

MEMO



Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

MEMO is produced by the [Scottish Council of Jewish Communities](#) in partnership with [BEMIS](#).

It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.

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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.

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



Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

**Please update your address books –
the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities website has moved to**

www.scojec.org

and our new e-mail address is

scojec@scojec.org

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Petitions

e-Petition by Jennifer Newman calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland scheme with the Home Office to allow overseas students on the scheme to stay and work in Scotland for an extended period at the conclusion of their academic studies without the need for a work permit and, as a result, ensure greater benefits for all concerned given the amounts of public funding spent training such individuals.

http://epetitions.scottish.parliament.uk/view_petition.asp?PetitionID=218

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government [HL1994]: Whether they will make it a requirement for obtaining a visa that men and women coming to the United Kingdom for the purposes of getting married should be at least 21 years old and able to speak and understand English.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Two consultation documents were published on 5 December 2007: one on proposals to tackle forced marriage, and the other on the proposal to introduce a pre-entry English language requirement for spouses. These consultations fulfil the promises made in our strategy "Securing the UK Border", published in March 2007, to consult on new arrangements for marriage visas.

We are proposing a range of measures to address the problem of forced marriage. One of these proposals is that the minimum age at which a person can sponsor a marriage partner from overseas should be raised from 18 to 21. The same minimum age would apply to the person being sponsored. The Government's strong view is that those who intend to come here to marry should have a knowledge of English. The consultation on the proposal to introduce a pre-entry English language requirement for spouses discusses the key issues around how a requirement of this nature might work in practice.

The consultation periods will run for 12 weeks and the final date for responses is 27 February 2008. The results of the consultations will be published shortly.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80303w0006.htm#08030331000015>

David Davis [191896]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the 359 appeals against a notice of intent to deport between 1 August and 31 October 2006 were successful; on what grounds they were successful; and how many of those that were successful cited breach of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights as a ground for appeal.

Reply from Jack Straw: Of the 359 oral appeal hearings against a notice of intent to deport held at the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal between 1 August and 31 October 2006, 70 were successful.

The grounds, and any specific articles of the European Convention on Human Rights, cited in any appeal which was successful could not be determined without examination of the individual files. This would incur disproportionate cost to the Tribunal.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080306/text/80306w0003.htm#08030670000022>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Michael Spicer (192074): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of failed asylum seekers in the United Kingdom who are unable to return to their country of origin because they cannot obtain the necessary permission from those countries.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80306w01.htm>

David Davis (192833): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many attempts to deport asylum seekers were unsuccessful because the receiving country refused to accept them after the flight had left the UK in the last 12 months.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80307w01.htm>

Press Release

National Identity Scheme Delivery Plan Published

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/idcards>

New publication

Introducing compulsory identity cards for foreign nationals

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/compulsoryidcards/IDcards/foreignnationalsforidcards.pdf?view=Binary>

News

Most migrants' stay 'indefinite'

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/03/03/newsstory11012951t0.asp>

The kids who get lost in translation

<http://news.scotsman.com/opinion/The-kids-who-get-lost.3835568.jp>

Chef faces being sent back to Serbia after visa appeal fails

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/edinburgh/Chef-faces-being-sent-back.3835589.jp>

Migrants challenge rule changes

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7278533.stm

Lords warn about Calais fencing

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7277771.stm

Peers highlight Calais fence hole <http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Peers-highlight-Calais-fence-hole.3843093.jp>

Poles welcome major migrant study

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/7281780.stm

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Study highlights overqualification among migrant workers

<http://news.scotsman.com/scotland/Study-highlights-overqualification-among-migrant.3857560.jp>

Migrants Get £28m In Benefits For Children At Home

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/2008/03/08/migrants-get-28m-in-benefits-for-children-at-home-86908-20343923/>

Traumatised and neglected: how Britain fails child asylum-seekers

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/traumatised-and-neglected-how-britain-fails-child-asylumseekers-792760.html>

Tapping Poland's brightest

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/education/article3510811.ece>

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Race Relations

Press Release

Road to equality begins at local level

http://fra.europa.eu/fra/index.php?fuseaction=content.dsp_cat_content&catid=47cbbcb857c73

New publication

Community cohesion at local level: addressing the needs of Muslim Communities Examples of local initiatives

http://fra.europa.eu/fra/material/pub/muslim/LCN_EN.pdf

News

The discontented who embrace racism's myths

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/features/display.var.2103661.0.The_discontented_w_ho_embrace_racisms_myths.php

Catholic-Muslim Forum to meet in November

http://www.expatica.com/de/articles/news/Catholic_Muslim-Forum-to-meet-in-November.html

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Equality

Holyrood Debate

Public Appointments (Draft Equalities Strategy)

Keith Brown: The motion calls on the Parliament to agree that the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee's report and the *Official Report* of today's debate form the Parliament's response to the consultation by the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland on her draft equalities strategy.

On 21 November, the commissioner lodged with the Parliament an equalities consultation document entitled "Diversity Delivers" that included a draft equalities strategy. The Equal Opportunities Committee and my committee then took evidence from the commissioner.

The Standards, Procedures and Public Appointment Committee's report not only reflects our views on the draft strategy but takes into account those of the Equal Opportunities Committee. Broadly, we give the strategy a warm welcome.

The boards of public bodies play a vital role in ensuring that those bodies meet the needs of the communities they serve by delivering services effectively and efficiently, and their work can impact on all aspects of Scottish life. Although the committee recognises and commends the work that is undertaken by board members, it also recognises that, at present, board membership does not fully represent the diversity of Scottish society.

The draft strategy seeks to improve the diversity of applications for board membership by raising awareness of the value of public bodies and the role of board members, by ensuring that the public appointments process is encouraging, accessible and easy to use, and by supporting future board members through a range of development and education programmes.

The committee agrees that increasing diversity in board membership can only benefit boards' decision making. The strategy highlights evidence that groups that are more diverse in their skills and knowledge have more potential than less diverse groups to consider a greater range of perspectives and to generate more high-quality solutions to problems.

To continue reading the debate see:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0306-02.htm#Col6774>

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Johann Lamont (S3O-2530): To ask the Scottish Executive what steps it is taking to address inequalities in Scotland.

Reply from Stewart Maxwell: Our aim is to focus Government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all Scotland to flourish. We are therefore committed to tackling the prejudice and discrimination that leads to inequality in Scottish society. We will do that by mainstreaming equality across all Scottish Government policies, practices and services to ensure that our activities meet the needs of all the people we serve. The requirements of the public sector equality duties for race, disability and gender will support us in that process.

We will continue to support and develop the capacity for equality communities and groups to engage with policy makers so that they can understand their needs and experiences, to inform public policy development and service provision. The provision of robust data and evidence will help us to deliver policies that understand the issues and help to address inequality.

Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

We will raise awareness of equality issues and promote best practice in relation to challenging discriminatory attitudes. That is vital if we are to reduce inequalities and promote equality. We will provide support for activity that promotes equality and challenges unjust discrimination across all equality interests and we will work in partnership with a wide range of interests.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0306-02.htm#Col6703>

Michael McMahon (S3O-2627): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it intends to revise the "One Scotland. Many Cultures" campaign.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-03-06d.htm>

News

New 'fairness' Act to replace equality laws

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2008/03/09/nfair109.xml>

'Equality audits' for big firms and public sector

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2008/03/09/nfair209.xml>

Fire Service's Drive To Lose White Macho Image

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/editors-choice/2008/03/03/fire-service-s-drive-to-lose-white-macho-image-86908-20338837/>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many discrimination cases were heard by employment tribunals, broken down by the type of discrimination, in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [190504]

Reply from Bridget Prentice: The number of hearings by type of case is not held centrally. However, the number of discrimination cases disposed of over the last five years is given in the following table. Information is not available for 2007-08 as details are collated locally and processed and published at the end of the financial year.

<i>The number of discrimination cases disposed of from 2003-04 to 2006-07</i>				
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Sex	10,254	16,211	24,217	18,909
Disability	3,925	4,673	4,072	4,345

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Question (continued)

Equal Pay	2,195	3,943	11,323	7,854
Race	3,117	3,080	3,430	3,117
Religion or belief ⁽¹⁾	—	—	340	498
Sexual orientation ⁽¹⁾	—	—	321	384
Age ⁽²⁾	—	—	—	135
Total	19,491	27,907	43,703	35,242

⁽¹⁾ Information is available from 2005-06 onwards following introduction of new legislation.

⁽²⁾ Information is available from 2006-07 onwards following introduction of new legislation.

Data is not available prior to the introduction of relevant legislation.

Source:

Appendix 1, The Employment Tribunals Service Annual Report for years 2003-04 to 2006-07

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080304/text/80304w0035.htm#08030515000076>

Press Release

NGO Coalition calls for EU framework strategy against Roma discrimination

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2008-03-06%20Roma%20Coalition%20launch.pdf>

News

Please note that the website of the Scottish Government's "One Scotland, Many Cultures" campaign has moved to <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

College to launch centre for anti-sectarianism

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2096824.0.College_to_launch_centre_for_antisectionarism.php

Equality centre for city

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2097389.0.equality_centre_for_city.php

BNP makes rare foray into the shires to oppose black Tory candidate

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/bnp-makes-rare-foray-into-the-shires-to-oppose-black-tory-candidate-793141.html>

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Other Holyrood

Debate

Organ Donation Task Force Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0305-02.htm#Col6589>

New publication

Recorded Crime In Scotland, 2006/07

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/214670/0057270.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government [HL1993]: What preparations they are making for the coming into force later this year of the Forced Marriages (Civil Protection) Act 2007.

Reply from Lord Hunt of Kings Heath: The Government are working to implement the Act as speedily as possible. As the Government stated during the passage of the Bill, implementation of any legislation requires a significant programme of work. The programme of work includes the development of the necessary court rules and forms, the setting up of the appropriate court processing systems, guidance developed for staff and judicial training undertaken. The views of the public will also be taken into account and the Government have published a public consultation on who should be a relevant third party to forced marriage proceedings. The draft rules of court have also been published for consultation. The Ministry of Justice is working closely with other departments to decide the best ways in which to publicise the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 to victims and potential victims of forced marriage when it comes into force in Autumn 2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80303w0006.htm#08030331000012>

Lord Lester of Herne Hill asked Her Majesty's Government [HL1934]: Whether they have received any representations as to elements of Sharia law which should be recognised in United Kingdom law; and, if so, what is their response to those representations; and

[HL1935] Whether they will extend to marriages under Sharia law the power contained in section 10A of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 to refuse a decree absolute if steps are not taken to dissolve a religious marriage.

Reply from Lord Hunt of Kings Heath: The Government have not received any representations. Sharia law has no jurisdiction in England and Wales. There are,

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

however, a number of Sharia councils in England and Wales which, on a private basis where the parties consent, deal with the mediation and resolution of personal and contractual disputes. These councils are not part of the court system. In all cases, parties will always have recourse to the national courts.

The Divorce (Religious Marriages) Act 2002, which amended the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, allows a court to refuse a decree absolute until a religious divorce is granted. It applies to members of the Jewish faith or to any other prescribed religious group, including Islam. The option does, however, depend on the religious community itself deciding to make use of the provisions of the Act and then asking the Lord Chancellor to prescribe the religious group for that purpose. No application has been received from any Islamic group requesting such recognition.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80303w0006.htm#08030331000016>

Harry Cohen [189621]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements are in place for marriages in mosques to be performed in conjunction with the civil marriage law arrangements; what consideration has been given to requiring marriage registrars to attend the mosque to perform the civil marriage arrangements at the time of the religious ceremony; whether consideration has been given to placing mosque marriages on the same basis as church marriages; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Bridget Prentice: The Marriage Act 1949 provides for mosques to be registered for the solemnisation of marriages according to the rites of the Muslim religion. The marriage should be solemnised in the registered mosque, in the presence of two or more witnesses, and in the presence of either a registrar of the registration district in which the building is registered, or a person who has been authorised to perform such ceremonies in that registered building. Such marriages are recognised in law without the need for a separate civil ceremony. Where a mosque has not been registered, a separate civil ceremony is necessary.

These same requirements apply to various other religious marriages, including Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Hindu and Sikh. 785 buildings are recorded by the Registrar General (as at 26 February 2008) as certified places of meeting for religious worship by those professing the Muslim religion in England and Wales. Of those, 152 buildings are also registered for marriage, and of the 152, 36 buildings have authorised persons appointed to attend and register marriages.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080229/text/80229w0008.htm#08022973000007>

News

Chancellor Alistair Darling to close loophole in finance deals based on Sharia

http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/money/property_and_mortgages/article3486248.ece

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New Publication

Countering Terrorism, Protecting Human Rights

http://www.osce.org/publications/odihr/2007/11/28294_980_en.pdf

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Other News

Lost girls in 'forced marriages'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7280970.stm>

Forced marriage in UK 'a widespread problem'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/mar/09/gender.communities>

OSCR issues accounts work pack

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=5de9b636-f4f3-46d8-96aa-a263bd474b24>

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Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/04-GlasgowCommGames/b4s3-introd.pdf>

Public Health Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/03-PublicHealth/b3s3-introd.pdf>

Bills in Progress Westminster

Counter-Terrorism Bill

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/063/2008063.pdf>

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

**** Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/015/08015.i-vii.html>

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/016/amend/ml016-vi.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/016/amend/ml016-vii.htm>

House of Lords consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80303-0002.htm#0803034000002>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80303-0014.htm#0803034000002>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80305-0002.htm#08030571000002>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80305-0012.htm#08030598000001>

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/006/2008006.pdf>

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Consultations (closing date)

**** New or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

Visitor Visas (10 March 2008)

<http://bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/visitorsconsultationpaper/visitorvisaconsultation.pdf?view=Binary>

**** closes this week!**

Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 – Relevant Third Party (14 March 2008)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/consultation-31-07.pdf>

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

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

IMPACT Programme: Equality, Diversity and Privacy (4 April 2008)

http://www.npia.police.uk/en/docs/Equality_Diversity_and_Privacy_Consultationv1_0.pdf

Consultations (continued)

Meeting the Charity Test (7 April 2007)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=5455d7cc-a60c-456e-9d06-e623144e8359>

Border and Immigration Agency: Code of practice - Keeping children safe from harm (25 April 2008)

http://bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/keepingchildrensafe/uasc_codeofpractice.pdf?view=Binary

The Role of Further Education Providers in Promoting Community Cohesion, Fostering Shared Values and Preventing Violent Extremism (6 May 2008)

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/Community%20Cohesion%20PDF.pdf>

Glasgow 2014 - Delivering a lasting legacy for Scotland (9 May 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/212495/0056525.pdf>

The Path to Citizenship: Next Steps in Reforming the Immigration System (14 May 2008)

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/pathtocitizenship/pathtocitizenship?view=Binary>

Cohesion Guidance for Funders (26 May 2008)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/681891>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

Race, Religion and Refugee Integration Grant Programme

Closing date for applications: 14 April 2008

Scottish Government programme to improve the lives of minority ethnic and faith communities in Scotland, including asylum seekers and refugees, by tackling the inequalities that currently exist, increasing race and faith equality and promoting good relations between different racial groups as well as by reducing the incidence of racism, discrimination, and religious intolerance in all their forms. The application form is available online at <http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/grant-schemes/RRRI>. For information see http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/assets/RRRI_Press_Release.doc or contact Alison Stevenson 01383 620780 / Alison.Stevenson@voluntaryactionfund.org.uk

Funding Opportunities (continued)

'Youth in the world'

Closing date for applications: 15 April 2008

European funding to support youth projects to promote the exchange of experience and good practice in the field of youth and non-formal education, contribute to the development of youth policies, youth work and the voluntary sector, as well as to capacity-building and leadership development for youth organisations/structures, and to develop sustainable partnerships and networks between youth organisations. Projects must deal with one of the following themes:

- Strengthening of civil society, citizenship and democracy
- Fight against racism and xenophobia
- Inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue
- Post-conflict resolution and reconstruction
- The active role of women in society
- Minority rights

For information see http://www.enar-eu.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=16494&langue=EN

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

** *this week!*

Move-on, resettlement and secondary migration

14 March 2008 in Edinburgh (9.00 – 12.30)

Scottish Refugee Council seminar focusing on the needs, rights and entitlements of refugees in Scotland and how to achieve successful integration into new communities.

For information contact Maggie MacRitchie 0141 248 9799 /

maggie.macritchie@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Embedding Equalities within your organisation

17 March 2008 in Inverness (9.30 – 4.30)

20 March 2008 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30)

28 March 2008 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.30)

SCVO training for organisations who are looking to broaden their understanding of equalities issues and to those who are looking to incorporate equalities in to their everyday functions, including the design of services. For information contact Cathie Rowall 0141 225 8003 / cathie.rowell@scvo.org.uk

BEMIS / Community Health Exchange (CHEX)

Begins April 2008 in Glasgow (half day/week for 6 months)

Recent developments in health and social inclusion policy within Scotland have resulted in an increase in programmes/initiatives that target health inequalities and community involvement in health (e.g. community health projects and healthy living centres). Health Issues in the Community, a national training resource, is ideally suited to help equip local people who find access to mainstream educational difficult, for the real challenges that they face in developing community responses to health issues and becoming more active citizens. Accredited by the University of Edinburgh. For information contact Adnan Miyasar 0141 548 8047 / adnan.miyasar@bemis.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training Courses (continued)

European Anti-Discrimination & Diversity Training

8-9 April 2008 in Glasgow

Two-day Runnymede Trust seminar, in association with the STUC, on the role of Non-Governmental Organisations and trade unions in the UK in combating discrimination on the grounds of racial and ethnic origin, age, disability, religions or belief and sexual orientation. For information see <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/10/30.html> or contact Sarah Isal 020 7377 9222 / sarah@runnymedetrust.org

** The impact of immigration and asylum on children and young people living with HIV

13 May 2008 in Glasgow

Children in Scotland seminar to explore issues surrounding working with children and families who have unsure immigration status and are living with HIV. For information contact Megan Rodgers 0131 222 2426 / training@childreninScotland.org.uk

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

22 May 2008 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course is for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland; particularly relevant to people working in social work, housing, welfare, education, employment, health, community development or the justice system. For information contact the Scottish Refugee Council 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=67>

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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.eu.int/parliament/public.do?language=en>

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

Equality and Human Rights Commission

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/Pages/default.aspx>

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Useful Links (continued)

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

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



BEMIS is the umbrella body for ethnic minority organisations in Scotland. It aims to strengthen the capacity of the ethnic minority voluntary sector; raise the profile and coordinate the voice of this sector; and take a lead on policy issues to ensure that issues of concern are raised with government and other relevant bodies.

<http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>