



MEMO

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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.

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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

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.

Reply from Liam Byrne: In March 2007 we introduced a change to judicial review policy in agreement with the courts. This change meant that claimants have 72 hours to lodge a JR where removal directions are set but we are no longer required to defer removals simply on the threat of judicial review; claimants must also lodge full grounds of challenge. As part of this we have also agreed an expedited process for 25 cases per week that are considered abusive or without merit.

We continue to look for ways to improve processes and will present fresh proposals for reform shortly.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080520/text/80520w0012.htm#08052072000017>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

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.

Reply from Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what contribution net migration made to population change in the UK in each five year period since 1987. (205789)

The table below shows the contribution of net migration and natural change to population change for the UK for each five year period since 1987.

Contribution of net migration and natural change to population change for the UK for five-year periods from year ending mid-1987 to year ending mid-2006

	1987-1991	1992-96	1997-2001	2002-06
Total net migration and	—	—	—	932,999
	79,571	143,112	532,652	—
Other changes ^(1, 2)	—	—	—	12,424
Total natural change	675,252	582,604	416,471	528,429
Total population change	754,823	725,716	949,123	1,473,852

⁽¹⁾ It is not possible to separately identify and split net migration and other changes in the years up to 2001. For 2002-06 net migration and other changes are shown separately. ⁽²⁾ Other changes primarily include changes in the number of armed forces and dependants resident in the area and also (for years up to and including 2001) a factor to ensure that population change over the intercensal period agrees with estimates derived from the Census. *Source:* Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080519/text/80519w0011.htm#08051944000050>

James Clappison [206269]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases have been dealt with under the legacy exercise; how many have (a) resulted in the grant of leave to remain in the UK, (b) resulted in the removal of an individual from the UK and (c) been discovered to be the result of a duplicate file or error; and how many dependants have been granted leave to remain in the UK as the result of the grant of leave to remain to an individual.

Reply from Liam Byrne: In her letter of 17 December 2007 to the Home Affairs Select Committee, Lin Homer, Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency stated that of the 52,000 older asylum cases that had been concluded, 19,000 had led to grants of leave, 16,000 had led to removals and 17,000 had been closed due to previously erroneous or duplicate records. Lin Homer is due to update the Home Affairs Select Committee on the work to clear the backlog next month.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080519/text/80519w0021.htm#0805202000031>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

- Damian Green** [205458]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether mobile detention centres have been used in (a) pre-planned Border and Immigration Agency or UK Border Agency raids and (b) at the request of local constabularies following the apprehension of suspected illegal immigrants;
- (2) [205459] how many suspected illegal immigrants have been apprehended by mobile detention centres;
- (3) [205460] how many man hours have been spent in the operation of mobile detention centres;
- (4) [205461] how much has been spent on procurement of mobile detention centres;
- (5) [205462] for how many hours mobile detention centres have been in operation since January 2008;
- (6) [205463] how many mobile detention centres were operational in April 2008.

Reply from Liam Byrne: UKBA recently piloted the use of a short-term holding facility at small south coast sea ports, primarily Poole. During this period, the merit of using this type of facility for both pre-planned operations and to apprehend illegal immigrants was considered. A version of this vehicle, informed by the earlier pilot but with a different specification is currently being developed to meet the needs of our enforcement teams. UKBA is on track to pilot the new vehicle during autumn 2008 in the Northampton area. Funding for this trial will be from within existing resources and is commercial in confidence.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080519/text/80519w0024.htm#0805202000044>

Jim Devine [206442]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the development of plans to assist local authorities and housing providers to respond to the demands imposed by inward migration.

Reply from Caroline Flint: The Government recognise that in addition to the benefits the country derives from migration, there can be some transitional impacts. CLG is working across government and with our stakeholders to identify what additional support the Government can offer communities and public service providers in England experiencing migration related impacts.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080520/text/80520w0020.htm#08052112000011>

James Clappison [205788]: To ask the 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.

Reply from Angela Eagle: Migration has added around 0.5 per cent. per annum to the working age population between 1997 and 2006, stimulating growth in total output. Average output growth over this period was 2.7 per cent. and migration is estimated to have contributed around 15-20 per cent. of this.

The direct impact of immigration on gross domestic product per capita has been small but broadly positive.

The impact of immigration on the economy is discussed in more detail in a cross-departmental report⁽¹⁾ in sections 3.3 and 3.4.

⁽¹⁾ Home Office and Department of Work and Pensions (2007). The Economic and Fiscal Impact of Immigration: A Cross-Departmental Submission to the House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/economic-impact-of-immigration>.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080520/text/80520w0008.htm#08052070000006>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

James Clappison [206613]: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what projection the Government Actuary's Department has made of changes in population over 50 years per million immigrants; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Angela Eagle: The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) has made no such projection since responsibility for the production of the national population projections transferred from GAD to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 31 January 2006. This transfer was recommended by an independent review of the actuarial profession and of GAD conducted by Sir Derek Morris. The latest set of population projections produced by ONS—and the first since the transfer of responsibility took place—was published on 23 October 2007.

(<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pproj1007.pdf>).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080520/text/80520w0008.htm#08052070000006>

Justine Greening [200897]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many principal applicant cases were allocated to case resolution teams (CRT) in her Department, broken down by (a) CRT (S), (b) CRT (M) and (c) CRT (L) in the years (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The work to clear the backlog of asylum cases was announced in July 2006. Work started on selected cases in November 2006 and the Case Resolution Directorate was created on 1 April 2007, tasked with managing the work. Around 5,500 principal applicant cases were allocated to each case owning team in December 2007.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency provided an update on progress on clearing the backlog of older cases to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 17 December 2007 and has given an undertaking to update Parliament every six months on further progress.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080520/text/80520w0012.htm#08052072000017>

Justine Greening [200898]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of principal applicant cases allocated to case resolution teams (CRT) in her Department were (a) resolved within the year and (b) carried over to the following year, broken down by (i) CRT (S), (ii) CRT (M) and (iii) CRT (L) in the years (A) 2003-04, (B) 2004-05, (C) 2005-06, (D) 2006-07 and (E) 2007-08.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The work to clear the backlog of asylum cases was announced in July 2006.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency provided an update on progress on clearing the backlog of older cases to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 17 December 2007 and has given an undertaking to update Parliament every six months on further progress.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080520/text/80520w0012.htm#08052072000017>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Justine Greening [200899]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many principal applicant cases resolved in (a) 2003-04, (b) 2004-05, (c) 2005-06, (d) 2006-07 and (e) 2007-08 were given (i) exceptional leave to remain and (ii) indefinite leave to remain, broken down by (A) case resolution team (S), (B) case resolution team (M) and (C) case resolution team (L).

Reply from Liam Byrne: The work to clear the backlog of older asylum cases was announced in July 2006.

To provide the information requested would incur disproportionate cost as we do not routinely collect this information.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency provided an update on progress to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 17 December 2007 and has given an undertaking to update Parliament every six months on further progress.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080520/text/80520w0012.htm#08052072000017>

Wayne Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the length of time an individual accepted for the Gateway resettlement programme will wait before resettlement; and whether they will receive financial assistance from his Department between acceptance on to the programme and resettlement. [205908]

Reply from David Miliband: The length of time between acceptance by the UK Border Agency and resettlement can vary. Accepted refugees are moved to the UK in groups once a receiving local authority has agreed to accommodate them. Therefore movement times vary according to the voluntary participation by each local authority.

Staff being considered for resettlement under the Gateway programme will be provided with financial assistance to allow them to support themselves during the screening process in a third country.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080521/text/80521w0008.htm#08052175000102>

Baroness Hanham asked Her Majesty's Government [HL3584]: Whether they will set out the complete timetable for use of "all available passenger data" within the e-Borders programme including (a) Travel Document Information, (b) Other Passenger Information, and (c) Authority to Carry data.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: e-Borders is currently in receipt of and processing 30 million (annualised) electronic records of travel document information (TDI) for international passengers and crew entering and leaving the UK. The receipt and processing of TDI data for 100 per cent of passenger international and crew movements will be achieved by March 2014.

The e-Borders system already collects and uses a small sample of other passenger information (OPI) which it has used to de-risk the main programme.

From summer 2009 we will begin the incremental capture of other passenger information and by December 2013 the e-Borders solution will allow the receipt and processing of 100 million targeted/selected OPI passenger movements.

The authority to carry capability will be available from October 2008, with a manual response process to inform carriers. A fully automated response to carriers is a future service under the e-Borders contract.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80519w0001.htm#08051916000011>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

James Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of inward migrants to the UK intending to stay for 12 months or more who cited work-related purposes as the main reason for migration in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many work permit holders were given leave to enter the UK in each of those years. [206263]

Reply from Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what estimate has been made of the number of inward migrants to the UK intending to stay for 12 months or more who cited work-related purposes as the main reason for migration in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many work permit holders were given leave to enter the UK in each of those years. (206263)

The estimates of inward migration to the UK of those intending to stay 12 months or more are taken from the International Passenger Survey (IPS) and are shown in the table attached.

Those with a work related reason for migration are those with a definite job to go to and those looking for work. The data are also broken down by British, European Union and non-European Union citizens as work permits are only applicable to non-EU citizens.

Work permit data from the Home Office was provided for a previous Parliamentary Question. Please see Official Report, written answers, 12 September 2007 column 2159W to 2161W.

International migration: Estimates from the International Passenger survey time series 2004-06—Citizenship by reason for migration—Inflow (United Kingdom)

Thousand

	2004			2005			2006		
	<i>Of which:</i>								
<i>Main reason for migration</i>	<i>Work related</i>	<i>Definite job</i>	<i>Looking for work</i>	<i>Work related</i>	<i>Definite job</i>	<i>Looking for work</i>	<i>Work related</i>	<i>Definite job</i>	<i>Looking for work</i>
All citizenships	215	143	72	226	152	74	214	149	65
British	37	15	22	48	23	25	31	16	15
European Union ⁽¹⁾	65	51	14	86	62	24	83	55	28
Non-European Union	112	76	36	93	68	25	100	78	22

⁽¹⁾ Figures show the EU25 (EU15 plus the 10 countries of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia). These countries are included in the definition for the whole of 2004, whether migration occurred before or after 1 May 2004.

Note:

Those with a work related reason for migration are those with a definite job and those looking for work.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080520/text/80520w0017.htm#0805215000005>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Nigel Evans [203606]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of foreign nationals were counted (a) in and (b) out of the UK under the border and immigration system in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007.

Reply from Liam Byrne: During 2007, the e-Borders system received data from over 500 high risk routes, with annualised passenger figures of greater than 35 million, of which 15.4 million (44 per cent.) were foreign nationals (defined as non EEA nationals.)

Data extrapolation for 2006 are currently not available in this format.

<http://www.parliament.uk/directories/directories.cfm>

Lord Lester of Herne Hill asked Her Majesty's Government [HL3562]: Further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 12 May (HL3321), what are the legal and administrative safeguards to protect failed asylum seekers from being detained unnecessarily.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Immigration detention is authorised under the statutory powers contained in Schedules 2 and 2 to the Immigration Act 1971, and Section 62 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002.

In line with the Government's stated policy on the use of these powers, persons may be detained in the following circumstances: initially, while their identity and basis of claim are being established; where there is reason to believe that a person will fail to comply with the conditions attached to the grant of temporary admission or release; as part of a fast-track asylum process; or to effect removal.

Detention is not arbitrary. Each case is considered on its individual merits and all factors arguing for and against detention are weighed carefully before a decision to detain is made. The decision to detain is authorised at specified levels within the UK Border Agency depending on the nature of the case concerned and is kept under review on a regular basis at successively higher levels within the agency to ensure that persons only remain in detention where this continues to be justified.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80519w0002.htm#08051916000021>

Lord Lester of Herne Hill asked Her Majesty's Government [HL3564]: Further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 12 May (HL3321), whether it conforms with their policy for certain failed asylum seekers to be kept in immigration detention for more than one year while the Home Office obtains emergency travel documents for them.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Whilst there is no fixed time-limit on detention under Immigration Act powers, the UK Border Agency is keen to ensure that detention lasts for no longer than is necessary.

Individuals are detained only for as long as is reasonably necessary to achieve the purpose for which detention was authorised. What constitutes a reasonable length of detention will vary from case to case depending on the particular circumstances of each case. The actions of detained individuals, including failure to co-operate with redocumentation, may sometimes prolong their detention.

Detention is reviewed on a regular basis, at successively higher levels within the UK Border Agency, to ensure that persons remain in detention only for as long as it continues to be justified.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80520w0001.htm#08052054000014>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Thomas of Gresford asked Her Majesty's Government [HL3365]: Why the Home Department no longer aims to make a decision on an application for indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom within 13 weeks of the filing of the application and payment of the fee; and what the current aim of the department is for the consideration and resolution of such an application.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The Home Office service standard for making decisions on applications for indefinite leave to remain are published on the UK Borders Agency web site as follows:

decide 70 per cent of postal applications within 20 working days; decide 90 per cent of postal applications within 70 working days; and decide 98 per cent of applications made in person at a public enquiry office within 24 hours.

These standards were in place throughout the financial year 2007-08 and there are no plans to change these for 2008-09.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80519w0002.htm#08051916000022>

Lord Oakeshott of Seagrove Bay asked Her Majesty's Government [HL3483]: (a) what standard of spoken or written English, if any, is required for entry for settlement in the United Kingdom by individuals who can show assets of £1,000,000 in a United Kingdom bank account; (b) when that requirement was fixed; and (c) what is the timetable for reviewing that requirement in future.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: There are no English-language requirements for entry to the UK in the investor category. Those who wish to apply for settlement as an investor will need to have spent a continuous period of at least five years in the United Kingdom before becoming eligible to apply. Adults aged 18 or over but under the age of 65 who apply for settlement need to demonstrate knowledge of the English language and of "Life in the UK", unless they are applying under one of the categories which does not contain this requirement.

A person can demonstrate that they have sufficient knowledge of the English language and of life in the UK by passing either the "Life in the UK" test, or by obtaining an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) with citizenship certificate. This requirement was introduced from 2 April 2007.

The policy requirement to demonstrate knowledge of the English language and of "Life in the UK" will continue with the introduction of the points-based system, tier 1 (investors), later this summer.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80521w0002.htm#08052174000016>

Damian Green (206842): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will commission or evaluate research on the effect of immigration on the gross domestic product per capita of the resident host population in the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80519w01.htm>

Damian Green (206844): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to collect additional data from migrants via landing cards.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80519w01.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Damian Green (206849): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the oral evidence given by the Minister of State for Immigration to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Select Committee in its inquiry into the Economic Impact of Immigration, if she will commission quantitative research into the effect of immigration on gross domestic product per capita.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80519w01.htm>

Damian Green (206853): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many legacy immigration cases (a) were solved, (b) were closed for administrative or other reasons, (c) were no longer being actively investigated or worked on, (d) were resolved resulting in a deportation order, (e) resulted in a deportation being carried out and (f) resulted in a decision allowing the applicant to remain in the United Kingdom in each of the last five years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80519w01.htm>

Press Releases

Eastern European immigration falls

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/accession-stats-spring-08>

Immigration detention capacity to grow substantially

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/immigration-detention-centres>

Tier 1 (General) of the points-based system policy guidance

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/tier1general_points-basedsystem

New publication

Making migration work: the role of employers in migrant integration

http://www.epc.eu/TEWN/pdf/608394341_EPC%20Working%20Paper%2030%20Making%20migration%20work.pdf

News

Warning on dangers of hiring illegal migrants

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/05/19/newsstory11380236t0.asp>

'Asylum' a negative word - report

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7409652.stm>

Asylum seekers should be renamed sanctuary seekers, report says

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1992851/Asylum-seekers-should-be-renamed-sanctuary-seekers%2C-report-says.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Record numbers given UK citizenship

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Record-numbers-given-UK-citizenship.4100490.jp>

Record numbers given British citizenship

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2285314.0.Record_numbers_given_British_citizenship.php

Citizenship approvals hit record high

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Citizenship--approvals-hit-record.4103107.jp>

UK citizenship for record 164,000 foreigners

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1996387/UK-citizenship-for-record-164%2C000-foreigners.html>

Number of new British citizens under Labour hits 1.2m mark

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article3972627.ece>

Record number of new Britons

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/648785>

Fewer failed asylum-seekers sent home

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article3972626.ece>

Gay Iranian granted asylum in UK

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7411706.stm>

Gay Iranian teenager wins right to stay in UK

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iran/1997602/Gay-Iranian-teenager-wins-right-to-stay-in-UK.html>

Speak our language call to medics

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/highlands_and_islands/7410216.stm

Kirk criticises 'inhumane' treatment of asylum seekers

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2285269.0.Kirk_criticises_inhumane_treatment_of_asylum_seekers.php

Government funds documentary on migrants

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/politics/labour/1997327/Government-funds-documentary-on-migrants.html>

MPs attack migrant count methods

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7415261.stm

City enjoys Fringe benefits of a flexible immigration policy

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/opinion/City-enjoys-Fringe-benefits-of.4117832.jp>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

SNP accused of betraying refugees

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2295794.0.snp_accused_of_betraying_refugees.php

Justice system compromised by unqualified interpreters

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2295799.0.justice_system_compromised_by_unqualified_interpreters.php

Becoming a Brit brought real freedom

http://www.sundayherald.com/oped/opinion/display.var.2295755.0.becoming_a_brit_brought_real_freedom.php

Police learn the lingo to combat immigrant crime

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article3998967.ece>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

Holyrood Committee

Equal Opportunities Committee

Approach paper about Religion and Belief

(pp9-10) <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/papers-08/eop08-08.pdf>

Letter from Fergus Ewing, Communities Safety Minister

(pp10-13) <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/papers-08/eop08-08.pdf>

Faith and belief in Scotland: Scottish working group on faith and belief relations membership

(p14) <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/papers-08/eop08-08.pdf>

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/or-08/eo08-0802.htm#Col506>

The Convener: Agenda item 5 is consideration of our approach to our proposed taking-stock exercise on religion and belief. At the end of the paper are two recommended actions based on the fact that the Government has already undertaken a similar exercise. One option is to defer action until the Scottish Government has developed its strategic framework, and the other is to invite the Minister for Community Safety to brief the committee on the Government's work.

I suggest that we get the minister in, so that we can explore the Scottish Government's decision to pre-empt, as it were, something that was laid out in this committee's work programme by undertaking a similar exercise. In the light of that evidence, we can then decide whether it is appropriate to defer what we had originally intended to do.

Does the committee agree to that suggestion?

Members indicated agreement.

Race Relations (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government [HL3390]: How many complaints of harassment or serious harm have been made by persons leaving the Muslim faith or converting to other religions in recent years; and whether police are available and other administrative measures in place to protect such people and their families.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: National data are not collected at this level of detail.

Anyone who has reason to be in fear of their safety should seek advice and support from their local police and community safety partners.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80520w0002.htm#08052054000025>

Press Releases

Working together: across the divide: Glasgow Christians and Muslims co-operate to renovate places of worship

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news/nr350508.htm>

Additional Government funding and recognition for the third sector working to improve race equality and cohesion (in England and Wales)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/818110>

New publications

Neither Private nor Privileged: The Role of Christianity in Britain Today

<http://campaigndirector.moodia.com/Client/Theos/Files/NPNP.pdf>

Schools Community Cohesion Resource Pack

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/Communitycohesion/communitycohesionresourcepack/>

News

Citizen chefs feed goodwill in Govan

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/features/display.var.2282319.0.Citizen_chefs_feed_goodwill_in_Govan.php

Catholic church moves into Pole position

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Catholic-church-moves-into-Pole.4118420.jp>

Church is not doing enough to convert UK Muslims, says bishop

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1021691/Church-doing-convert-UK-Muslims-says-bishop.html>

Church to debate convert motion

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7418957.stm>

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Equality

Holyrood Committee

Equal Opportunities Committee

Written evidence from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission

(pp3-8) <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/papers-08/eop08-08.pdf>

Oral evidence from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission

Ros Micklem (Equality and Human Rights Commission): Thank you very much for inviting us. Our commission has been in operation for just over seven months and we are delighted to have the opportunity to continue our dialogue with the committee about our priorities and yours, about what you hope for from us and about how we can best support each other's agendas.

Our submission outlines some of our key achievements, but it does not highlight all our productive engagement around Scotland with a range of partners and interest groups. We have found that inspiring and energising and we feel that momentum is behind creating a more equal Scotland and promoting human rights in Scotland.

We had a successful jointly organised conference in Inverness on rural issues and equality, which was followed up by effective workshops on how our agenda needs to be worked out in a rural context. We held a successful conference for legal professionals on the changing law in relation to equalities. We have had the first of a series of sessions with employers to help them to develop and share good practice on equality in the workplace.

We have started our series of round-table discussions with the interest groups that represent the new areas of equality in which we are working. We have worked with several stakeholders in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender field, who came along to a productive four-hour session with us to talk about what they have been doing, how we can support that and where we could head on those issues. We have engaged with the research community on specific projects and we have worked closely with the Scottish Government's equality unit.

We feel that strong momentum for change exists and we are proud to have started our work as part of that movement. As members know, we have a massive agenda, but our organisation is quite small. We still have 25 staff in Scotland; we are working towards achieving our full complement of 40. We are aware that the agenda is huge and that we need to take our time to understand it fully, to work out our priorities and to think through how best we can add value. We cannot do much on our own; we need to develop our key partnerships to make ourselves effective.

To continue reading the evidence session see

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/or-08/eo08-0802.htm#Col478>

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Johann Lamont (S3O-3445): To ask the Scottish Executive when ministers last met equality organisations and what issues were discussed.

Reply from Stewart Maxwell: Since May 2007 I have met with a number of equality organisations and discussed a wide range of issues. Time does not allow me to provide a comprehensive account of those organisations here and now but include:

Inclusion Scotland, Capability Scotland and others to discuss independent living and how progress can be made towards increasing choice and control for disabled people, in July 2007

Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Question (continued)

I attended the Positive Action in Housing AGM on 7 September 2007. As you will know, PAiH play a lead role in lobbying and advocating for the housing needs of people from minority ethnic and refugee communities.

In December last year, I met with representatives from STUC Women's Committee, Scottish Women's Convention and Scottish Women's Budget Group to discuss how to tackle the gender pay gap.

I have chaired three meetings of the National Group to Address Violence Against Women, in June and November 2007 and February 2008.

Also in February, I met with Stonewall Scotland and spoke at their conference on tackling work place discrimination.

Earlier this month I met with the Yom Hashoah Glasgow Jewish Representative Council.

As for my colleagues, the Minister for Children and Early Years met with "For Scotland's Disabled Children" for the second time on 20 March this year, to discuss improving life chances of disabled children and providing families with appropriate levels of support.

The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing met with Ethnic Enable earlier this month to hear about its work, meet with volunteers and discuss issues of multiple discrimination. Ethnic Enable is a disability organisation run by and for disabled people from minority ethnic communities.

She also met with BEMIS in January this year to discuss their work, in particular with respect to the voluntary sector.

The Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture met with LGBT Youth last Saturday to discuss human rights and LGBT equality.

The Minister for Public Health met with a wide range of disability organisations at the STUC disabled workers conference in September 2007 and discussed a range of issues including employability, independent living and access to education and training.

In April, The Minister for Community Safety gave a keynote address and met people attending the Faith & Belief in Scotland – young people's event.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0522.htm>

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Harriet Harman (Minister for Women and Equality): Last summer, we set out the Government's priorities for women. These included increasing the number of black and Asian and minority ethnic women on local councils.

A report produced by Simon Woolley, head of Operation Black Vote, has today been published on the Government Equalities Office website, highlighting the scale of under-representation in our democracy.

Black, Asian and minority ethnic women account for less than 1 per cent. of England's 20,000 councillors. To be more representative of society as a whole, the number of black, Asian and ethnic minority women councillors needs to be increased more than fivefold—from 168 of all councillors in England to nearer a thousand.

At Westminster, the under-representation is even more marked. Only 19.5 per cent. of Members of the House of Commons are women and of these only two come from minority ethnic communities. There has never been an Asian woman MP.

Equality

Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

To make local councils more representative, we are today setting up a taskforce that will be chaired by Baroness Uddin of Bethnal Green. The taskforce will last for 12 months, with an option to review and extend this.

The taskforce members will include black and Asian and minority ethnic women councillors and former councillors from every region in England and from Scotland and Wales. The taskforce will identify and take practical action to increase awareness and build confidence and skills; reach out into communities to encourage women to step forward to become local councillors; identify and tackle barriers within political parties; and reduce disadvantage and stereotyping from within and outside the communities.

The taskforce will be supported in its work by the Ministers for Women and Equality and a secretariat will be provided by the Government Equalities Office. Full details of the taskforce, its membership and terms of reference are available on the Government Equalities Office website.

The Prime Minister has proposed to the Speaker that he call a Speaker's conference to consider, against the backdrop of a decline in turnout, a number of important issues including the representation of women and ethnic minorities in the House of Commons. The Speaker's conference and the taskforce we are announcing today will play a vital role in ensuring that we take steps to make progress.

The taskforce will be working closely with the Department of Communities and Local Government, who will soon be responding to the Councillors Commission report "Representing the Future" which made recommendations aimed at reducing barriers and increasing the incentives for people to stand and serve as councillors. The report looked at the wider issues of widening the pool of local councillors to increase representation from all under represented groups—women, people from black and minority ethnic communities, people of working age, young people and disabled people.

The Government do not consider that the time is right to take legislative measures to permit all-BAME election shortlists.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080519/wmstext/80519m0002.htm#0805196000021>

Press Release

BAME Women's Councillors Taskforce

Terms of Reference http://www.equalities.gov.uk/min_eth/terms_of_reference.htm

Factsheet

[http://www.equalities.gov.uk/publications/BAME Women in Political and Public Life.pdf](http://www.equalities.gov.uk/publications/BAME_Women_in_Political_and_Public_Life.pdf)

New publication

Radical change to boost equality and diversity in Fire Service

(in England and Wales)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/811726>

News

Worker wins 'Christian only' case

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/7406419.stm>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

John Park (S3W-13104) : To ask the Scottish Executive what measures it is taking to tackle racist behaviour and attitudes by football fans.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-05-19e.htm>

John Park (S3W-13105) : To ask the Scottish Executive what measures it is taking to tackle sectarian behaviour and attitudes by football fans.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-05-19e.htm>

John Park (S3W-13106) : To ask the Scottish Executive how it is monitoring the number of racist or sectarian incidents involving football fans.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-05-19e.htm>

John Park (S3W-13107) : To ask the Scottish Executive what the incidence has been of racist incidents involving Scottish football fans at club and national level, in Scotland and abroad, since 1 September 2006.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-05-19e.htm>

John Park (S3W-13108) : To ask the Scottish Executive what the incidence has been of sectarian incidents involving Scottish football fans at club and national level, in Scotland and abroad, since 1 September 2006.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-05-19e.htm>

Westminster Debate

Discrimination

Lord Lester of Herne Hill asked Her Majesty's Government whether they will introduce legislation to ensure that the same burden of proof applies to cases alleging discrimination on the ground of colour as to cases alleging discrimination on the grounds of race or ethnicity.

The noble Lord said: My Lords, I have been asked by the noble Baroness, Lady Young of Hornsey, to express her regret that she cannot be here and her support for what I am about to say.

The Race Relations Act 1976, of which I was an architect, forbids discrimination on racial grounds which include not only race, ethnic or national origins and nationality but colour. That definition came from the United Nations definition in the convention on the elimination of racial discrimination. The UK is bound by that convention which expressly includes colour. The EU race directive of 29 June 2000 refers to the right to equality before the law and protection against discrimination as a universal right recognised by various international human rights treaties, all of which include colour as a forbidden ground of discrimination. The race directive lays down a framework for combating discrimination on grounds of racial or ethnic origin. The Government chose to implement the directive by subordinate rather than primary legislation under the European Communities Act 1972, and they did so in the Race Relations Act 1976 (Amendment) Regulations 2003.

Because the race directive does not specifically mention colour, but only discrimination based on grounds of racial or ethnic origin, the Government decided that it deliberately excluded colour. I believe that interpretation was contrary to European Union law and that the Court of Justice in a proper case would so decide.

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Debate (continued)

Among other things, Article 8 of the race directive eases the burden of proof in race discrimination cases, but because of the way in which the Government have translated it into our statute law, someone complaining of racial discrimination on grounds of colour has a heavier burden of proof than on other racial grounds. That absurd anomalous result was confirmed by the Employment Appeal Tribunal in *Okonu v G4S Security Services (UK) Ltd* last year. The anomaly was described as going even wider by Mr Justice Birtles, who said that this means that,

“the new definitions of indirect discrimination and harassment, the shift in the burden of proof, and the new provisions relating to the genuine occupational requirement exception will apply only to discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnic or national origin and not to colour”.

When the regulations were debated here on 11 June 2003, I criticised them for disfiguring the existing anti-discrimination legislation and as being contrary to the need for, “coherent, consistent, accessible, joined-up and user-friendly ... legislation”.—[*Official Report*, 11/6/03; col. 320.]

I seek an assurance in this brief debate that the anomaly I have just described will be removed soon in the much promised and greatly delayed new equality Bill.

I should like to say a few words about that Bill but before I do so I should like to say something about the role of this House in the reform process. I am very glad indeed that the noble Baronesses, Lady Prashar, of Runnymede, and Lady Howells of St Davids, are both taking part in this debate. I am sure they will remember the previous work done by this House in seeking to secure coherent legislation—for example, in the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 in the aftermath of the Stephen Lawrence barbarity, where we managed to persuade the Government to strengthen that Act during its passage. I refer also to my own Bill of 2003, which was passed by this House, and which drew upon the authoritative Hepple report, which won very widespread support. This House contains exceptional expertise and I am sure that noble Lords who are present and those who are not will wish to assist the right honourable Harriet Harman MP and her colleagues in preparing the equality Bill—a Bill of which we would like to be proud.

I look forward very much to hearing the noble Lord, Lord Dixon-Smith, explain the position of the Official Opposition on this matter. In the 1970s, a generation ago, I well remember that his party was not conspicuous in supporting effective equality legislation, although it is true that in 1989 in Northern Ireland the Administration of the right honourable Margaret Thatcher—now the noble Baroness, Lady Thatcher—strengthened the law there as a result of pressure from investors in the United States.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80521-0011.htm#08052194000003>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Don Foster (207027): To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how much his Department has spent on tackling (a) racism and (b) homophobia in football since 1997.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80521w01.htm>

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

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.

Reply from Vernon Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Home Office collects statistics on recorded racially or religiously aggravated offences for some specific categories of offence. However, it is not possible to determine (a) whether an offence was of a racial or religious nature or (b) the religion of the victim. Similarly, the religion of the victim cannot be identified from the courts proceedings data collected by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080520/text/80520w0015.htm#08052072000028>

Press Releases

MEPs call for comprehensive legislation to combat discrimination

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/014-29032-140-05-21-902-20080516IPR29016-19-05-2008-2008-false/default_en.htm

European Network Against Racism (ENAR) statement on Durban Review Conference

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2008-05-21%20Statement%20on%20Durban%20Conference.pdf>

European Parliament's message to the European Commission is clear: end hierarchy of rights and protection in the EU

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2008-05-21%20joint%20statement%20ENAR-ILGA-Amnesty%20EP%20vote.pdf>

New publication

Equal Voices: Beyond Tolerance – Learning from Diversity

<http://fra.europa.eu/fra/material/pub/ev/ev23/ev23.pdf>

News

Yob jailed over racist attack

<http://www.sundaymail.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/05/25/yob-jailed-over-racist-attack-78057-20428338/>

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Other Holyrood

Committees

Local Government and Communities Committee: Elections 2007

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/lgc/or-08/lg08-1402.htm#Col811>

Justice Committee: Community Policing Inquiry

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/or-08/ju08-1202.htm#Col724>

Press Release

Attitudes to Government in Scotland

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/05/22110120>

New publication

Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2007: Core Module Report 1 - Attitudes to government in Scotland

Report <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/223197/0060077.pdf>

Summary <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/223192/0060076.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Debate

Gypsies and Travelers

Iain Wright: I am grateful to Mr. Speaker for granting this important debate this afternoon. It gives me the opportunity to reflect on the progress that the Government have made in continuing our commitment to providing decent homes for those who need them. Through that commitment, we aim to ensure that Gypsies and Travellers, who are perhaps the most socially excluded ethnic minority group in the country, have an authorised and secure place in which to live.

I would like to thank Sir Brian Briscoe, members of the task group and all those who gave evidence during the course of the group's work. This debate is the start of a commitment by the Government to report regularly on our progress with regard to the accommodation requirements of Gypsies and Travellers.

The debate comes at a time when we look forward to celebrating Gypsy Roma Traveller history month in June. It is the first such celebration to be fully supported and endorsed by the Government. It will provide a tremendous opportunity for children in our schools to hear of the traditions of Gypsies and Travellers and how their cultural heritage, passed down through the generations, is often a world away from that popularly perceived. Together with my noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Lord Adonis, I welcome the opportunity that we will now have to challenge the myths and to break down the barriers to social cohesion.

Other Westminster

Debate (continued)

It is important to put today's debate into context and to remember that this is not an abstract matter. We are discussing real people here; a proud people who are protective of their cultural identity. They are families with children who sorely need the opportunity for a proper education; and families with elderly relatives who desperately need their elected representatives to champion improvements to health services on their behalf.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080522/halltext/80522h0001.htm#08052290000001>

Parliamentary Questions

James Gray [206436]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Traveller caravans there were in England when the Caravan Sites Act 1968 (a) came into force and (b) was repealed; and how many there are now.

Reply from Iain Wright: A bi-annual count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in England has been undertaken since 1979. In January 1979, 8,358 caravans were counted. Part 2 of the Caravan Sites Act 1968, which included a duty on local authorities to provide sites, was repealed in 1994. In July 1994, 12,614 caravans were counted. In July 2007, 17,134 caravans were counted.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080520/text/80520w0020.htm#08052112000005>

Stewart Hosie [205826]: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on (a) written consultations, (b) consultation roadshows and (c) stakeholder focus groups in each of the last three years.

Reply from Des Browne: In the last three years, the Scotland Office has incurred direct costs of £2,038 in 2007-08 on written consultations; nothing on consultation roadshows; and nothing on stakeholder focus groups.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080520/text/80520w0001.htm#08052055000028>

Stewart Hosie [205827]: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what consultants have been contracted by his Department to conduct public participation activity in the last three years; and what the value of each such contract was.

Reply from Des Browne: The Scotland Office incurred no costs on consultants in the last three years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080520/text/80520w0001.htm#08052055000028>

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New Publications

Designing citizen-centred governance

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2205-governance-citizens-engagement.pdf>

New Publications (continued)

Report on self reported experience of patients from black and minority ethnic groups

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_084921?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=165603&Rendition=Web

No Patient Left Behind: how can we ensure world class primary care for black and minority ethnic people?

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_084971?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=165661&Rendition=Web

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Other News

MPs back creation of hybrid human embryos

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2282431.0.MPs_back_creation_of_hybrid_human_embryos.php

MPs back hybrid embryo research

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7407589.stm

Cardinal 'upset over embryo bill'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7419025.stm>

'My father is giving me a kidney'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7398896.stm>

Group of travellers submit plans for permanent base in north-east

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/649567>

No action over travellers

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/05/26/newsstory11413279t0.asp>

Kirk inaugurates new national award for religious observance in schools: Edinburgh and Lanarkshire schools 'first winners' of new Kirk prize

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news/nr340508.htm>

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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>

Judiciary and Courts Bill

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

**** Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/09-AggPrej/index.htm>

Bill as introduced

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/09-AggPrej/b9s3-introd.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/09-AggPrej/b9s3-introd-en.pdf>

Policy Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/09-AggPrej/b9s3-introd-pm.pdf>

Delegated Powers Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/09-AggPrej/b9s3-introd-dpm.pdf>

**** 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-ml3.pdf>

Stage 2 consideration of amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/or-08/he08-1402.htm#Col864>

Bill as amended at Stage 2

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

Bills in Progress

Westminster

Counter-Terrorism Bill

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

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>

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/070/amend/pbc0701905m.2161-2167.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/070/amend/wh0700520m.2243-2246.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/070/amend/pbc0702105a.15.html>

House of Commons consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080519/debtext/80519-0004.htm#08051912000001>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080520/debtext/80520-0004.htm#08052039000001>

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Consultations (closing date)

**** New or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

Cohesion Guidance for Funders (26 May 2008)

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

**** closes this week!**

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>

Consultations (continued)

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

** **New Migrants & EU Nationals - Rights, recognition, responsibilities & action**

4 June 2008 in Glasgow (9.30 – 12.30)

Positive Action in Housing briefing about the laws and procedures for organisations dealing with EU Nationals (the 'accession' countries, new migrants). For information contact Zandra Yeaman zandra@paih.org / 0141 353 2220

** **OSCR Meet the Regulator Roadshow**

10 June 2008 in [Glasgow](#) (9.15 – 1.30)

11 June 2008 in [Benbecula](#) (9.15 – 2.00)

12 June 2008 in [Tarbert, Harris](#) (10.45 – 3.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator in Scotland meetings aimed at charity trustees and administrators of charities with a gross annual income of less than £100,000, to discuss compliance issues such as charity accounting, consents and notifications, and charity trustee duties. For information see above weblinks, or contact derek.galbraith@oscr.org.uk

** **Civicus World Assembly**

18-21 June 2008 in Glasgow

The Civicus World Assembly is a forum for international civil society representatives to get together, exchange ideas, experiences and build strategies for a just world. For information see www.civicusassembly.org or contact Even Rehse eva.rehse@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 6194.

** **The Gathering**

19-20 June 2008 in Glasgow

Voluntary Sector fair that brings together voluntary sector staff, volunteers, community activists and is the largest event of its kind in the entire UK. For information see www.gatherscotland.org.uk or contact Andrew Stewart andrew.stewart@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 6172.

** BEMIS is supporting under-represented groups by providing them with a **free** stall to promote their project at The Gathering. For information contact Sue Barnes sue.barnes@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Innovate to Integrate**

26 June 2008 in Glasgow

Glasgow Caledonian University event to showcase creative ways that organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors have used to promote and embed equality and diversity. For information see <http://www.gcal.ac.uk/odonline/InnovateToIntegrate.html> or contact i2i@gcal.ac.uk / 0141 273 1352.

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 or contact Erika 020 7493 9739 / 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

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>

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

Social Economy Scotland <http://www.socialeconomyscotland.info/content/index.asp>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <http://www.oscr.org.uk/Index.stm>

Useful Links (continued)

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

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

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

BBC Parliament online

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

[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>