



## Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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## Immigration and Asylum

### Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

**George Foulkes** (S3W-12112): To ask the Scottish Executive what provisions there are for free English language teaching for migrants and what plans it has to develop such teaching.

**Reply from Maureen Watt:** Publicly funded ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes are provided in Scotland's colleges, Community Learning and Development (CLD) partnerships and Adult Literacy and Numeracy (ALN) partnerships, and by a small number of voluntary providers. The vast majority of these classes are free to learners.

In March 2007, we launched an adult ESOL Strategy for Scotland to help all Scottish residents for whom English is not a first language. Additional funding of £5 million was made available to support the strategy in 2007-08 and a further £9 million available over the three year period 2008-11.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0509.htm>

## Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Jeremy Purvis** (S3W-12674): To ask the Scottish Executive how many children for whom English is not their first language are enrolled in (a) primary and (b) secondary schools, broken down by local authority area.

**Reply from Maureen Watt:** The following table gives the number of children with English as an additional language in Scottish publicly funded schools, who are not fluent in English, by local authority and split into primary and secondary, as at September 2007:

Pupils with English as an Additional Language, 2007

	Primary	Secondary		Primary	Secondary
Aberdeen City	806	375	Inverclyde	18	8
Aberdeenshire	284	159	Midlothian	55	27
Angus	83	17	Moray	105	80
Argyll and Bute	44	22	North Ayrshire	56	9
Clackmannanshire	46	17	North Lanarkshire	408	85
Dumfries and Galloway	109	70	Orkney Islands	7	4
Dundee City	365	125	Perth and Kinross	172	68
East Ayrshire	32	9	Renfrewshire	88	24
East Dunbartonshire	146	107	Scottish Borders	111	60
East Lothian	58	46	Shetland Islands	15	6
East Renfrewshire	392	157	South Ayrshire	39	24
Edinburgh City	1,557	654	South Lanarkshire	227	64
Eilean Siar	21	11	Stirling	83	23
Falkirk	195	103	West Dunbartonshire	47	30
Fife	301	131	West Lothian	188	101
Glasgow City	4,163	2,202	All Local Authorities	10,457	4,954
Highland	236	136			

Note: Special school pupils included in primary figure if under 12 years old; included in secondary figure if aged 12 or older.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0515.htm>

## Westminster Debates

### Immigration

**Chris Huhne:** I beg to move, That the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules (House of Commons Paper No. 321), a copy of which was laid before this House on 6th February, be disapproved.

I want to make the case that the Home Office must start again. I shall argue that the rule changes will involve injustice to many individuals, including some child victims of trafficking, whom the Government are pledged to help. The changes will introduce automatic penalties for breaches of rules which, in the view of the Liberal Democrats, will prove to be counter-productive—far from saving official time, they will mean more appeals to the courts. The essential issue is whether people who breach entry rules, perhaps by making a mistake, or whose agents breach entry rules, must pay for that with an automatic—I repeat, automatic—ban on the right to reapply for entry for at least a year and for up to 10 years, regardless of circumstances, regardless of fault, regardless

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Debates (continued)

of understanding. As far as I know, the Home Office has yet to win the plain English prize for Government forms.

The Government say in their explanatory notes that this is about penalising deception, but deception implies that the officials concerned understand intention. One of the most difficult things to prove in any court of law is what is going on inside the defendant's head. It is certainly no more possible to infer from a potential immigrant's mistake on a form that he or she is deceiving people than it would be fair for me to accuse Home Office Ministers of deception every time their Department made a mistake. Of all Departments of State, surely the Home Office—found, only this week, to have the lowest capability level of any Department—ought to understand better than most the difference between an honest mistake and a deception.

The proposed change is a serious matter, which will involve injustice and hardship. A mistake will lead to exclusion from this country for one year or more, which may mean separation from family, friends and, in some cases, employment. Imagine someone who has lived in this country for some years with a partner and children. He or she may have overstayed, and may now wish to regularise the stay. His adviser would now say “Come clean, depart voluntarily and reapply on the basis of continuing family life”, but he will be excluded for at least one year, and possibly up to 10 years if there has been any previous deception.

What an extraordinary incentive for people to remain undercover and not to regularise. What an appalling prospect for a person's partner and child if he or she tells the truth and comes clean. What a potential infringement of the Human Rights Act, and of article 8 of the European convention on human rights on the right to family life.

**To continue reading the debate see**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080513/debtext/80513-0025.htm#080514700001>

### Immigration Rules (Spouses)

**Roger Godsiff:** I am most grateful for the opportunity to debate this subject and to do so under your chairmanship, Mr. Weir. The issue that I want to raise is a specific one, rather than the wider issue of rules relating to spouses who seek to come to this country. Furthermore, it really applies only to female spouses, for reasons that I shall make clear. The group that I wish to discuss consists of those female spouses cleared to enter this country from the main Muslim countries on the Indian subcontinent, where the tradition of marrying cousins is still strong. I refer to Pakistan and, to a lesser extent, Bangladesh, but particularly to Azad Kashmir. My constituency has a large population from the Mirpur, Chakswari and Dadyal communities in Azad Kashmir.

When a female spouse seeks entry clearance to come to this country after having married her husband, who travelled from the United Kingdom for the ceremony, she must meet the requirements of the immigration rules. The sponsor, her husband, must be able to demonstrate clearly that he can support and sustain his wife in the United Kingdom without recourse to public funds, and that he has sufficient financial resources and accommodation to sustain them both. That is a perfectly reasonable requirement, and I take no issue with it.

After a female spouse arrives in the United Kingdom, the terms of her visa include an initial two-year probationary period, for want of a better description, during which she must demonstrate that she and her husband live together and that the marriage is happy and successful. She can then apply before the two-year period expires for indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom. Under the change in immigration rules—again, I take no issue with this—spouses must show that they have made genuine efforts to assimilate into

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Debates (continued)

the life of the United Kingdom and to learn the English language, and an additional period of limited leave to remain is allowed. However, that is not what I am discussing today.

The specific issue that I am raising relates solely to female spouses who come from the parts of the Indian subcontinent that I mentioned. It does not really apply to male spouses because, when they come to the United Kingdom, they invariably become the breadwinner of the family. As a result of custom and tradition, they become the head of the family and take responsibility for the household.

Sadly, there are instances of male spouses using marriages arranged in their extended family by both sets of parents as a means to enter the United Kingdom without any definite intention of staying with their wives. I am sure that the Minister for Borders and Immigration, if he were here today, would know of instances of extremely distressed wives whose husbands have left the family household within a short time, and I am sure that he has dealt with the repercussions, including wives who feel that they have been used and want their estranged husbands thrown out of the country before the two-year probationary period expires. Such instances are extremely sad, but again, that is not the issue that I am discussing.

I have sought this debate to bring a specific issue into the public domain. When a female spouse is granted entry clearance to come to this country and moves into the family home—whether it is a property owned or rented by her husband or her father-in-law's house—the first thing that invariably happens is that her husband takes her passport and puts it with other valuable documents. Then they get on with their lives. If the wife becomes pregnant during the course of their first 18 months or so of living together, some of the problems that I am about to mention, although not necessarily all, are easier to resolve.

Unfortunately, the husband and wife often overlook the fact that they must regularise their stay in the United Kingdom before the two-year probationary period expires, and they only realise that that has not been done when it is drawn to their attention by another family member or they take it in mind to travel abroad. The female spouse then applies for indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom, but as her application is made after her visa has expired, she is technically classified as an overstayer. In my many years' experience, for what it is worth, if the application is made before the two-year period ends, the UK Border Agency seems to take a more relaxed attitude, but the same criteria must nevertheless be fulfilled. That is where the problem arises.

**To continue reading the debate see**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080514/halltext/80514h0004.htm#08051456000002>

## Westminster Parliamentary Questions

**Damian Green** (205451): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people granted entry into the United Kingdom on a working holiday visa have (a) lost their immigration status and (b) had to return to their country of origin in order to reapply for entry into the UK since the introduction of the points-based system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80512w01.htm>

**Damian Green** (205456): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance her Department has issued on officials or representatives of foreign governments attending an interview with a national of their country applying for asylum in the United Kingdom.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80512w01.htm>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Damian Green** (205466): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what percentage of children identified as subjects of trafficking were granted (a) asylum or (b) leave to remain in each of the last five years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80512w01.htm>

**John Spellar** (205270): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress has been made in introducing new protocols for judicial review in failed asylum cases.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80512w01.htm>

**James Clappison** (205788): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he has made of the effect of immigration on (a) gross domestic product and (b) per capita gross domestic product since 1997.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80514w01.htm>

**James Clappison** (205759): To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, what international (a) immigration, (b) emigration and (c) net migration was for (i) each Government Office region in England, (ii) each local authority area in England, (iii) Wales and (iv) Scotland in each five year period since 1987; and what proportion per 1,000 population these figures represent.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80514w01.htm>

**James Clappison** (205786): To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, how many and what proportion of those immigrating to the UK were employed in manual and clerical occupations prior to arrival in the UK in each year since 1997.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80514w01.htm>

**James Clappison** (205789): To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, what contribution net migration made to population change in the UK in each five year period since 1987.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80514w01.htm>

## Westminster Early Day Motion

**Mark Lazarowicz** (1563) **Immigration rules and Overseas Performers** - That this House welcomes the decision by the Home Office to classify a special visitor category which will continue to allow non-European performers to come to perform at international events in Britain at a low visa cost; and recognises that many events across the country, such as the Edinburgh International Festival and the Edinburgh Fringe, benefit from the talents of these performers, and that this decision will ensure the continued success of such events.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80515e01.htm>

## Immigration and Asylum (continued) Westminster Petition

### Immigration (Adela Mahoro Mugabo)

*The Petition of the Mahoro Must Stay Campaign,*

Declares that Adela Mahoro Mugabo, who is to be removed to Rwanda, is the widow of a man murdered in 2002 by the Interharamwe Hutus, and as a Hutu herself was accused by the Rwandan Military Intelligence of covering up for her husband's murderers. The Petitioners further declare that Mahoro was tortured and raped, and is now HIV-positive, and that if she is returned to Rwanda she will still be in danger and will be unable to get the anti-retroviral drugs she needs to survive.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Home Secretary to instruct a reconsideration of the Home Office decision and allow Adela Mahoro Mugabo to stay in the UK, a safe environment in which she will be able to lead a healthy life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc. —[Presented by Mr. John Leech , Official Report, 28 January 2008; Vol. 471, c. 138 .] [P000114]

#### **Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:**

The Government is unable to comment on the individual case in order to protect the privacy of the individual.

The information that has been submitted will be fully considered by the UK Border Agency against our traditions and obligations of providing humanitarian protection to those who need it.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080515/petntext/80515p0001.htm#08051573000015>

## Press Release

### International Refugee Day

<http://www.unitedagainstracism.org/pages/campRFC.htm>

## New publications

### Understanding the perspective of potential sponsors on the Points-Based System sponsorship arrangements

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/horr01c.pdf>

### Runnymede Trust response to "The Path to Citizenship: the next steps in reforming the immigration system"

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/policyResponses/PathToCitizenship.pdf>

## News

### New code of practice for foreign nationals makes more work for employers

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/scotland/New-code-of-practice-for.4071867.jp>

### Immigrant pupils 'lack specialist help with English'

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/education/display.var.2265856.0.Immigrant\\_pupils\\_lack\\_specialist\\_help\\_with\\_English.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/education/display.var.2265856.0.Immigrant_pupils_lack_specialist_help_with_English.php)

## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

#### Immigration boost for Fringe acts

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Immigration-boost-for-Fringe-acts.4076455.jp>

#### 'Prejudiced' neighbours make false claims against migrants

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/39Prejudiced39-neighbours-make-false-claims.4080744.jp>

#### Polish website launch

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Polish-website-launch.4091634.jp>

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## Race Relations

### Press Release

#### Community cohesion

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/797752>

### New publications

#### Guidance for local authorities (*in England*) on community cohesion contingency planning and tension monitoring

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/787910.pdf>

#### Cohesion Guidance for Funders Consultation: Impact Assessment

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/804446>

### News

#### A wing and a prayer

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/money/2008/may/12/workandcareers>

#### City has faith in the power of sharing stories

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/features/display.var.2265820.0.City has faith in the power of sharing stories.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/features/display.var.2265820.0.City+has+faith+in+the+power+of+sharing+stories.php)

#### What role should Christianity play in today's Britain?

[http://www.theothinktank.co.uk/What role should Christianity play in today's Britain.aspx?ArticleID=2108&PageID=11&RefPageID=5](http://www.theothinktank.co.uk/What+role+should+Christianity+play+in+today's+Britain.aspx?ArticleID=2108&PageID=11&RefPageID=5)

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## Equality

### Holyrood Ministerial Statement

**Stewart Maxwell (Minister for Communities and Sport):** In November 2007, we accepted an amendment to motion S3M-928 that asked us to make a statement on how our commitments on equality and diversity would be delivered through the Scottish budget. I am pleased to make that statement today.

The Scottish Government's investment and activity are geared around one central purpose: to create a more successful country that offers opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish. That means striving for a fairer and more equal Scotland. Addressing the inequalities in our society is essential if we are to meet the challenges of globalisation and demographic change and to ensure the wellbeing and cohesion of Scotland's communities. The spending review and budget are integral to enabling us to deliver that purpose and driving forward the changes that are needed to ensure equality of opportunity and outcome.

We have no doubts that Scotland will benefit from greater equality and that it is wholly unacceptable that people should be disadvantaged because of their race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, faith or age. Our performance framework contains a suite of outcomes that will improve the lives of people in Scotland. We expect equality to be integrated into the delivery of those outcomes and we have included a specific outcome on tackling the significant inequalities in Scottish society. That means getting to grips with the issues for equality groups and taking action across Government.

***To continue reading the lengthy statement and following question and answer session see***

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0515-02.htm#Col8607>

### Press Release

**Commission launches 2008/09 Business Plan**

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

### New publications

**Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Business Plan 2008/09**

[http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/Documents/Corporate%20info/business\\_plan/EHRC\\_Business\\_Plan\\_0809.pdf](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/Documents/Corporate%20info/business_plan/EHRC_Business_Plan_0809.pdf)

**European Network Against Racism (ENAR) Newsletter: All equally unequal? Issues and challenges of the new EU equality legislation**

[http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/ENARgy\\_04\\_2008\\_version\\_EN\\_final.pdf](http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/ENARgy_04_2008_version_EN_final.pdf)

### News

**New group for Muslim police officers stirs dissent in the ranks**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/New-group-for-Muslim.4085201.jp>

## Equality

### News (continued)

**Whispers 'hold back black police'**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7406856.stm>

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## Racism and Religious Hatred

### Holyrood Petition

**Bashir Ahmad** (S3M-1879): Muslim Police Association—That the Parliament congratulates Scotland's first Muslim Police Association (MPA); believes that the MPA will play an important dual role in both tackling the ever-increasing problem of Islamophobia and confronting any institutional fears that may exist within the force, and welcomes the move to recruit more people from diverse backgrounds into the police force.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-05-12f.htm>

### Westminster Debate

#### Antisemitism

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Parmjit Dhanda): I beg to move,

That this House has considered the matter of anti-Semitism.

I thank my right hon. and learned Friend the Leader of the House for calling this debate on anti-Semitism. It comes at an appropriate time, as it has been a year since the all-party parliamentary group against anti-Semitism reported on its inquiry. On Monday I laid a Command Paper before the House. It gave an opportunity to reflect on the all-party group's work, and today's debate is a good opportunity to congratulate all Members of this House—Back Benchers from all parties—on the contributions that they have made, and to congratulate our stakeholders.

More than 100 people were present on Monday, including spokespersons from Front-Bench teams from all the political parties, Members of the House of Lords and stakeholders from the Jewish community, including Jon Benjamin, Jeremy Newmark and Richard Benson from the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Community Security Trust and the Jewish Leadership Council. Just as importantly, there were many people of other faiths, and as the chair of the Faith Communities Consultative Council I was particularly pleased about that. The name of our consultation document that has been sent to faith communities is "Face to Face, Side by Side", a phrase coined by the Chief Rabbi himself. I was also pleased that he was present on Monday to contribute to our celebration of the work of the all-party group, the Command Paper and the work that has been done, one year on.

I am going to talk about the measures in the document, the work of the all-party group and other measures as well. It is a good time to state our gratitude to the all-party group and the team of officials who have been working incredibly hard to bring 10 Departments together, while working in harness with the Jewish community to bring about a cogent set of proposals.

## Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Debate *(continued)*

I will talk in a moment about the proposals made by the Department for Children, Schools and Families on school linking, the proposals to allow devolved capital to be used to provide security for school buildings for the Jewish community, better data collection involving the police and the Crown Prosecution Service, which is important, and the role of the inter-faith strategy and how it ties in with that work, as well as my Department's work with other Departments supporting the European Institute for the Study of Contemporary Anti-Semitism.

Although a great deal of work has been done, I am sure that hon. Members will talk about the great deal of work that remains to be done.

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080515/debtext/80515-0007.htm#08051586000002>

## Westminster Ministerial Statement

**Parmjit Dhanda (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government):** I am pleased to announce that I am today laying before Parliament and publishing the Government's one year on response to the all-party inquiry into antisemitism.

Just over a year ago the Government responded to the all-party parliamentary inquiry into antisemitism report and undertook to report back to Parliament on progress in implementing its recommendations.

We believe the best way to tackle antisemitism is through effective implementation of strong legislation against racial and religious discrimination and racially and religiously motivated crime. This must be underpinned by policies and strategies to increase racial equality and build community cohesion, particularly through education.

We have made significant progress against the 35 recommendations made by the all-party parliamentary inquiry's constructive and comprehensive report. We have ensured that by April 2009 all police forces will collect data on all hate crime, including antisemitism; agreed that schools and authorities can use their devolved capital funding for investment in security at schools where this is a priority; committed to funding research on the impact of antisemitic discourse; and launched the race for justice declaration—a cross-Government strategy which aims to combat all forms of hate crime.

Despite this progress, there is no room for complacency, and we will continue to take practical, effective action to stamp out antisemitism whenever and wherever it occurs. We are committed to increasing the number of hate crimes brought to prosecution, tackling antisemitism on university campuses, and challenging hate crime and extremism on the internet. We have agreed to continue our support of the cross-departmental and Jewish stakeholder working group and will report back to parliament on further progress in 2010.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080512/wmstext/80512m0001.htm#0805127000008>

## Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions

**John Mann:** What assessment he has made of the progress made at the April preparatory meeting for Durban II on racism. [204795]

**Reply from Jim Murphy:** The United Kingdom wants the Durban review conference to contribute to the global fight against racism. The preparatory work is ongoing, but there should be no repeat of the disgraceful anti-Semitism that blighted events surrounding the 2001 world conference against racism.

**John Mann:** With Libya chairing the preparatory committee and Cuba and Iran supporting it as officers, the signs are not too good. Can the Minister assure us that if there is even the slightest whiff of anything comparable to the disgrace of the first Durban conference, the United Kingdom will not participate?

**Reply from Jim Murphy:** I pay tribute to my hon. Friend and to other hon. Members in all parts of the House who played such an important part in the all-party inquiry into anti-Semitism. My hon. Friend is right that there have been dreadful comments and behaviour of an anti-Semitic nature in previous gatherings of that type. I wish to be clear that the UK Government will play no part in a gathering that displays such behaviour. We will continue to work to make sure that the conference is a success, but we will play no part in an international conference that exhibits the degree of anti-Semitism that was disgracefully on view on the previous occasion.

**Tim Boswell:** Although the Minister's comments are welcome, and his remarks about the anti-Semitism group are equally welcome, does he agree that it is interesting that Canada, whose Government are one of the most responsible and friendly with whom we ever have dealings, has already decided not to attend the conference? Is he in touch with the Canadian Government about their reasons for doing so?

**Reply from Jim Murphy:** The hon. Gentleman was another important contributor to the all-party inquiry and it is right to put that on record. We are in touch with international partners on this serious issue. One of the reasons why the Canadian Government withdrew, as I understand it, is that unacceptable conditions were placed on a Jewish non-governmental organisation from Canada, initiated by the Iranian authorities. We continue to discuss that with Canada and other international partners and that dialogue will continue. If it gets to a point that we come to the view that the conference cannot be a success, the option of withdrawal from the conference remains available to us.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080513/debtext/80513-0001.htm#08051353000018>

**Chris Ruane (205334):** To ask the Solicitor General, how many prosecutions have been brought under the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 since the law was implemented.

**Reply from the Solicitor-General:** The Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 came into force on 1 October 2007 and to date there have been no prosecutions under the legislation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080513/text/80513w0001.htm#08051351000015>

**James Clappison (206270):** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) religiously aggravated offences and (b) offences of religious harassment were recorded in each year since the introduction of such offences, broken down by the religion of the victim; and how many resulted in a (i) charge and (ii) conviction.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80515w01.htm>

## Racism and Religious Hatred Press Releases

**Dhanda - Government committed to tackling antisemitism**

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/798475>

**Declaration on the occasion of EURO 2008 “Unite against racism”**

[http://www.coe.int/t/e/human\\_rights/ecri/1-ECRI/4-Relations\\_with\\_civil\\_society/1-Programme\\_of\\_action/30-Declaration\\_EURO\\_2008/1-Declaration-eng.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/ecri/1-ECRI/4-Relations_with_civil_society/1-Programme_of_action/30-Declaration_EURO_2008/1-Declaration-eng.asp#TopOfPage)

## New publication

**All-Party Inquiry into Antisemitism: Government Response One year on Progress Report**

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm73/7381/7381.pdf>

## News

**Racism claim in 1994 murder case**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/north\\_east/7404813.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/north_east/7404813.stm)

**Murder accused said blacks should be shot, trial hears**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/05/17/murder-accused-said-blacks-should-be-shot-trial-hears-86908-20420255/>

**Murder accused 'said blacks should be shot' – witness**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Murder-accused-39said-blacks-should.4094049.jp>

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## Other Holyrood

### New publication

**High Level Summary of Statistics: Key Trends for Scotland**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/933/0060071.pdf>

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## Other Westminster

### Parliamentary Question

**Chris Ruane** [205302]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress has been made towards bringing forward proposals to abolish the offences of blasphemy and blasphemous libel.

**Reply from Parmjit Dhanda:** Section 79 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, which received Royal Assent on 8 May, contains provisions which abolish the common-law offences of blasphemy and blasphemous libel. Section 153(2)(d) of the Act provides for these provisions to come into force two months after Royal Assent.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080514/text/80514w0013.htm#08051487000005>

### Early Day Motion

**Annette Brooke** (1568) **Forced marriages of people with disabilities** - That this House notes that the majority of cases of forced marriage reported in the United Kingdom involve South Asian families; further notes that the Department of Health's report Learning Disabilities and Ethnicity found that learning disabilities are up to three times higher in South Asian communities than in other communities; further notes that the Director of UK Visas has stated that of the 250 'reluctant sponsors' for visas dealt with by the consul in Pakistan in 2007, 86 involved adults with severe disabilities; expresses concern that limited information on forced marriages of people with disabilities may hinder effective responses to this problem; and asks the Government to commission research into the prevalence and causes of forced marriages of people with disabilities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80515e01.htm>

### New publications

#### **Draft legislative programme 2008/09**

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm73/7372/7372.pdf>

How the draft legislative programme affects Scotland

<http://www.commonleader.gov.uk/output/page2431.asp?g=DD9240E0-EFC7-415E-98BB-01400FFF8F4A>

#### **Working with Black and Minority Ethnic Communities: A guide for Stop Smoking Service managers**

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/809490.pdf>

#### **Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites: Good Practice Guide**

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

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## New Publication

**People's Attachment to Place – the Influence of Neighbourhood Deprivation**

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2200-neighbourhoods-attachment-deprivation.pdf>

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## Other News

**Pride & prejudice: How the far right muscled in on middle England**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/pride--prejudice-how-the-far-right-muscled-in-on-middle-england-826898.html>

**Police apologise over mosque show**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/west\\_midlands/7401704.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/west_midlands/7401704.stm)

**Apology for mosque documentary slur**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Apology-for-mosque-documentary-slur.4085324.jp>

**Islamic law 'to influence UK system'**

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2272176.0.Islamic\\_law\\_to\\_influence\\_UK\\_system.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2272176.0.Islamic_law_to_influence_UK_system.php)

**First Asian woman to become Lord Mayor**

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2275387.0.First\\_Asian\\_woman\\_to\\_become\\_Lord\\_Mayor.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2275387.0.First_Asian_woman_to_become_Lord_Mayor.php)

**Islam in Europe: Power wars spell dead-end for French Muslim council**

[http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/WMen/WM141\\_EN%20-%202016%20May%202008.pdf](http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/WMen/WM141_EN%20-%202016%20May%202008.pdf)

**Salmond backs plans for Islamic faith school**

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Salmond-backs-plans-for-Islamic.4095303.jp>

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## **Bills in Progress**

\*\* New or updated this week

### **Holyrood**

#### **\*\* Creative Scotland Bill**

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

Stage 1 evidence from Event Scotland, Equity, the Scottish Storytelling Centre, and the Royal Society of Edinburgh

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/ellc/or-08/ed08-1102.htm#Col945>

Stage 1 evidence from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Enterprise, COSLA, and the Scottish Government

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/ellc/or-08/ed08-1202.htm#Col992>

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

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

Stage 1 Parliamentary debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0514-02.htm#Col8551>

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

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

*The Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill has been passed*

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

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/03-PublicHealth/b3s3-stage2-ml2.pdf>

Stage 2 Committee consideration of amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/or-08/he08-1302.htm#Col801>

## **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/pbc0631505m.261-266.html>

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

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

*The Bill has been passed and has received Royal Assent*

#### ***Draft Bill***

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

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

## Bills in Progress Westminster

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

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/070/amend/cwh0700515a.2137-2143.html>

Second Reading, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080512/debtext/80512-0004.htm#0805122000001>

Petition to the House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080512/debtext/80512-0020.htm#0805139000002>

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## Consultations (closing date)

\*\* New or updated this week

**Cohesion Guidance for Funders** (26 May 2008)

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

**\*\* Positive Action Measures in the European Union, Canada, United States & South Africa (online survey)** (31 May)

<http://www.priority-research.com/survey.php?sid=0487889D03962CF6C3BBBD0C90B6BD32>

**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/Inquirycallforevidence.aspx>

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

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

**\*\* UK Parliament draft legislative programme** (6 August 2008)

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm73/7372/7372.pdf>

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## Job Opportunities

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

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## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* New or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **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)

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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](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>

## Useful Links (continued)

**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](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)

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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>