



## 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.*

### Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Race Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)

[Other Holyrood](#)

[Other Westminster](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Events/Conferences/Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

*Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month.*

*Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to [MEMO@scojec.org.uk](mailto:MEMO@scojec.org.uk) and requests to be added to circulation to [mail@bemis.org.uk](mailto:mail@bemis.org.uk)*

## Immigration and Asylum

### Holyrood Parliamentary Question

**Bashir Ahmad** (S3W-11558): To ask the Scottish Executive what discussions it has had with UK Ministers regarding the new points-based immigration system.

**Reply from Linda Fabiani:** The Scottish Government have made a range of representations to UK ministers, which have included discussions about the new points-based system, including how it will impact on Scotland and Scottish interests, and how we can get the best deal for Scotland from the new system.

Representations have been supported by meetings, exchanges and correspondence at both ministerial and official level. Scottish ministers have been in correspondence with Home Office ministers about the scope for Scottish flexibilities within the system; a reduced qualifying period for settlement in Scotland; the criteria for Tier One - Post Study (the successor to the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme), including retaining Scottish HNDs as an eligible qualification; Scottish representation on the migration advisory committee and the migration impacts forum; and the potential impact on Scotland's cultural festivals and sports events, the Asian restaurant trade and Japanese investment (as a result of the English language requirement).

Other representations have been made to the Home Office on immigration rules and legislation including; skilled migrants, migrants and citizenship, asylum seekers and the rights of children, academic visitors to Scotland and policing issues.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0425.htm>

## Immigration and Asylum (continued) Westminster Debate

### Points-Based Immigration System

**Liam Byrne:** I am grateful for the chance to debate in the House one of the most important pieces of the Government's immigration reform programme for 2008. At the beginning of the year I said that this year would see the biggest changes that we have made to the immigration system and to our border security for 45 years. The House will know from the Prime Minister's statements on national security earlier in the year that the Government are radically changing the way that we police our borders, with the creation of the UK Border Agency, with fingerprint visas abroad, compulsory ID cards at home and new systems that will replace those that were phased out in 1994 to count people in and out of the country.

Alongside the new systems to police the way people move across our borders, the points system will help us to decide in the first place who should or should not have the right to come through those borders to work or to study. We have published proposals to change the way in which we judge not only who can come to the UK, but who can stay in the UK. Those proposals were set out in our Green Paper on earned citizenship.

Amid all the changes coming into place this year, undoubtedly the points system is among the most important that we are making. I am grateful for the timing of today's debate. It is especially fortuitous because although we have introduced the points system for highly skilled migrants—that started earlier this year—it will be after purdah that we seek to publish important statements of intent for the next stages of the points system. Today's debate will allow me to reflect on contributions from right hon. and hon. Members before we finalise that policy.

***To continue reading the debate see***

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080424/debtext/80424-0012.htm>

### Westminster Ministerial Statement

**Liam Byrne (Minister for Borders and Immigration):** As part of our programme of reform in 2008 to tighten Britain's border security I am today revoking two pieces of guidance which could have helped a handful of overstayers—people here illegally in the United Kingdom (UK)—to obtain limited leave to stay in the UK as the spouse or partner of a British citizen rather than go home and apply for a marriage visa.

These policies only applied to people facing enforced removal but gave an unfair advantage to those unlawfully in the UK compared to those who complied with the immigration rules in seeking a marriage visa before arrival. Withdrawing the policies will simplify the handling of marriage cases.

The fact that an individual is married to or is the civil partner of a British citizen or someone settled in the UK will continue to be a relevant factor to be taken into account when considering removal. Each case will be considered on its individual merits in line with the Human Rights Act and the immigration rules.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080424/wmstext/80424m0001.htm#08042475000011>

## Immigration and Asylum (continued)

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions

**Laurence Robertson** [199724]: What the average time taken to determine applications for the right to remain in the UK was in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Liam Byrne:** Published targets are to make 70 per cent. of decisions on postal applications within 20 days of receipt and to make 90 per cent. within 70 days. Complex cases and applications by overstayers, or by those in breach of the rules, can take a bit longer.

**Laurence Robertson:** I am grateful for the Minister's answer and his earlier contact. However, he knows that I—and perhaps other colleagues—have several cases that take considerably longer to determine. One problem appears to be the delay in allocating case workers to each application. Some applications will be refused, and people will have to go back to their countries, but at least that is a decision, and they can get on with their lives. However, it is often difficult for people who are waiting to start educational courses or who wish to visit their country and then return here. I had a constituent whose mother was dying in hospital abroad and, because of delays, she could not visit, and her mother died. Will the Minister do what he can to speed up the process? Some results will be negative but that is better than the delays that currently occur.

**Reply from Liam Byrne:** I am grateful to the hon. Gentleman for not only his question but the conversation earlier today. I hope that we can resolve quickly the cases that are on the table. Approximately two thirds of applications for indefinite leave to remain are resolved within 20 days and nearly 90 per cent. are resolved in 70 days. However, many cases are outside that target, and the UK Border Agency needs to work faster to get them resolved quickly. Many of the lessons that we drew from creating fast-track asylum teams around the country are being applied to those cases. I therefore hope that faster progress will be made on that front in 2008.

**David Kidney:** Will my hon. Friend assure me that the right to remain in the UK is forfeited if somebody commits a serious crime and serves a sentence of imprisonment? Can he confirm that, in those cases, such people leave the country?

**To continue reading the question and answer session see**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080421/debtext/80421-0002.htm>

**Andrew Mackay** [199728]: What recent estimate she has made of the number of illegal immigrants in the UK.

**Reply from Liam Byrne:** Since the phasing out of exit controls in 1994, no Government have been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally. By Christmas, however, our border information systems will count in and out the majority of foreign nationals. Together with fingerprinting visa applicants and the issuing of ID cards to foreign nationals, that will ensure that a much more effective set of controls will be in place.

**Andrew Mackay:** Was the Minister surprised that nine illegal immigrants from Cambridge who were given train tickets to London and told to report to the immigration centre in Croydon failed to turn up, and what is he doing to find them?

**Reply from Liam Byrne:** The policy of the UK Border Agency over the past year has been quite clear: when there are lorry drops, they are all attended by immigration officers and the people are immediately taken to detention centres, where their claims—some will obviously claim asylum—are processed. That policy has been the fruit of new partnerships with the police up and down the country;

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

almost all constabularies have immigration crime partnerships in place and one of the most fundamental objectives is to ensure that everyone detected at a lorry drop who we think is an illegal immigrant is arrested and brought to detention centres.

**David Evennett:** The Home Secretary said that the new UK Border Agency would have “tough customs, immigration and police-like powers”, so why did the Government decide to create an agency with “police-like powers” rather than follow Opposition calls to integrate the police into a UK border force so that a robust force with real powers could tackle illegal immigration?

**Reply from Liam Byrne:** The steps taken to create one agency with £2 billion of resources, 25,000 staff and 9,000 warranted officers have been widely welcomed in the House. Obviously, that agency has to work closely with the police, who have all kinds of other jobs to do at our ports. As the Home Secretary said a week or two ago, discussions with the police—both with the Association of Chief Police Officers and with constabularies up and down the country—about the best way for the new agency to work in an integrated manner with the police will continue, as, indeed, the Prime Minister promised in his statement of last year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080421/debtext/80421-0002.htm#0804216000021>

**Tim Farron** [199964]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of women with insecure immigration status left destitute after leaving a violent relationship in the latest period for which figures are available.

**Reply from Vernon Coaker:** Figures for the number of women with insecure immigration status left destitute after leaving a violent relationship are not available, as these data are not routinely collected by the Home Office.

**Tim Farron** [199965]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding the Government has given to local authorities to support women with insecure immigration status trying to flee violence and access refuge in the latest period for which figures are available.

**Reply from Vernon Coaker:** The Government have not provided direct funding to local authorities to support women with insecure immigration status who are victims of domestic violence.

However, between 2003-04 and 2005-06 the Home Office provided a total of £145,000 to the Women’s Aid Federation of England to bolster its Last Resort Fund to support victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds.

We will shortly be announcing details of a new scheme where victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds may be eligible to receive support for their housing and living costs. Under the new scheme victims of domestic violence whose applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain are successful may qualify for a contribution towards these costs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080421/text/80421w0030.htm#0804232000038>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**John Bercow** [198370]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what financial support is available to spouses and their dependants who are seeking leave to remain on basis of the domestic violence rule.

**Reply from Vernon Coaker:** Victims of domestic violence who apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) under the domestic violence rule may qualify for assistance under specific legislation and can also access housing related support services funded by the Supporting People Grant.

In February 2006 the Home Office wrote to all local authorities in England, outlining the position of women who have no recourse to public funds and how local authorities can help and support these women within existing legislation, for example, under the Children Act 1989, the NHS and Community Care Act 1990 and the Local Government Act 2000.

We will shortly be announcing details of a new scheme where victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds may be eligible to receive support for their housing and living costs. Under the new scheme victims of domestic violence whose applications for (ILR) are successful may qualify for a contribution towards these costs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080421/text/80421w0030.htm#0804232000039>

**David Laws** (201193): To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what his most recent estimate is of the number of children in each local authority area who are the children of parents seeking asylum; and if he will make a statement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80423w01.htm>

**Mike Gapes** (202221): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many appeals against immigration decisions were allowed by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal in each of the last three years; in how many of these cases the UK Border Agency and its predecessor (a) issued status documents and (b) made the appropriate passport endorsement within (i) one month, (ii) three months (iii) six months and (iv) were the six months of the determination; and if she will make a statement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80425w01.htm>

**Mike Gapes** (202223): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what target time her Department sets for the issue of status documents following a determination by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal to allow an appeal against (a) a decision to refuse indefinite leave to remain, (b) an entry clearance officer's decision to refuse entry clearance to join a spouse in the UK and (c) an entry clearance officer's decision to refuse an application for a visit visa; what the average time for the issue of such documents in each circumstance was in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80425w01.htm>

## Press Release

**Changes to application process affecting application forms for students and marriages**

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/processchangeforflmflrs>

## Immigration and Asylum (continued)

### New publication

**States should not impose penalties on arriving asylum-seekers**

[http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/Viewpoints/080317\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/Viewpoints/080317_en.asp)

### News

**'Relax visa rules' to safeguard fruit farms**

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/600722>

**Fruit growers 'are facing a disaster'**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Fruit-growers-39are-facing-a.4014460.jp>

**1000 join battle to let asylum seekers stay**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2214217.0.1000\\_join\\_battle\\_to\\_let\\_asylum\\_seekers\\_stay.php](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2214217.0.1000_join_battle_to_let_asylum_seekers_stay.php)

**Polish sign says drinking banned in Leith park**

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/edinburgh/Polish-sign-says-drinking-banned.4010107.jp>

**Migrants targeted as race crime surges**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/apr/27/race.ukcrime>

**Director fears Fringe could be cropped as new visa rules hit performers' pockets**

[http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2228396.0.director\\_fears\\_fringe\\_could\\_be\\_cropped\\_as\\_new\\_visa\\_rules\\_hit\\_performers\\_pockets.php](http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2228396.0.director_fears_fringe_could_be_cropped_as_new_visa_rules_hit_performers_pockets.php)

**Government offers Jojo £46 to go home**

<http://news.scotsman.com/uk/Government-offers-Jojo-46-to.4024420.jp>

[TOP](#)

## Race Relations

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions

**Lord Ouseley** asked Her Majesty's Government [HL3159]: How they intend to respond to the findings of the recent MORI poll commissioned by the BBC to mark the 40th anniversary of Enoch Powell's "rivers of blood" speech that two out of three people polled believe there are too many immigrants in Britain and that race riots are likely to arise if community tensions increase; and

[HL3160] What action they are taking to avert the possibility of race riots; what advice they have received from the Equality and Human Rights Commission on that subject; when the advice was offered; how they have responded to it; and which areas or neighbourhoods have been identified as having a high risk of race riots occurring;

## Race Relations

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

[HL3161]Whether they have made representations to newspapers, television and radio companies about their coverage of immigration and race relations stories; and whether such coverage reduces racial prejudice and intolerance;

[HL3162]What initiatives they are pursuing to promote better knowledge and understanding of the benefits of a diverse and multi-cultural society.

**Reply from Baroness Andrews:** In February this year, the Government made a renewed commitment to build community cohesion, as part of our response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion's report. Community cohesion is about much more than preventing violence—it is part of building sustainable active and empowered communities. Central to this is the principle that cohesion must be understood and built locally by local authorities and the local partnerships which they lead. Central government's role is to set the national framework within which local authorities and their partners operate. We are working with EHRC in developing our policies and approach. We are providing both funding and support to do this: £50million over the next three years and a cohesion delivery framework in the summer.

The findings of the MORI poll of just 1,000 people contrast sharply with those of the citizenship survey of 10,000 people. The citizenship survey found that 81 per cent of people feel that individuals from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area and that 83 per cent of people agree that people in their local area respect ethnic differences, an increase from 79 per cent in 2003. In its final report, published in June 2007, the Commission on Integration and Cohesion, also found that cohesion rates only fell below 60 per cent in 10 out of 387 areas in England.

We work routinely with local authorities and the police to assess where local tensions may arise and we encourage local areas to do the same. We will shortly be publishing guidance for local areas on tension monitoring and contingency planning.

The coverage of immigration and race relations stories by the media is a matter for the relevant regulatory bodies or the courts, not the Government. The Government strongly believe that a press free from state intervention is fundamental to democracy.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80425w0001.htm#08042583000009>

## News

### Why should Muslims put up with being stereotyped?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/yasmin-alibhai-brown/yasmin-alibhaibrown-why-should-muslims-put-up-with-being-stereotyped-816662.html>

[TOP](#)

## Equality

### News

#### **Police review ethnic recruitment**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/berkshire/7366177.stm>

#### **Poor white boys are victims too**

[http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest\\_contributors/article3822685.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest_contributors/article3822685.ece)

[TOP](#)

## Racism and Religious Hatred

### Westminster Early Day Motions

**John McDonnell (1366) Institutional Racism** - That this House notes that as one of its final actions the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) produced a report identifying 15 Government departments that failed properly to implement the provisions of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 - legislation designed to tackle institutional racism - and recommended enforcement action against them; further notes that job cuts in a number of the Government departments referred to in the report have had a negative and disproportionate impact on race grounds, and that despite this at least one department has proceeded to make staff compulsorily redundant before conducting a race equality impact assessment; is concerned that 10 years after the publication of Sir William McPherson's report on the death of Stephen Lawrence which identified the need to tackle institutional racism, sufficient progress has not been made in central Government departments; is further concerned that failure to take robust action will render the review of race equality schemes for the 2008 to 2011 period meaningless, resulting in the continued entrenchment of inequality; and calls on the new Equality and Human Rights Commission to pursue legal enforcement against those departments that have not taken urgent action to become compliant as a result of the CRE's report.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80425e01.htm>

**Harry cohen (1369) Love Music Hate Racism** - That this House welcomes the Love Music Hate Racism Carnival due to take place in East London on Sunday 27th April 2008; recognises the historic impact and importance of the Rock Against Racism Concert which took place in Victoria Park in 1978; congratulates Love Music Hate Racism performers, organisers and supporters including trade unions; is aware that many anti-racism activists have campaigned over a long period to thwart the spread of racism in the United Kingdom over the past 30 years and to stop it being considered in any way acceptable; notes that the racist BNP are hoping to secure a seat in the forthcoming London Assembly elections and in other council elections; and calls on voters in London and throughout the country to use their vote on 1st May to keep the racists out of public office.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80425e01.htm>



## Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) News

### **The legacy of Stephen Lawrence**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7360257.stm>

### **Race thugs put Pole in hospital after attack**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/04/22/race-thugs-put-pole-in-hospital-after-attack-86908-20390858/>

### **Probe into 'racist' messages**

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/592963>

### **Police investigate kennel racial claim**

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2224277.0.Police\\_investigate\\_kennel\\_racial\\_claim.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2224277.0.Police_investigate_kennel_racial_claim.php)

### **'A world of casual racism' exposed at BA**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/a-world-of-casual-racism-exposed-at-ba-815842.html>

### **Plane offensive**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/leading-articles/leading-article-plane-offensive-815873.html>

### **Whistleblower says BA ignores culture of racism among pilots**

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Whistleblower-says-BA-ignores-culture.4024416.jp>

### **BA is full of racism, says pilot**

<http://www.sundaymail.co.uk/news/uk-and-international-news/2008/04/27/ba-is-full-of-racism-says-pilot-78057-20395717/>

### **The great Rock Against Racism show plays it again**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/the-great-rock-against-racism-show-plays-it-again-816221.html>

[TOP](#)

## Other Holyrood

### Parliamentary Questions

**Bashir Ahmad** (S3W-11562): To ask the Scottish Executive what is being done to tackle domestic violence among ethnic minority communities.

**Reply from Stewart Maxwell:** The Scottish Government is committed to tackling domestic abuse and ensuring that all those affected by it are given the support they need and those perpetrating it are dealt with effectively.

## Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The National Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse in Scotland recognised the need to take account of the differing needs of women and children from black and minority ethnic (BME) communities, to ensure any provision is relevant and appropriate to them. Additional difficulties, for example, of racism, language, isolation or stigma may also be present and need to be addressed by service providers.

More than £44 million has been committed over the next three years to support organisations working with women and children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse or other aspects of violence against women. Included within this figure is support for a number of projects working specifically to address the complex needs of BME women and children experiencing domestic abuse, at both a local and national level.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0421.htm>

**Bashir Ahmad** (S3W-11547): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it plans to address the issue of forced marriage.

**Bashir Ahmad** (S3W-11548): To ask the Scottish Executive how many cases of forced marriages have been reported since 2000.

**Bashir Ahmad** (S3W-11557): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it has any plans to criminalise forced marriages.

**Reply from Stewart Maxwell:** The Scottish Government is committed to addressing forced marriage and in 2005 the previous administration along with the UK Government undertook a consultation on whether forced marriage should be criminalised. The majority of respondents felt that creating specific criminal legislation would not be the most effective way of tackling this very serious issue. Many reasons were given for this, including the potentially negative impact of legislation on victims; concern that children could be hidden overseas to escape the law, and that crimes would be difficult to define. But the biggest concern was over racial segregation and that this might be seen as a minority law.

However, we are going to consult on whether civil legislation should be introduced to protect those who may be affected. This consultation will link with the work currently underway within communities to raise awareness of forced marriage.

Members of the Forced Marriage Network are key to this activity and the network will reconvene in the next few months to further develop the Scottish Government's work in this area.

It is not known how many cases of forced marriage have been reported in Scotland, as this information is not collected centrally. However, from January 2008 the Forced Marriage Unit has started to collect information, on a regional basis, on the number of enquiries they have received. To date eight enquiries from Scotland have been received.

For example, over the next three years, funding of £270,293 has been awarded to Amina to provide support to BME women experiencing domestic abuse and increase Muslim women's understanding and knowledge of domestic abuse. Funding of £204,612.71 has been granted to Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid to enable them to provide temporary refuge accommodation to BME women and their children escaping domestic abuse. Hemat Gryffe also operate a drop in centre which BME women can use to seek support, advocacy and information on forced marriage, the two year immigration rule, and welfare rights among other issues. Shakti Women's Aid has also been awarded £258,245 to provide the same type service as Hemat Gryffe in Edinburgh and the surrounding area.

## Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The national Rape Crisis Helpline uses services such as the language line to ensure that support can be provided to women in their own language. Work is also on-going with the Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline to recruit, train and support volunteers from all BME communities.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0421.htm>

**Bashir Ahmad** (S3O-3017): To ask the Scottish Executive what plans it has to tackle the issue of forced marriages.

**Reply from Stewart Maxwell:** The Scottish Government is committed to addressing forced marriage and we are going to consult on whether civil legislation should be introduced to protect those who may be affected. This consultation will link with the work currently underway within communities to raise awareness of forced marriage.

Members of the forced marriage network are key to this activity and the network will reconvene in the next few months to further develop the Scottish Government's work in this area.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0424.htm>

## News

**Plan for new civil law to help combat enforced marriages**

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2224316.0.Plan\\_for\\_new\\_civil\\_law\\_to\\_help\\_combat\\_enforced\\_marriages.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2224316.0.Plan_for_new_civil_law_to_help_combat_enforced_marriages.php)

[TOP](#)

## Other Westminster

### Parliamentary Questions

**Margaret Moran** [198799]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what resources her Department has allocated to the support of victims of forced marriage for 2008-09; and what plans she has for funding in the next two financial years.

**Reply from Vernon Coaker:** During 2008-09 the Home Office will provide £121,100 to support the operation and running of the joint Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU). This is an increase of £71,100 on previous years' funding. In addition the Home Office will also provide funding for the series of regional events focused on so-called 'honour' based violence planned to take place between May and July.

Funding for the FMU will continue over next two financial years and funding will also be identified to support other initiatives under our national work programme to tackle honour based violence.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080421/text/80421w0033.htm#0804232000046>

## Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**David Laws** (201186): To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what estimate he has made of the proportion of (a) primary and (b) secondary schools using faith-based criteria for admissions in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80423w01.htm>

**David Laws** (201196): To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many (a) primary and (b) secondary faith schools there were in England in each year from 1997, broken down by faith; and if he will make a statement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80423w01.htm>

**Gordon Prentice** (202016): To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what consideration he has given to proposals that religious court should be allowed to arbitrate on some family and matrimonial disputes; and if he will make a statement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80425w01.htm>

[TOP](#)

## Other News

Multi ethnic Aberdeen Limited is working with EHRC to develop, encourage and promote good relations, understanding, social inclusion and community cohesion between diverse groups across the equalities mandates of race, faith, disability, gender, sexual orientation and age, through a community radio station called Me-FM, running between June 2nd and June 29<sup>th</sup>, and is looking for people to make or take part in ½ hour radio shows. For information contact Daniel Christian 01224 645268 / 645200 / [daniel@multiethnic.co.uk](mailto:daniel@multiethnic.co.uk)

[TOP](#)

## Bills in Progress

\*\* New or updated this week

### Holyrood

#### **Creative Scotland Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/07-CreativeScotland/index.htm>

#### **Judiciary and Courts Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/06-JudiciaryCourts/index.htm>

## Bills in Progress Holyrood (continued)

### **\*\* Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/04-GlasgowCommGames/index.htm>

revised Explanatory Notes

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/04-GlasgowCommGames/b4s3-stage3-ml.pdf>

### **\*\* Public Health Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/03-PublicHealth/index.htm>

proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-04-28g.htm>

## Bills in Progress Westminster

### **\*\* Counter-Terrorism Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/counterterrorism.html>

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/063/amend/pbc0632504a.83-89.html>

### **Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/criminaljusticeandimmigration.html>

House of Lords consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80421-0002.htm#080421500009>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80421-0005.htm#080421500010>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80421-0013.htm#0804213200001>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80423-0002.htm#0804235000007>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80423-0012.htm#08042386000001>

### ***Draft Bill***

#### **The Governance of Britain - Constitutional Renewal**

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/draft-constitutional-renewal-bill.pdf>

## **Bills in Progress**

### **Westminster** (continued)

#### **Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/humanfertilisationandembryology.html>

[TOP](#)

## **Consultations** (closing date)

\*\* New or updated this week

#### **Community Policing Inquiry** (5 May 2008)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/Communitypolicinginquiryforallforevidence.htm>

#### **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>

#### **Decoupling the Scottish Parliamentary and Local Government Elections**

(12 June 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/216422/0058059.pdf>

#### **Equality and Human Rights Commission Call for help with Human Rights Inquiry**

(21 June 2008)

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

#### **Safeguarding Children in Scotland who may have been Trafficked** (3 July 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/219212/0058832.pdf>

[TOP](#)

## Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

## Funding Opportunity

### **Volunteering Scotland Grant Scheme**

Closing date for applications: 16 May 2008

Scottish Government programme to improve the lives of individuals and their communities through volunteering. The grant aims to increased volunteers' access to employment, education, training and other volunteering opportunities, improve social and support networks, provide new and improved services to support vulnerable people and communities, and increase participation in community processes such as planning.

For information see <http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/grant-schemes/vsgs>

[TOP](#)

## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* New or updated this week

### **\*\* this week!**

#### **Equality and Human Rights in Scotland a new horizon?**

1 May 2008 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

(£150.00 / SDLA members £100)

Equality and Human Rights Commission to consider the future for equality and Human Rights in Scotland. For information contact Angela Barclay [angela.barclay@equalityhumanrights.com](mailto:angela.barclay@equalityhumanrights.com) or see

[http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/Documents/Scotland/SDLA\\_ELA\\_Conference\\_Leaflet.pdf](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/Documents/Scotland/SDLA_ELA_Conference_Leaflet.pdf)

#### **Understanding Constitutions and charitable Status**

6 May 2008 in Inverness (10.00 – 12.00)

SCVO seminar to enable people to make an informed choice regarding the type of legal structure best suited to their organisation and the advantages of charitable status. For information contact [enquiries@fairwayshouse.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@fairwayshouse.org.uk) / 01463 258 800.

#### **It's good to go for a test: evaluation report on the Glasgow 2007 HIV awareness campaign for African communities living with & affected by HIV/aids**

9 May 2008 in Glasgow (10.00 – 1.00)

For information contact Tarsisio Nyatsanza 0141 211 0192 /

[africanhealthproject@waverleycare.org](mailto:africanhealthproject@waverleycare.org)

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=67>

### **Diversity in the UK / Diversity in Scotland**

1 – 7 July 2008 in Aberdovey (Wales)

13 – 20 October 2008 at Loch Eil (Scotland)

Encompass programmes for young people aged 17-23 from religiously, ethnically, economically, socially and geographically diverse backgrounds. These include challenging outdoor team-building activities, and controversial, hard-hitting discussions focusing on issues such as identity, and stereotypes. For information see [http://www.scojec.org/MEMO/Files/08iv\\_Encompass.doc](http://www.scojec.org/MEMO/Files/08iv_Encompass.doc) or contact Erika 020 7493 9739 / [erika@encompasstrust.org](mailto:erika@encompasstrust.org)

[TOP](#)

## Useful Links

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

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

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

**Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)**

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT\\_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw](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>



## Useful Links (continued)

ACAS [www.acas.org.uk](http://www.acas.org.uk)

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

Volunteer Development Scotland [www.vds.org.uk](http://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](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm)

[TOP](#)



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>