

Scottish Irish Conversation on Sectarianism

17 August 2012 at the Scottish Parliament (10.00 – 11.00)

Festival of Politics discussion to exchange knowledge between community leaders, academics and policy makers. For information see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/65.htm>

**** *next week!***

Singin I'm No a Billy He's a Tim

17 August 2012 at the Scottish Parliament (6.30 – 8.00)

Festival of Politics performance exploring play exploring bigotry and ethnic identity. For information see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/56.htm>

The Essentials of Asylum: understanding what causes refugees to flee and the process of seeking protection

21 August 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 1.00)

28 September 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work with people seeking asylum and refugees to provide an introduction to core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/bmb7pll>.

Who are 'Jock Tamson's Bairns'? – Attitudes Towards Migration in Scotland

24 August 2012 at the Scottish Parliament (10.30 – 11.30)

Festival of Politics debate Scottish about attitudes to immigration, and whether they support the claims of Scotland to be a more welcoming country. For information see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/146.htm>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Making the Law Work for You – How Would You Improve the Justice System?

24 August 2012 at the Scottish Parliament (1.00 – 2.00)

Festival of Politics discussion about mediation and arbitration, improving our system of human rights, the benefits of legal aid and making the law 'less legal'. For information see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/135.htm>

NGOs Against Modern-Day Slavery

24 August 2012 at the Scottish Parliament (2.30 – 3.30)

Festival of Politics discussion about the role of artists in preventing and combating human trafficking as modern-day slavery. For information see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/148.htm>

**** The Equality Act 2010: what do we need to know?**

30 August 2012 in Glasgow (10.30 – 4.30)

GCVS training to explore the main areas covered by the Act, including age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity, looking at what has changed and what is new. For information see

http://www.gcv.org.uk/whats_on/1505_equality_act_2010_what_do_we_need_to_know

Working with Interpreters

31 August 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work with non-English speaking service users, including asylum seekers and refugees, who need a comprehensive understanding of how to work with interpreters. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1574_working_with_interpreters

**** Introduction to Equalities monitoring**

13 September 2012 in Glasgow (10.30 – 4.30)

GCVS training providing best practice examples, ideas on how to use the information you collect and practical tips for implementing successful monitoring systems. For information see http://www.gcv.org.uk/whats_on/1508_introduction_to_equalities_monitoring

Risk management and financial controls

20 September 2012 in Inverness (9.30 – 12.00)

9 October 2012 in Dumfries (1.30 – 4.00)

Oban (date to be confirmed)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training to look at risk management and financial controls within Scottish charities, focusing on different types of fraud, and methods to prevent and tackle fraud. For information see <http://www.scvo.org.uk/oscr/oscr-outreach-risk-management-and-financial-controls/>

Completing the new OSCR Returns

20 September 2012 in Inverness (1.30 – 4.00)

24 September 2012 in Dundee (9.30 – 12.00)

9 October 2012 in Dumfries (9.30 – 12.00)

6 November 2012 in Edinburgh (1.30 – 4.00)

8 November 2012 in Glasgow (1.30 – 4.00)

Oban (date to be confirmed)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training to look at the ways in which charities report to OSCR, and will include an introduction to OSCR Online. For information see <http://www.scvo.org.uk/oscr/oscr-outreach-completing-oscr-returns/>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees**

20 September 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council training to identify fundamental issues facing asylum seekers and refugees today, and highlighting current legislation and entitlements. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/cn3znfi> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Thinking about the future, including conversions to SCIO

24 September 2012 in Dundee (1.30 – 4.00)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training to cover planning ahead within the life of a charity, and explain consent, notification, charity reorganisation and converting to the new Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) structure. For information see <http://www.scvo.org.uk/oscr/oscr-outreach-thinking-about-the-future/>

East European Roma – Cultural Awareness Training

17 October 2012 in Nottingham

Roma Support Group training to include an introduction to Roma culture and traditions, language and history. Reference will be made to the differences between Romanian, Polish and Czech Roma. This will provide the backdrop to practically oriented sessions which will look at barriers to accessing services, and more effective ways to engage with Roma families. For information see http://www.ccclimited.org.uk/roma_17_10_12.html

**** The needs and experiences of refugee women**

19 October 2012 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an understanding of fundamental issues affecting women seeking asylum in Scotland. It is appropriate for those working in social work, housing, welfare, education, employment, health, community development or the justice system. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/cdzfb75>.

**** Introduction to accessibility**

25 October 2012 (10.30 – 4.30)

GCVS training looking at a wide range of accessibility issues – physical, social, communication and cultural, that offers an introduction to basic equalities concepts, access auditing and the legal basis behind the need for accessibility. For information see http://www.gcv.org.uk/whats_on/1506_introduction_to_accessibility

Becoming a charity and choosing the right legal form

6 November 2012 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 12.00)

8 November 2012 in Glasgow (9.30 – 12.00)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training to take an in depth look at the pros and cons of registering as a charity, and explain the various legal forms available, including the new Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) structure. For information see <http://www.scvo.org.uk/oscr/oscr-outreach-becoming-a-charity/>

**** Equality in employment**

29 November 2012 in Glasgow (10.30 – 4.30)

GCVS training to provide practical tips and explanations to help organisations meet their legal and ethical responsibilities. Issues covered include recruitment, monitoring and dignity at work, and issues around equality in volunteering. For information see http://www.gcv.org.uk/whats_on/1507_equality_in_employment

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Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw

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

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

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 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 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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