



MEMO

7 July 2008
ISSUE 137

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Race Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)

[Other Holyrood](#)

[Other Westminster](#)

[New Publications](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Events/Conferences/Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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

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

The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 31 August 2008

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Lord Laird asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4376]: Further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 17 June (WA 141) concerning the cost of naturalisation as a British citizen, when the current fee was set; whether the fee has varied; and, if so, how.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The current fee of £575 for naturalisation as a British Citizen (excluding the £80 fee for the citizenship ceremony) was set on 2 April 2007.

The variation in the fee for an application for naturalisation over the past 10 years is detailed in the table below. The fee is based on an application made by a single person and does not include the fee for the citizenship ceremony which was introduced in January 2004.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

From: Naturalisation Fee	
12 June 1997	£150
1 January 2004	£150
1 April 2005	£200
2 April 2007	£575

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80630w0001.htm#08063018000005>

Lord Avebury asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4299]: What is their assessment of the elasticity of demand for assisted voluntary return packages offered to failed asylum seekers by the International Organisation for Migration, and whether they will consider increasing the benefits of these packages as a means of reducing the need for extra detention places.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The Government want failed asylum seekers who are in the UK illegally to leave voluntarily and, in co-operation with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), it operates the assisted voluntary return (AVR) schemes to help them to do so. This offers failed asylum seekers a means of return which is both dignified and sustainable.

To test elasticity of demand, over the past two years we have piloted different packages of reintegration assistance to promote AVR. We have listened and learnt from the experiences of applicants, the International Organisation for Migration, non-governmental organisations and refugee and community organisations on how reintegration assistance can be improved better to meet the needs of returnees. We keep our approach to AVR under review. In October 2007 we launched a flexible new approach to the provision of reintegration assistance to address needs on an individual basis rather than a "one size fits all" approach. In order that all failed asylum seekers can benefit from this package, AVR is also made available to those in immigration detention which helps to manage pressures on detention space.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80630w0002.htm#08063018000017>

Lord Avebury asked Her Majesty's Government:

What assessment they have made of the effects of the memoranda of understanding they have signed with other countries on arrangements for the return of failed asylum seekers and illegal migrants on the number of nationals of those countries who will need to be accommodated in immigration detention centres over the next five years and the average length of time such persons will spend in immigration detention centres. [HL4350]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord West of Spithead): We do not need a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to effect returns to the great majority of countries.

The MOUs that we do have are agreements with the governments concerned about the principles and practices of effecting returns—they are not predominantly about numbers, and would have no impact on detention planning.

No assessment has been made of the impact of particular MOUs on detention planning.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80630w0002.htm#08063018000018>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer asked Her Majesty's Government [HL2337]: How many illegal Chinese immigrants in the United Kingdom have been repatriated in each of the past five years; how many are awaiting repatriation; of those awaiting repatriation, how many are detained; and where those detained are being held.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The accompanying table shows the number of Chinese nationals removed from the UK to China from 2004 to 2007. Destination data have been collated only since 2004 so information prior to this is not available.

Information on the number of persons awaiting removal from the UK is not centrally collated; it could be obtained only through examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

While information is published on the number of persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers as at the last Saturday of each quarter, information on the number of people who are recorded as being detained awaiting removal from the UK is not centrally collated; it could be obtained only through examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

National statistics on removals and persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers are available from the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Removals, voluntary departures and assisted returns⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾, nationals of China removed to China, 2004-07⁽³⁾				
Number of Removals				
Year	2004	2005	2006	2007^(P)
1,065				
	of which:	asylum applicants ⁽⁴⁾	90	245
270	340	non-asylum cases	170	215
360	725			
Removals, voluntary departures and assisted returns⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾, nationals of China removed to China, 2004-07⁽³⁾	Chinese nationals removed to China	260	460	630
Number of Removals				
Year	2004	2005	2006	2007^(P)
1,065				
	of which:	asylum applicants ⁽⁴⁾	90	245
270	340	non-asylum cases	170	215

(1) Includes enforced removals, persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls), persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them and persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration.

(2) From January 2005 onwards, includes those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

(3) Figures rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

(4) Persons who had sought asylum at some stage, including dependants.

(P) Provisional figures.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80630w0003.htm#08063018000019>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Dholakia asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4345]: Whether the United Kingdom Border Agency has a specific code of practice regarding raids on ethnic restaurants; and, if so, whether they will publish it.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: There is no code of practice specifically regarding visits to ethnic restaurants. The UK Border Agency has, however, issued a code of practice for employers on how civil penalties for illegal working are issued and determined and this available to view at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/preventingillegalworking/.

UK Border Agency staff are required to follow published guidance on how to conduct enforcement visits. Prior to a visit a thorough risk assessment is completed in conjunction with the police which includes an assessment of impact on the local community. The full guidance is available in chapter 31 of the enforcement guidance and can be viewed at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/enforcement/oemsectione/.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80630w0003.htm#08063018000021>

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4352]: When they will make an assessment of the new European Union directive on the detention of undocumented migrants; whether they will publish it; whether this directive covers those whose documents have expired or who are overstaying leave to enter; and whether a maximum 18-month detention period is appropriate in the absence of a sentence imposed by a court and of other legal safeguards.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Agreement was reached on 18 June 2008 in the European Parliament on the European Returns Directive and it now stands to be adopted at a meeting of the Council of Ministers.

The directive covers all categories of illegal migrants including overstayers and those whose documents have expired.

The UK has not opted into this directive. While there are no plans to undertake an assessment we shall now follow the implementation in member states and its impact on the UK.

We shall provide the European Committees of the Lords and Commons with an update on the directive once final amendments are presented.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80630w0003.htm#08063018000023>

Damian Green [183007]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the percentage of the world's population who would require a visa to enter the United Kingdom.

Reply from Liam Byrne: In 2007 we issued the Cabinet Office Border Review. This confirmed that "Nationals of over one hundred countries—three-quarters of the world's population—must apply for permission (or visa) to come to the UK".

I also refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I provided on 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 342-43W, in which I provided information relating to visa and non-visa nationals entry to the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080703/text/80703w0007.htm#08070366000111>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Avebury asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4327]: Whether they will require the National Asylum Support Service to inform all its clients that they are entitled to treatment by the National Health Service on the same basis as those ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The National Asylum Support Service has ceased to exist but the functions it carried out continue through the regional asylum teams. All asylum seekers are informed by the regional asylum teams about their entitlement to NHS treatment at their first reporting event.

Eligibility for free NHS care is based on ordinary residence in the UK. General Practitioners have discretion to register patients for primary care and Department of Health guidance is that asylum seekers should be so registered. In England, asylum seekers awaiting a final decision on their claims are exempt from charges for NHS hospital treatment under the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989 as amended. Unsuccessful claimants may continue free of charge until they leave the country with a course of treatment which had already started before appeal rights were exhausted. In the recent case of YA (Palestine) v The Secretary of State for Health, the judge has ruled that failed asylum seekers may potentially be deemed "ordinarily resident" for the purposes of NHS regulations and therefore entitled to free treatment on the same basis as other residents. The Department of Health has appealed against this judgment.

The rules relating to healthcare for foreign nationals in England are currently being reviewed jointly by the UK Border Agency and the Department of Health. The review has looked at a range of issues regarding immigration and asylum, including the eligibility of failed asylum seekers and their children. Proposals will go out to public consultation shortly.

Similar provisions apply in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and the Department of Health is intending to engage with the devolved Administrations following the completion of the review in England.

Further information about healthcare entitlement is published on the UKBA website and this is being updated to reflect the latest position.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80701w0001.htm#08070176000013>

Baroness Tonge asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4321]: What steps they are taking to encourage and assist refugee doctors to work in the National Health Service.

Reply from Lord Darzi of Denham: A number of strategic health authorities (SHAs) fund programmes of work to support refugee doctors to become "job-ready" for the National Health Service.

In addition, NHS employers working as part of the NHS Confederation, has agreed with SHAs, the European Refugee Fund and the Home Office, to implement a national programme that enables refugee healthcare professionals to compete in the NHS job-market.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80630w0003.htm#08063018000020>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Tonge asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4322]: How many refugee doctors based in the United Kingdom who have met all the requirements to work in the National Health Service are still unemployed.

Reply from Lord Darzi of Denham: This information is not collected centrally. The British Medical Association (BMA) maintains a voluntary register of refugee doctors. As of 4 June 2008 the BMA register shows that 234 refugee doctors are "job ready" and currently not in employment as doctors in the National Health Service.

Source: www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/refugeedoctorstats june2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80630w0003.htm#08063018000020>

The Earl of Sandwich asked Her Majesty's Government: [HL4178] What effect their proposals to remove the right of migrant domestic workers to change employers would have on the likelihood of their being subjected to forced labour and other forms of exploitation; and

[HL4179] Whether they will ensure that the existing safeguards for migrant domestic workers will be retained under the new points-based migration system.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: On 25 June we published the Government's response to the consultation on short-term visit visas. In this we set out our commitment to ensuring that future arrangements concerning overseas domestic workers minimise any risk of abuse or exploitation. In addition, the current route will be preserved and then reviewed as appropriate after the first two years' operation of the reformed immigration system, when we will have properly road-tested our anti-trafficking strategy. The results of the research and analysis will inform the development of any future arrangements and we will work closely with stakeholders to develop a package of reform.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80703w0001.htm#08070353000009>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Chris McCafferty (1932) Migrant domestic worker visa – That this House notes the vulnerability of migrant domestic workers to exploitation and forced labour; recognises the benefits of the existing domestic worker visa, which does not allow recourse to public funds, but gives the right to change employer, renew a visa (if in work) and apply for settlement after five years; welcomes the publication of the Oxfam and Kalayaan report *The New Bonded Labour?* that details the adverse impact on migrant domestic workers, of the proposed changes to this visa; further welcomes the recent Government Response to the Consultation on Visitors, which states that the domestic worker visa will be retained for two years and then reviewed; and urges the Government to protect the rights of migrant domestic workers and continue to work to end their exploitation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80703e01.htm>

Press Release

Crackdown on human trafficking

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/07/02093216>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **New publications**

The rights of women seeking asylum: a charter

<http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/data/files/charter.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/data/files/explanatory_notes.pdf

News

Fight to save family from deportation

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2369885.0.Fight to save family from deportation.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2369885.0.Fight_to_save_family_from_deportation.php)

11th-hour bid to save family from threats

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/scotland/11thhour-bid-to-save-.4234434.jp>

Call to stop deportation of Pakistani family

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/714270>

Review halts family's deportation

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7484087.stm

Reprieve for family who faced being deported

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2373932.0.Reprieve for family who faced being deported.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2373932.0.Reprieve_for_family_who_faced_being_deported.php)

Family in 11th-hour reprieve

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Family-in-11thhour-reprieve.4243909.jp>

Joy as family wins reprieve

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2374248.0.joy_as_family_wins_reprieve.php

Mr Brown, please don't ignore the campaign for Josie

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/featuresopinon/display.var.2369819.0.Mr_Brown_please_dont_ignore_the_campaign_for_Josie.php

Bid to cut forced deportations

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Bid-to-cut-forced-deportations.4234557.jp>

Tory report to slam border security

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Tory-report-to-slam-border.4237863.jp>

New alternatives for asylum seekers

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/features/display.var.2371706.0.New_alternatives_for_asylum_seekers.php

Migrant domestic staff 'at risk'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7484043.stm>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Gay asylum seeker to be thrown out of UK

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Gay-asylum-seeker-to-be.4260491.jp>

Asylum row could cost Scotland a football star

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2381288.0.asylum_row_could_cost_scotland_a_football_star.php

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Celia Barlow: What progress has been made in developing an interfaith strategy. [214839]

Reply from Parmjit Dhanda: The consultation on the interfaith strategy closed on 7 March. We plan to publish the strategy in July.

Celia Barlow: Is my hon. Friend aware of the work of Hope 2008, an organisation that supports the voluntary work of the Churches in Britain? Every year, churches, mosques, synagogues and temples perform a very valued service in the community, not least in my constituency of Hove and in Portslade. What will he be doing to support that valuable organisation's work?

Reply from Parmjit Dhanda: I congratulate my hon. Friend on the work that she does in Hove, and she is right to say that Hope 2008 does excellent work, which underpins and is very much in tune with our work on an interfaith framework. We have adopted a phrase coined by the Chief Rabbi and believe that organisations should work face to face as well as side by side, in the sort of collaborative action supported by Hope 2008. As I said, we will unveil our interfaith strategy later this month and, alongside it, details of the multi-million pound pot that will support that work.

Gary Streeter: But given what the Minister has just said about outcomes that faith groups can achieve, will he ensure that not only Government, but local government provide equal access for faith groups that care for some of the most vulnerable people in our community every day? Those groups often face prejudice when accessing resources and funds. Will he do something about that in the interfaith strategy?

Reply from Parmjit Dhanda: The hon. Gentleman makes a fair point, and it is one that is made to me regularly by our Faith Communities Consultative Council. It has been very supportive of the work on the interfaith framework, and its ideas are being put into practice in the framework, as he will see in a few weeks. He is right to say that there is more that we can do with our faith communities. We are committed to that, and I have seen the very good work that they have done, not least during the floods last year—including in my constituency. The council has also been involved in planning for a possible flu pandemic and how we would approach such an emergency. The engine for that work was the faith communities in the first place. They have written reports and are working with us. When we publish the report, I hope that the hon. Gentleman will see that, like a stick of rock, it has their work, commitment and values running through it.

Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Ann Cryer: Does my hon. Friend agree that interfaith strategies in the north of England would have a greater chance of success were Muslim women welcomed into their mosques?

Reply from Parmjit Dhanda: I agree with my hon. Friend. In fact, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has done a great deal of work in that respect, including setting up the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group, which is working closely with the Department. I have been pleased to see some of the interfaith work that is being done in the north of England, especially around the mosques and madrassahs. However, my hon. Friend is right that we can do much more with Muslim women. I hope that the work of the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board will also make a real difference in that context.

Patrick Cormack: Has not everything that the Minister has said pointed to the danger of imposing some form of strategy from above? Instead we should encourage local communities, churches and others, bearing in mind that we have an established Church, to develop their own approach to those of other faiths.

Reply from Parmjit Dhanda: That is why the title of the initiative has changed from a strategy to a framework. That is something that the faith communities wanted, and they have been at the heart of driving this work. I am pleased to say that we have had some 185 responses to the framework consultation, but the hon. Gentleman will find that local activity is at the heart of it. It is about collaborative social action being supported by local authorities and run at a local level, although it is supported financially at times by the Government.

Jim McGovern: Last week I attended a function organised by my constituents, Mr. and Mrs. Abubaker, as part of their charitable fundraising efforts in memory of their son, Yusef, who tragically died aged 12 playing his beloved sport of football. In attendance at the function were members of the Syrian, Malaysian, Chinese, Palestinian and, of course, Scottish communities of Dundee. Does the Minister agree that the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Abubaker are an example of how we can bring together wide and varied communities, regardless of ethnic origin, creed or colour?

Reply from Parmjit Dhanda: I thank my hon. Friend for discussing this matter privately with me yesterday. I wish to pass on my condolences and, I am sure, those of the whole House to Mr. and Mrs. Abubaker on the loss of their son. I was fortunate enough to see the website that has been set up describing some of the activities that are happening in their son's name in Dundee, which range from touch rugby tournaments to Arab food tasting. The website lists Yusef's favourite charities and his hobbies, and the work that is being done in his name, bringing different cultures, races and faiths together, is a brilliant example from which we can all learn.

Paul Goodman: First, I am sorry to hear about the death of the son of the constituents of the hon. Member for Dundee, West (Mr. McGovern).

The Minister will know that trust between the Government and faith communities is essential if the interfaith strategy is to work fully. He will also note that the Education Secretary recently claimed to have found "shocking evidence" of faith schools asking parents to pay for school places. In the case of some Jewish schools, this "evidence" turned out to be voluntary contributions towards school security measures against potential attacks by violent extremists. So will the Minister kindly pass on a message to the Education Secretary? For the sake of the interfaith strategy as a whole, he should stop knocking faith schools in order to build up his own Labour party leadership ambitions.

Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Parmjit Dhanda: I fear that the hon. Gentleman's remarks may not have been as bright as his suit on this occasion.

Paul Goodman: Or your tie.

Reply from Parmjit Dhanda: Indeed. I thank the hon. Gentleman.

I will be talking to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in due course, not least to congratulate him on and thank him for the work that he has been doing with our Department on the school twinning programme and on cohesion projects, not least sending two sixth formers from every sixth form in the land to Auschwitz—something that I believe the Leader of the Opposition called a gimmick.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080701/debtext/80701-0002.htm#08070194000023>

News

Celebrating cultural diversity

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/06/30/newsstory11579207t0.asp>

Police apology over puppy postcard

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/07/01/newsstory11584931t0.asp>

Apology on the cards as police pup picture sparks warning over offence to Muslims

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Apology-on-the-cards-as.4243889.jp>

Tayside Police apologise after Muslims complain over 'unclean' puppy in advert

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/07/02/tayside-police-apologise-after-muslims-complain-over-unclean-puppy-in-advert-86908-20628132/>

Offensive puppy postcard claim dismissed

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/07/02/newsstory11590817t0.asp>

Muslims 'not offended' by campaign image of dog

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/07/03/newsstory11597077t0.asp>

Q and A: Mahmud Sarwar Rathor

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/dundee/Q-and-A-Mahmud-Sarwar.4249734.jp>

Puppy row councillor speaks out

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/07/04/newsstory11603039t0.asp>

Police sniffer dogs may wear booties to avoid offending Muslims

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2257264/Police-sniffer-dogs-may-wear-booties-to-avoid-offending-Muslims.html>

Sniffer dogs to wear 'Muslim' booties

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article4276489.ece>

Race Relations

News (continued)

Tribunal rethink on gypsy ruling

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Tribunal-rethink-on-gypsy-ruling.4237731.jp>

Religions should not be allowed to make ghettos

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/yasmin-alibhai-brown/yasmin-alibhaibrown-religions-should-not-be-allowed-to-make-ghettos-856917.html>

Youngsters to join tolerance training course

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Youngsters-to-join-tolerance-training.4259920.jp>

It's true, we Muslims keep our heads down

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/jul/06/islam.religion>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Lord Sheikh asked Her Majesty's Government: Whether the arrangements for selecting officers from ethnic minorities for promotion in the police service are fair.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, the policy co-ordination and monitoring of the national promotion systems for sergeant, inspector and senior ranks in the police service are the responsibility of the National Policing Improvement Agency. The NPIA uses recognised selection techniques that are designed and delivered to identify police officers with the right skills and abilities for promotion, while being fair to all candidates irrespective of their background.

Lord Sheikh: My Lords, I thank the Minister for that Answer. There are at present two high-profile cases where dissatisfaction is expressed by Muslim police officers. Disquiet is expressed also by their trade association. I have been told that 20 police forces were unable to send answers to questionnaires submitted by the association and a think tank. I remind your Lordships' House of the figures for BME officers: there is one chief constable and there are eight members of ACPO out of 300 and 32 superintendents out of 1,600. Something is not quite right. Will the Government consider asking all the police forces to complete the questionnaire and undertake a review of diversity, promotion of BME officers and their appointment to specialist departments?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, the noble Lord asked a number of questions. We need to make it absolutely clear that we are committed to a police service—it is true of the military as well—that reflects the society that it defends. That is crucial. It may not have achieved that exact percentage, but we are doing a huge number of things to make it happen and work. The Association of Muslim Police used a think tank, Demos, to send out questionnaires. The police were concerned about writing back to a think tank with details of Muslim officers in their forces, which I understand. Our officials are meeting the Association of Muslim Police this week to discuss that issue, and I know that the Home Secretary is keen

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

to meet the association next week to talk it through, because it is important. The police service needs to reflect society, but—my goodness—we have a good story to tell.

Lord Dholakia: My Lords, serious allegations have been made against the Metropolitan Police Commissioner about racial discrimination. Similar allegations have been made against a senior civil servant in the Home Office and against the Metropolitan Police Authority. Would it not be appropriate to invite the Equality and Human Rights Commission to mount a formal investigation into policies on retention, recruitment and promotion of people from ethnic minorities in police forces?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, I do not feel that such a thing is necessary. We have mechanisms in place for addressing these matters. As I have stated, the numbers are not absolutely right. For example, about 8 per cent of the Metropolitan Police is BME—that is not enough. It is important that it reflects society. In New York, something like 45 per cent of the police force is made up of BME officers, which makes a huge difference on the streets. We have a number of mechanisms in place. During the past year, one in four police recruited came from a BME background. That is a huge change from three years ago. We have learnt our lessons and we are trying to do things. I do not think that another study or group looking into all of this would help. We need to concentrate on high-potential development schemes aimed at BME officers, the National Senior Careers Advisory Service and the positive action leadership programme. These are all good things and one has to work at it, because all of us in this House and in the nation realise how important it is. However, it does not happen overnight; it is difficult to achieve.

Baroness Warsi: My Lords, this is not only about fairness or quotas. Does the Minister accept that, in the interests of operational effectiveness, especially in counterterrorism, it is essential that Britain's police forces reflect Britain's diverse communities? How many officers currently engaged in counterterrorism activity are from Britain's minority faith communities?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, the noble Baroness makes an important point. Again, I refer back to New York, where there is amazing coverage that allows links in. Certainly, on counterterrorism, I would love to have more police officers and people in SO15 from ethnic minority communities. I do not know the exact figure, but I will write to the noble Baroness. I could not but agree with the noble Baroness; it is absolutely crucial. We are working very hard at this, and we have to take into account the views of other people. I was interested to hear people talking about this on a radio chat show on my way here at lunchtime. Of course, other parts of the community have different views. We have to balance all those things and other perceptions. We have a good story to tell and we are working very hard at this, but we have to do better. If I were marking myself, I would say "Do better". We are trying, and we will do so.

Lord Dear: My Lords, perhaps I may set the Question in a slightly wider context. Can the Minister outline, for the benefit of the House, the arrangements that exist for the development of leaders in the British police service, as opposed to the development of managers, which is rather different?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, the noble Lord has gone slightly beyond the scope of the Question. We are about to produce a Green Paper, which I hope will address this issue. We have talked about it on the Floor of the House before. As noble Lords can imagine, with my background I feel strongly that one needs leadership not only in the police, the military and other such areas, but in

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

business. Sometimes we rather forget that by going down the management chain. I shall write to the noble Lord with any detail I have, but, if I may say so, it is almost better to wait for the Green Paper.

Baroness Howells of St Davids: My Lords, the Macpherson report clearly stated that there was institutional racism in the police force. One of its suggestions was that the police force should undertake awareness training. As I understand it, that has been dropped, especially among the senior officers who are responsible for promotion. Can the Minister comment on why that was left out?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, perhaps I may write to the noble Baroness on that point as I was not aware of it. I know, for example, that Doreen Lawrence is very closely involved with the NPIA on a number of developments and in making sure that we go in the right direction. I do not know the specifics, so I will have to write to the noble Baroness.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80701-0002.htm#08070172000010>

Theresa May [201419]: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government Equalities Office has taken to strengthen the Government's equality agenda since its creation.

Reply from Barbara Follett: Since its establishment as a Government Department in October 2007, the Government Equalities Office (GEO) has set in train a range of initiatives to strengthen the Government's equality agenda. For example, the GEO concluded a consultation on the Discrimination Law Review and is preparing an Equality Bill for introduction in the next parliamentary session. It has been delivering on the Ministers for Women Priorities. The GEO has also implemented the EU gender directive, agreed the first ever equality public service agreement, launched the Equality and Human Rights Commission and set up the Black and Minority Ethnic Women Councillors Taskforce. Further details of the work of the GEO will be detailed in the departmental report which will be published before recess.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080702/text/80702w0010.htm#08070257000114>

Lord Ouseley asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4391]: How many and what percentages of black and minority ethnic recruits were employed in the Army, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy in each of the years 2001 to 2007.

Reply from Baroness Taylor of Bolton: Information on the number and percentage of recruits from ethnic minority backgrounds by service is recorded in table 5 "Intake to the Untrained Strength of UK Regular Forces by sex and ethnic origin" of Tri-Service Publication 4, *UK Armed Forces Quarterly Manning Report*. A copy of this publication can be found at:

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=66&:pubType=>

The latest available published data is for the financial year 2007-08.

Due to ongoing validation of data following the introduction of the joint personnel administration system information on the number of ethnic minorities entering the untrained strength is unavailable for the Navy for financial year 2007-08.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80702w0001.htm#08070258000004>

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Ouseley asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4392]: How many and what percentages of black and minority ethnic personnel are in the Armed Forces; and at what levels.

Reply from Baroness Taylor of Bolton: Information on the strength and percentage of ethnic minority personnel in the Armed Forces is published in table 2.11 of United Kingdom Defence Statistics 2007, "Strength of UK Regular Forces by ethnic origin and rank, at 1 April each year".

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80702w0001.htm#08070258000004>

New publication

A Guide to Engaging Muslim Communities

<http://www.cih.org/publications/downloads/pub700.pdf>

News

Muslims in the military

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7484334.stm>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Elaine Smith (S3M-2291): Sense Over Sectarianism—That the Parliament welcomes the summer holiday project for Primary 7 pupils from Coatbridge and Airdrie, to be delivered by Albion Rovers Football Club, Strathclyde Police, beCogent and Sense Over Sectarianism; recognises the benefits of providing children with a chance to develop skills in a number of activities including sports, arts, drama, comedy and film making; considers that the project offers a unique opportunity for all local children who are departing primary school to tackle anti-sectarian attitudes and behaviour in a fun and interactive way, and acknowledges the importance of engaging with our young people to ensure that they enter secondary school with a better understanding of the issue of sectarianism in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-06-30f.htm>

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Ouseley asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4390]: What action the Army propose to tackle racism following the case of Private Kerry Hylton, who was compensated for an 11-month campaign of bullying; and [HL4388]

In the light of the case of Private Kerry Hylton, what action they will take to eliminate racism in the Army.

Reply from Baroness Taylor of Bolton: The Army is an equal opportunities employer: it treats all instances of inappropriate behaviour extremely seriously, and the Ministry of Defence works closely with the Equality and Human Rights Commission on the development of its policies. The Chief of the General Staff's equality and diversity directive for the Army provides firm guidance to officers and soldiers and provides a statement of commitment from the highest level within the Army. The Army's equality and diversity action plan provides details of specific initiatives such as increased equality and diversity training for commanding officers, and more equality and diversity advisers being placed in units.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80702w0001.htm#08070258000006>

Lord Ouseley asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4389]: What action the Army proposes to take against the officers who perpetrated acts of racially motivated bullying against Private Kerry Hylton.

Reply from Baroness Taylor of Bolton: The two individuals named as perpetrators of acts of racially motivated bullying against Private Kerry Hylton were both non-commissioned officers.

One of those individuals has left the Army, so is beyond military jurisdiction. The evidence against the other will be considered and an investigation conducted under Army General and Administrative Instruction 67 with a view to taking administrative action against him. Consideration will also be given to taking administrative action against a third individual, who, although not named as a perpetrator, was criticised by the tribunal.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80703w0001.htm#08070353000004>

Lembit Öpik [213906]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to promote religious tolerance in other countries in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Meg Munn: We strongly support the right to freedom of religion or belief, including full implementation of those norms laid out in the 1981 UN Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. We condemn all instances of violence and discrimination against individuals and groups because of their faith or belief, wherever they happen or whatever the religion of the individual or group concerned. We have made representations in several countries bilaterally and in conjunction with EU partners. More detailed information is contained in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Annual Report on Human Rights that can be found at: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/human-rights-report-2007>.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080702/text/80702w0031.htm#08070265000014>

Racism and Religious Hatred Press Release

Open letter to the French Presidency of the EU: Be a leader on anti-discrimination legislation!

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2008-07-02%20anti-discrimination%20proposal%20final%20 3 .pdf>

News

Home Secretary urged to act over police race row

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2369848.0.Home_Secretary_urged_to_act_over_police_race_row.php

Scotland Yard race row: Sir Ian Blair faces new claims

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article4276424.ece>

Warning over airport race attacks

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2370243.0.warning_over_airport_race_attacks.php

Forty years of racism battle

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Forty-years-of-racism-battle.4251428.jp>

British Muslims 'like the Jews of Europe'

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2378972.0.british_muslims_like_the_jews_of_europe.php

British Muslims 'feel like the Jews of Europe'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/2245450/British-Muslims-%27feel-like-the-Jews-of-Europe%27.html>

The enemy within? Fear of Islam: Britain's new disease

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/the-enemy-within-fear-of-islam-britains-new-disease-859996.html>

Is post-war Britain anti-Muslim?

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1031769/Is-post-war-Britain-anti-Muslim.html>

Race inquiry as crime squad uses 'blacked-up' actor

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article4265476.ece>

'No blacks, no dogs, no Gypsies'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/no-blacks-no-dogsno-gypsies-860873.html>

[TOP](#)

Other Holyrood

Press Releases

Announcement regarding the possible extension of coverage of FOISA to cover bodies who are not Scottish Public Authorities

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/FOI/Coverage>

and

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/FOI/Text1>

New publications

Enterprising Third Sector Action Plan 2008-2011

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/48453/0061854.pdf>

The Scottish Investment Fund: Investing in the Third Sector, Investing in Scotland: Investment Strategy

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/48453/0061853.pdf>

News

Alert over by-election register's deadline

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2376561.0.alert_over_byelection_registers_deadline.php

Nicol Stephen resignation in full

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/scotland_politics/7486648.stm

Stephen quits as LibDems' Scottish leader

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2376490.0.Stephen_quits_as_LibDems_Scottish_leader.php

Stephen faced ultimatum: choose family or leadership of the party

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2376515.0.Stephen_faced_ultimatum_choose_family_or_leadership_of_the_party.php

Labour MSP joins by-election race

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7491574.stm>

Curran rides to the rescue of battered Brown

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Curran-rides-to-the-rescue.4260619.jp>

Labour's poisoned chalice: fourth choice Curran to fight by-election

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2381327.0.labours_poisoned_chalice_fourth_choice_curran_to_fight_byelection.php

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Ministerial Statement

Governance of Britain

Jack Straw (Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor): On 3 July 2007 (*Official Report*, column 815), the Prime Minister made a statement to Parliament publishing “The Governance of Britain” Green Paper. The Green Paper set out a route map for further constitutional reform, better to strengthen the relationship between Government, Parliament and the citizen, and to take steps towards a new constitutional settlement. This builds on fundamental reforms carried out by the Government since 1997 including devolution for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the transformation of the role of the Lord Chancellor, the introduction of a Supreme Court, the Human Rights Act and the Freedom of Information Act.

Renewing our democracy is at the heart of our reforms, building a new relationship between citizens and Government and ensuring that the rights of individuals are fully respected.

One year on, much progress has been made against the Governance of Britain ambitions.

Limiting the powers of the executive

The Government committed to surrendering or limiting powers which it considers should not, in a modern democracy, be exercised exclusively by the executive. We have carried out consultations on Parliament’s role in decisions relating to the deployment of the armed forces into armed conflict and the ratification of treaties, the role of the Attorney-General, Government’s role in judicial appointments, protest around Parliament and the flying of the Union flag. Alongside the responses to the Government’s 2004 consultation on the civil service, these consultations informed the draft Constitutional Renewal Bill and White Paper, which is now being considered by a Joint Committee. The draft Constitutional Renewal Bill contains important measures to strengthen Parliament and make Government more accountable to the people it serves. It encompasses five areas of reform, and includes proposals to:

- repeal of the provisions in sections 132-138 of Serious and Organised Crime Act on protest around Parliament;
- reform the role of the Attorney-General;
- reduce the role played by the Lord Chancellor in judicial appointments;
- formalise the procedure for Parliament to scrutinise treaties prior to ratification; and
- enshrine in statute the core values of the civil service—as well as the historic principle of appointment on merit, and place the Civil Service Commissioners onto a statutory footing.

The Government also want Parliament to have the right to take the final decision about committing armed forces in to armed conflict.

Making the executive more accountable

The Government are committed to rebalancing power between Parliament and Government, and giving Parliament greater ability to hold Government to account. We have:

- published the draft legislative programme for scrutiny by Parliament and the public in 2007 and in 2008;
- commenced a pilot of pre-appointment hearings for key public appointments and agreed a list of 60 suitable appointments with the Liaison Committee;
- published the national security strategy for the first time; and
- set up an independent UK Statistics Authority.

Other Holyrood Ministerial Statement (continued)

Re-invigorating our democracy

It is vital that our institutions are legitimate, trusted and responsive to the people they serve. We have:

established the Youth Citizenship Commission to look at how we can give young people a greater voice, and

committed to extending the provisions in the Sex Discrimination (Electoral Candidates) Act 2002 beyond 2015 to allow women-only shortlists to continue to be used if necessary.

Britain's future: the citizen and the state

The Government believe that a clearer understanding of the common core of rights, responsibilities and values that go with British citizenship will help build our sense of shared identity and social cohesion.

Lord Goldsmith's review of citizenship was launched on 5 October 2007 and reported to the Prime Minister in March 2008.

Constitutional renewal in the UK is a long-term dialogue and in the coming months: we will publish a White Paper setting out the Government's proposals for fundamental reform of the House of Lords, and

Communities and Local Government will publish a White Paper this summer setting out the Government's proposals to empower individuals and communities by involving them in the design and delivery of local public services and promoting civic and democratic life. Further details of the progress on the commitments in the Green Paper are set out in "The Governance of Britain Green Paper: one year on" table. Copies of this table have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080703/wmstext/80703m0002.htm#08070362000017>

Parliamentary Questions

Lord Ahmed asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4266]: Which countries delegations from the Muslim community on behalf of the Government have visited; and what benefits these trips have had to the British taxpayer.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: Delegations have visited 24 countries with Muslim majorities or significant Muslim minorities since 2005: Pakistan (three visits); Bangladesh (two visits); Indonesia (two visits); Sudan (two visits); USA (two visits); Egypt; Iran; Libya; Afghanistan; Bahrain; Qatar; India; Singapore; Malaysia; Algeria; Bosnia; Morocco; Germany; Netherlands; France; Nigeria; Kenya; Tanzania; and Canada.

The aim of the programme is to provide high profile platforms for British Muslims to share their experiences of life in the UK and engage in constructive dialogue with their hosts. The programme has proved effective at challenging widespread misconceptions about the reality of life for Muslims in Britain.

This directly undermines the extremist narrative that Muslims in the UK and the West are oppressed—thereby supporting a key element of the Government's work to challenge extremism. A key aim of each visit is to enable a cross-fertilisation of ideas between British Muslims and influential figures in the Muslim world. We tailor the objectives for each visit to UK priorities on the ground in each country.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80630w0003.htm#08063018000028>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80630w0004.htm>

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Sheikh asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4209]: What information they have regarding the levels of deceit and fraud suffered by Muslim pilgrims going to Mecca and Medina arising from the actions of United Kingdom-based pilgrimage arrangers and what action they are taking.

Reply from Baroness Vadera: The Government do not hold records of the number of cases of detriment caused to British Muslim pilgrims arising from the actions of United Kingdom-based pilgrimage arrangers. Indeed there seems to be a reticence among pilgrims to bring complaints to the attention of the relevant authorities and this is one of the issues we are aiming to address.

Nevertheless the Government are well aware that there are serious problems in this sector and my department, in conjunction with other government departments, the Civil Aviation Authority and local authority trading standards officers are working to improve compliance with UK regulations on package travel, to inform pilgrims of their consumer rights, and to whom they should complain.

Last year we began an information campaign to inform pilgrims of their rights and my honourable friend the Minister for Trade and Consumer Affairs wrote to all MPs to ask for their help at the constituency level. There is evidence, in terms of a rise in complaints to the appropriate authorities, that this met with some success. We shall build on that this year by better targeting consumer information and publicity via a further pilgrim awareness campaign later in the year, and by seeking ways of ensuring that Hajj and Umrah travel organisers meet their statutory obligations. To begin this process, my honourable friend the Minister for Trade and Consumers Affairs will be holding a meeting in July to which have been invited Hajj travel organisers and we expect Muslim representative organisations to attend. We shall inform them of their responsibilities to their customers and explore with them their ideas on how the Hajj travel industry can improve.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80630w0004.htm#08063018000030>

Lord Ahmed asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4264: How many delegations from the Muslim community on behalf of the Government have gone abroad since 7 July 2005.]

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: We have organised 26 projecting British Islam delegations since 7 July 2005.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80630w0003.htm#08063018000028>

Lord Ahmed asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4265]: How much delegations from the Muslim community on behalf of the Government on overseas visits have cost the British taxpayer since 7 July 2005.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: The projecting British Islam project has cost £564,162 since 7 July 2005.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80630w0003.htm#08063018000028>

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Ahmed asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4267]: What criteria are used in the selection of individuals who participate in delegations from the Muslim community on behalf of the Government on overseas visits.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: The criteria for selecting delegates depends on the particular objectives of the visit to each country. We take into account the likely resonance of individuals and their background and experience in the country, links or background in the country and relevant professional experience in the UK. Overall, we aim to ensure that delegations reflect a broad cross section of individuals from across the UK Muslim communities and reflect the diversity of opinion within the British Muslim communities—including young people and women.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80630w0004.htm>

Lord Ahmed asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4268]: Which individuals have been a part of delegations from the Muslim community on behalf of the Government since 7 July 2005.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: Seventy-three individuals have taken part in the projecting British Islam delegations since 7 July 2005. They include the following: Lutfur Ali; Lord Adam Patel; Yusef Tai; Asim Siddiqui; Manzoor Moghal; Jawaid Akhter; Shareefa Fulat; Dilwar Hussain; Saifuddin Ahmed; Fareena Alam; Waqar Ahmed; Aiysha Malik; Mohammed Abdul Aziz; Nabeel Rauf; Yusuf Tai; Shaaz Mahboob; Ibrahim Mogra; Dr. Husna Ahmad; Khurshid Ahmed; Dr. Musharraf Hussain; Rukaiya Jeraj; Sabira Lakha; Irfan Chishti; Asim Siddiqui; Museji Takolia; Tahir Abass; Parvin Ali; Shelina Janmohamed; Saiyyidah Najmus-sabah Zaidi; Akhlaq Choudhury; Kanak Huq; Rupa Huq; Fatim Kurji Jumabhoy; Yasmin Qureshi; and Mustafa Suleyma.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80630w0004.htm>

Lord Ahmed asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4269]: Who makes the final decision in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on who should be included in delegations from the Muslim community on behalf of the Government.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: The decision on who is included in delegations is a collaborative decision between our embassies/high commissions and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, with advice from the Department of Communities and Local Government.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80630w0004.htm>

New publication

Governance of Britain: One Year On

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/governance-britain-one-year-on.pdf>

[TOP](#)

New Publication

Scottish Charities 2008

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=a5d9afdd-1853-4a03-89df-73f0e30852e2>

[TOP](#)

Other News

Faith schools 'witch-hunt victims'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Faith-schools-39witchhunt-victims39.4234558.jp>

EIS accepts church veto on teachers

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2371769.0.EIS_accepts_church_veto_on_teachers.php

Research help for heart risk ethnic groups

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Research-help-for-heart-risk.4236232.jp>

Forging ethnic group links

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Forging-ethnic-group-links.4238679.jp>

Sharia law 'could have UK role'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7488790.stm>

Travellers face being moved from camp

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/07/05/newsstory11608917t0.asp>

The race debate: nothing to do with race

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest_contributors/article4251389.ece

Muslim councillor Hasina Khan: I will not let male bigots win

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article4258052.ece>

Charity Regulator publishes sector profile

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=22cdfd6b-6aa5-4d3e-8149-bf093be57e1b>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Health Boards (Membership and Elections) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/13-HealthBoards/index.htm>

Bills in Progress **Holyrood** (continued)

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>

Public Health Bill

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

Bill as passed

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

Sexual Offences Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/11-sexualOffences/index.htm>

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>

**** Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill**

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/120/amend/pbc1200207a.2955-2956.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/120/amend/pb1200307a.2965-2967.html>

[TOP](#)

Consultations (closing date)

** New or updated this week

UK Parliament draft legislative programme (6 August 2008)

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

Consultations (continued)

Inquiry into the Scottish Parliament public petitions process (26 September 2008)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/petitions/inquiries/petitionsProcess/InquiryintothePublicPetitionsProcess.htm>

Election Day: Weekend Voting (26 September 2008)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/cp1308.pdf>

Religious and Moral Education (November 2008 *date not specified*)

http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/religious_and_moral_education_outcomes_codes_tcm4-482454.pdf

Online questionnaire

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/online-surveys/religiousandmoraleducation.asp>

Religious Education in Roman Catholic Schools (November 2008 *date not specified*)

http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/religious_education_roman_catholic_outcomes_codes_tcm4-486155.pdf

Online questionnaire

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/online-surveys/religiouseducationinroman Catholicschools.asp>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Funding Opportunities

CashBack for Communities

Deadline for applications: 26 September 2008

CashBack for Communities provides funding for projects that are targeted at projects for young people in areas of multiple deprivation. For information and application form see <http://www.youthlink.co.uk/cashbackforcommuniti> (bottom half of page).

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** Shariah & Scots Law**

16 July 2008 in Glasgow

Seminar to explore how the "Shariah effect" on civil matters can be achieved without any changes to Scots law; includes discussion of Intestacy and Wills, Mahr and Prenup, Parenting and Guardianship. For information contact the Scottish-Islamic Foundation info@scottishislamic.org

Scottish Parliament Festival of Politics

20-24 August 2008 in Edinburgh and Dunfermline

The theme of this year's Scottish Parliament Festival of Politics is "Global Issues - National Perspectives", and will examine the impact that issues such as climate change, economic stability and national security have on Scotland and the wider UK. For information see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/index.htm>. The programme includes:

Human Trafficking – Scotland's 21st Century Slaves 20 August (12.30-1.30)

Pathways to Peace 20 August (3.00-4.00)

Keeping the Faith in Sexual Health 22 August (12.30-1.30)

Cultural Identity 22 August (2.30-3.45, and 4.15-5.15)

Youth Politics Festival 23 August (11.00-4.00)

Scottish Churches and Contemporary Migration

8 October 2008 in Edinburgh (9.30-4.15)

Conference organised by ACTS and the Scottish Churches to explore issues around migration, and to identify key themes and challenges to which the Churches in Scotland can make a positive contribution. For information contact Nelu Balaj 01259 216980 / ecumenical@acts-scotland.org or see

<http://www.acts-scotland.org/events/2008events/migrationconferece.shtml>

[TOP](#)

Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.eu.int/parliament/public.do?language=en>

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

Scottish Inter Faith Council <http://www.scottishinterfaithcouncil.org/>

Useful Links (continued)

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>

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>