

MEMO



Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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

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

During the Scottish and UK Parliament summer recess MEMO will be issued fortnightly on 4 and 18 August, and 1 September. The Scottish Parliament returns on 31 August, and the UK Parliament on 6 October.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Christina McKelvie (S3M-2338) : Deserving Dignity - Children Seeking Sanctuary in Scotland—That the Parliament welcomes the publication of Deserving Dignity, the third report from the Independent Asylum Commission, in particular the recommendations relating to the treatment of children in the asylum system; notes the commission's recognition of the additional support and opportunities offered to the children seeking sanctuary in Scotland, and encourages the Scottish Government to continue in its efforts to end the detention of children at the Dungavel detention centre, to work to implement the recommendations of the report and to continue in its efforts to improve the lives and opportunities of children seeking sanctuary in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-07-21f.htm>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Anthony Steen [217968]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish statistics on human trafficking including information from police and UK Border Agency operations that have taken place since 2005.

Reply from Vernon Coaker: We have provided regular information on statistics in relation to human trafficking both in relation to Operation Pentameter 1 and more recently, on 2 July, the announcement on 2 July of the outcomes of Operation Pentameter 2.

There is no intention to produce a separate document on statistics on human trafficking given the large amount of information already available.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080721/text/80721w0054.htm#08072233000067>

Mohammad Sarwar [219279]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many trafficked persons have been placed in (a) the fast track system and (b) the new asylum model since March 2007.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Information on the numbers of people identified as subjects of trafficking who have applied for asylum and been considered under these processes is not available and could be available only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Entry to fast track asylum processes is carefully assessed on an individual basis in accordance with suitability criteria. A person would usually be considered unsuitable for the detained fast track where there is independent evidence from a recognised organisation, such as the Poppy Project, that they had been a victim of trafficking.

On 14 January 2008 the Home Secretary announced that the Government intend to make the necessary legislative and procedural changes to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Trafficking before the end of this year as part of its wider strategy to combat trafficking. These changes will include implementing a National Referral Mechanism to help co-ordinate the identification of victims and to ensure that their status is recorded centrally. Our plans are developing and we are on track to ratify at the end of the year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080721/text/80721w0054.htm#08072233000067>

Andrew Smith [207583]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children who are British citizens are in immigration detention; and for how long they have been there.

Reply from Liam Byrne: There were no children with British citizenship in any immigration removal centre as at Thursday, 22 May 2008. The UK Border Agency does not detain children who are British citizens. However, where a foreign national subject to enforced removal is parent to a child with British citizenship, it is possible for that child to accompany the parent through the enforcement process on a voluntary basis. Such situations are not common and would only occur where deemed to be in the child's best interests with all parties in agreement and the parent providing consent. The child's status in the removal centre would effectively be that of a guest.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080721/text/80721w0055.htm#08072233000075>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

John Spellar [202945]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has issued to local police forces on the detention of illegal immigrants.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) applies to all persons detained in police custody, including those detained under immigration legislation. No additional (guidance specifically for immigration detainees in police cells has been issued.

The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) will respond to every police request where they encounter and arrest people who they have confirmed have been smuggled into the UK in lorries and take that person to immigration detention if appropriate. The UKBA have worked closely and in partnership with the Association of Chief Police Officers and have established Immigration Crime Partnerships with 85 per cent. of Constabularies in England and Wales with a target to increase this to 90 per cent. by 2008 and 100 per cent. by March 2009. The Government's plans, set out in 'Enforcing the Deal' published on 19 June 2008, set a clear goal to target and remove the most harmful people first, working with local authorities and enforcement agencies to shut down the privileges of the UK to those breaking the rules.

Copies of this document are placed in the Library of the House. It is also available to view at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/enforcementbusinessplan08_09/enforcementbusinessplan08_09.pdf?view=Binary

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080721/text/80721w0054.htm#08072233000069>

Mark Pritchard [162036]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) failed asylum seekers and (b) illegal immigrants were deported from the United Kingdom between October 2006 and October 2007.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed, including voluntary departures, from the UK on a quarterly basis. The numbers are broken down by asylum applicants, including dependants, and those who have not claimed asylum. The latest published information covers the final quarter in 2007 and is published in table 8b: Persons removed from the United Kingdom, in the quarterly web-based Asylum Statistics bulletin.

It is not possible to say what stage in the asylum process people have reached at the time of their removal, including whether their claim has failed at that point, because those departing voluntarily can do so at any stage.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html>.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080721/text/80721w0054.htm#08072233000071>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

John Bercow [198371]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the Government will exempt from the no recourse to public funds rule persons fleeing all forms of violence who are subject to immigration control.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Where a person makes a claim for asylum, regardless of the grounds on which that claim is made, and including asylum claims made on the basis of violence, that person will be supported by the UK Border Agency until that claim is determined, and will have no other recourse to public funds. If a person is subsequently granted refugee status or humanitarian protection in the United Kingdom they are granted leave that enables them to access public funds. Additionally, the immigration rules enable an applicant who has limited leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom as the spouse, unmarried partner, registered civil partner or same sex partner of a British citizen or person present and settled in this country and whose marriage or relationship breaks down during the probationary period as a result of domestic violence to be granted indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom at which point they are not prohibited from accessing public funds.

In March we announced a new scheme where victims of domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds may be eligible to receive support for their housing and living costs. Under the new scheme victims of domestic violence whose applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain are successful may qualify for a contribution towards these costs. Further details on this programme of work are still being worked up and will be available later this spring. The proposals under the new scheme will strengthen the way in which domestic violence cases are considered enabling those victims who are vulnerable to access immediate support.

We have worked with the third sector and other partners to provide victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation with comprehensive support since 2003. In 2007 the UK became a signatory to the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings which we are committed to ratifying by the end of 2008. This will enhance existing measures and will provide all identified victims of trafficking with minimum levels of support during a 'reflection period' and access to temporary residence permits in certain circumstances.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080721/text/80721w0054.htm#08072233000072>

Alistair Burt [218688]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees at the Yarl's Wood Detention and Removal Centre have been in detention for (a) between three and six months, (b) between six and nine months, (c) between nine and 12 months, (d) between 12 and 18 months and (e) more than 18 months.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Information on persons detained at Yarl's Wood Immigration Service Removal Centre for all periods of time requested is not available; this information could be obtained only through the examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

However, management information currently available shows that of the persons held in detention for at least nine months and detained at Yarl's Wood as at 10 July 2008, one has been in detention for between nine and 12 months, four have been in detention for between 12 and 18 months and four have been in detention for more than 18 months.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080721/text/80721w0058.htm#08072233000101>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Alistair Burt [218689]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which countries those people detained at Yarl's Wood Detention and Removal Centre who have been detained there for more than nine months are due to be returned; and how many do not have current removal directions.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Those people detained at Yarl's Wood Detention and Removal Centre for more than nine months as 10 July 2008 are recorded as nationals of Liberia, Nigeria, Jordan, Kenya, Vietnam, India and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In seven of these cases removal directions are not currently set.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080721/text/80721w0058.htm#08072233000101>

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

Reply from Liam Byrne: The figures for the number of appeals against immigration decisions allowed at the first substantive immigration judge hearing are given as follows.

The figures are rounded to the nearest 10. The figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are the latest provisional information from the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal's database.

Managed migration figures include all immigration decisions where the applicant is already in the United Kingdom. Entry clearance figures include all immigration decisions where the appellant is outside the United Kingdom but exclude applications for visit visas.

Information on the length of time taken to issue status documents and make the appropriate passport endorsements in each case are not routinely kept and the cost would be disproportionate to provide the information requested.

	<i>Managed migration</i>	<i>Entry clearance</i>
2005-06	4,970	11,690
2006-07	5,510	21,580
2007-08	6,640	18,560

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080721/text/80721w0055.htm#08072233000074>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

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

Reply from Liam Byrne: The Secretary of State for the Home Department does not set a target for the issue of status documents following an allowed appeal against (a) a decision to refuse indefinite leave to remain or (b) an entry clearance officer's decision to refuse entry clearance to join a spouse in the UK or (c) an entry clearance officer's decision to refuse an application for a visit visa.

Information on the time taken between promulgation of an appeal determination and the issue of status papers or a visa, or the relevant endorsement of a passport in each individual case is not routinely kept by either the Appeals Implementation Unit nor UK Visas and the cost would be disproportionate to provide the information requested.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080721/text/80721w0055.htm#08072233000074>

George Mudi [218905]e: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what (a) targets have been set, (b) guidance issued and (c) objectives determined in relation to (i) the time to be taken for processing applications for leave to remain and (ii) information on the progress of such applications to be passed to the applicant, broken down by each stage of the consideration process; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Service standards in relation to processing of applications for further leave to remain and settlement in the United Kingdom are published on the UK Border Agency (UKBA) website at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

UKBA staff work to these standards and managers report on these standards to Ministers on a regular basis. These standards are only applicable to applications made by those with valid leave at the time of the application.

Applicants receive an acknowledgment letter on receipt of their application which sets out the service standards. Information on processing times is also available to applicants on the UKBA website.

Information on the progress of cases is not provided routinely to applicants at each stage of the consideration process but applicants can contact the Agency for progress on their applications via the Immigration Enquiry Bureau (IEB) or by letter.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080721/text/80721w0055.htm#08072233000077>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Damian Green [206854]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy immigration cases were being handled by her Department on 31 March 2008.

Reply from Liam Byrne: We have previously estimated that there are around 400,000 to 450,000 electronic and paper records, although this is difficult to assess accurately as many case records are dependants, duplicates or errors. This figure does not therefore equate to numbers of asylum applicants. Lin Homer is due to update the Home Affairs Select Committee shortly on the latest position in regard to progress.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080722/text/80722w0089.htm#08072427000052>

Lord Hanningfield asked Her Majesty's Government: [HL4773] How many Commonwealth citizens sought leave to remain in the United Kingdom under ancestry provisions in each of the past five years; and whether such applicants will be included in the new points-based system for immigration.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The number of Commonwealth nationals, excluding dependants, who applied for leave to remain in the UK under the ancestry provisions were as follows:

2003—2,265; 2004—2,279; 2005—1,699; 2006—4,147; and 2007—4,731.

These data have been sourced from local management information and should therefore be considered provisional and subject to change. It is not a national statistic.

The UK ancestry route will not form part of the points-based system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80721w0003.htm#08072122000025>

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4760]: What representations they will make to foreign embassies in London about (a) protecting the employment rights of domestic workers coming to the United Kingdom; and (b) the binding nature of minimum wage legislation.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: With the introduction of the points-based system, all diplomatic missions wishing to employ domestic workers in their diplomatic households will need to seek a place on the UK Border Agency sponsor register. By signing up to the sponsor register, missions will be agreeing to a number of criteria governing their employment of domestic workers. Private servants who work for foreign diplomats in the UK are protected from potential exploitation by UK law. We expect foreign diplomats to obey our laws and regulations and take seriously any alleged violation by those entitled to immunity. We would take appropriate action if any allegations of exploitation were to be brought to our attention.

Domestic workers are protected by national minimum wage legislation where their employer resides in England. However, Regulation 2(2) of the National Minimum Wage Regulations 1999 provides that if the following conditions are met:

the worker resides in the family home of the employer; the worker is not a member of the family but is treated as such; the worker does not make any payment in respect of accommodation or meals; and if the work was done by a family member, it would not be treated as work, then the national minimum wage regulations do not apply.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80721w0003.htm#08072122000026>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Laird asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5044]: Further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 15 July (WA 140) concerning the cost of immigration applications, why no consideration is given to the length of time an applicant has lived in the United Kingdom as a taxpayer when the cost of an immigration application is calculated.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The costs of processing an application do not vary according to the length of time that a person has spent in the UK as a taxpayer. It is right that all applicants pay towards the costs of processing the application to cover these costs.

For applications that are set above the cost of delivery, it is right that those who use the system most and who benefit most from the services and applications that we offer contribute most to the end costs of the immigration system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80722w0008.htm#08072252000053>

Lord Avebury asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4658]: Whether arrangements are in place to ensure that children are not removed from the country when they are unfit to travel and that, where medical advice is received to this effect, the child and his or her parents or guardians are granted temporary admission.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The United Kingdom Border Agency fully considers known information regarding the health of each family member when planning a family removal. Should medical advice suggest that a child is unfit to travel, the removal would be deferred.

The policy surrounding family removals can be found in chapter 45 of the enforcement guidance and is publicly available on the UKBA website at: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/enforcement/detentionandremovals>

Cases involving the detention of children are reviewed regularly to ensure that the decision to detain is based on the current circumstances of the case and that detention remains appropriate. Detention of children beyond 28 days is subject to ministerial authorisation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80722w0009.htm#08072252000057>

Baroness Howarth of Breckland asked Her Majesty's Government [HL4941]: Whether they are aware of any cases where females seeking asylum on the grounds of (a) sexual abuse, (b) domestic violence, (c) arranged or forced marriage, (d) trafficking, (e) female genital mutilation, or (f) family disputes arising from "honour" crimes have been deported from the United Kingdom without being given access to legal advice; and, if so, how many.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Individuals have access to legal advice at any time during the asylum process. Details of legal advice available can be found on the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) website at: www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/asylum/helpandadvice/legaladvice/. Individuals who are detained prior to removal are provided with information on contacting the Immigration Advisory Service and the Refugee Legal Centre at the point of detention and subsequently at the immigration removal centre.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80722w0009.htm#08072252000058>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

John Hayes [167717]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were detected trying to enter the UK illegally in each year since 1997; how many of those people subsequently claimed asylum; and how many were removed from the UK after their asylum claim was rejected.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The information about the number of people who were detected trying to enter the UK illegally prior to 2002 is not available due to a change in our data collection systems in 2003. Official figures for 2007 are not yet available.

Locally collated management information for the period 2003 to 2006 is provided in the following tables. The figures include all those illegal entrants detected at ports of entry.

Between 2003 and 2006, 5,917 people were detected trying to enter the UK illegally, or seeking to enter illegally, while during the same period nearly 48,000 were detected in France and Belgium seeking to enter the UK illegally. A further 74,000 illegal entrants were prevented from flying to the UK through the combined efforts of the Airline Liaison Officer Network and respective carriers.

The additional information requested in relation to how many of these people subsequently claimed asylum and how many of those were then removed from the United Kingdom could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Number of people detected trying to enter the UK illegally from 2003 until 2006, broken down by port

Initiating port/local enforcement office	Total each year				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2003-06
Aberdeen	0	0	0	2	2
Dorset Ports Office	0	0	18	123	141
Dover	1,690	871	661	611	3,833
Dartford	31	38	8	32	109
Harwich	31	32	32	27	122
Hull	304	186	81	45	616
Newhaven	17	71	36	26	150
Plymouth	0	0	0	2	2
Portsmouth Ports Office	0	187	108	74	369
Purfleet	14	52	1	0	67
Ramsgate	122	48	48	110	328
Sheerness	2	0	0	0	2
Tees Ports Office	53	14	6	21	94
Tilbury Ports Office	15	15	1	19	50
Tyne Commission Quay	5	15	11	1	32
Total	2,284	1,529	1,011	1,093	5,917

Notes:

1. Figures for 2003 for Portsmouth, Plymouth and Dorset were not available.
2. These data have been compiled from locally held Management Information and as such do not represent National Statistics. They may therefore be subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080722/text/80722w0088.htm#08072427000050>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

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.

Reply from Liam Byrne: A new style landing card is being phased in to reflect the changes to the UK Border Agency. This includes an extra question as to the passenger's proposed length of stay in the UK.

In addition, as the e-Borders Programme rolls out, we will be collecting additional passenger information. Full details of the information to be collected by e-Borders has been outlined in Schedule 1 to The Immigration and Police (Passenger, Crew and Service Information) Order 2008, which formed part of the legislative package underpinning the e-Borders programme. The order came into force on 1 March 2008, after clearing parliamentary scrutiny.

The longer term future of the landing card is under review.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080722/text/80722w0089.htm#08072427000052>

Edward Garnier [163352]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what means her Department ensures that deported convicted foreign nationals cannot return to the United Kingdom at a later date.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The UK Border Agency maintains a database which contains information on all foreign nationals who are deported from the United Kingdom (UK). All passengers arriving in the UK and all visa applicants are checked against this database. On the basis of that, immigration officers and entry clearance officers will make a decision (under Paragraph 320(2) of the Immigration Rules) on entry to the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080722/text/80722w0089.htm#08072427000051>

Andrew Smith [220272]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are in place to ascertain and record the citizenship of children who (a) accompany foreign national parents (i) into immigration detention and (ii) upon removal from the UK and (b) are included in family removal directions made under section 10A of the Immigration Act 1971.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Information relating to families and dependant children including welfare issues, preparatory and detention visits, actual detention, mitigating circumstances, absent family members, removal and citizenship is ascertained during contact management events and recorded on the recently introduced Family Welfare Form. This information is also recorded electronically and on the family's paper file.

The general processes followed in relation to family cases are all contained within chapter 45 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance. Processes concerning the setting of removal directions and actual removal under Para 9 and 10 of Schedule 2 of the Immigration Act 1971 are in chapter 47.

The Enforcement Instructions and Guidance is available to view on the UK Border Agency external website at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/enforcement/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080722/text/80722w0089.htm#08072427000053>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **Press Releases**

Marriage visa age raised to prevent forced marriages

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

Strict new rules for foreign students

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

New publications

Marriage Visas: the way forward

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/closedconsultations/marriagetopartnersfromoverseas/marriagevisasthewayforward.pdf?view=Binary>

Immigration and Social Cohesion in the UK: The rhythms and realities of everyday life

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2230-deprivation-cohesion-immigration.pdf>

South Africans in multi-ethnic Britain

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/SouthAfricansInBritain-2008.pdf>

Work permit categories and recruitment to training posts within NHSScotland

http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2008_33.pdf

Freedom of Information Release: Families in Immigration Detention

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/released-information/foi-archive-immigration/9135_immigration_detention?view=Binary

News

Scotland enjoys baby-boom after immigration influx

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/editors-choice/2008/07/21/scotland-enjoys-baby-boom-after-immigration-influx-86908-20656778/>

Give Migrants Bold Welcome

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/comment/newspaper-opinion/2008/07/21/give-migrants-bold-welcome-86908-20656775/>

Illegal immigrants 'should buy residence for £5000'

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2403903.0.Illegal_immigrants_should_buy_residence_for_5000.php

Illegal immigrants pay-to-stay idea

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Illegal-immigrants-paytostay-idea.4306911.jp>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

'Pay to stay' proposal for illegal immigrants

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/747718>

Immigrants' £5k fee 'would increase national security'

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Immigrants39-5k-fee-39would-increase.4307673.jp>

Deportation threat beggars belief

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/751008>

English plan for foreigners changed

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/English-plan-for-foreigners-changed.4317620.jp>

Population 'highest in 25 years'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7523192.stm>

Disabled youngsters forced into marriage to provide passports

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/disabled-youngsters-forced-into-marriage-to-provide-passports-878256.html>

Man who has been in UK for over 50 years told 'prove you're British'

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/763924>

Officials let in 37 illegal immigrants who arrived by plane in Aberdeen

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/769394>

Life inside Dungavel

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2416210.0.life_inside_dungavel.php

War on bogus immigrants' sham marriages 'is a breach of human rights'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1039868/War-bogus-immigrants-sham-marriages-breach-human-rights.html>

GPs demand right to treat refugees

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/aug/03/health.health>

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Race Relations

Press Releases

Supporting Faith Communities

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/899026>

Race Relations

Press Releases (continued)

Islam on Campus: A survey of UK student opinions

<http://www.socialcohesion.co.uk/pdf/IslamonCampus.pdf>

Trying to create a fixed sense of 'Britishness' will not achieve social cohesion

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/pressroom/releases/210708.asp>

New publications

Face to Face and Side by Side: A framework for interfaith dialogue and social action consultation – summary of consultation responses

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/898791.pdf>

Cohesion Delivery Framework - Overview

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/898656.pdf>

News

The importance of understanding Islam

<http://jobs.guardian.co.uk/careers/200777/481602/the-importance-of-understanding-islam>

The Blears fallacy

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/jul/25/islam.religion>

'Divisive' study on Muslim attitudes comes under fire

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2410443.0.divisive_study_on_muslim_attitudes_comes_under_fire.php

Third of Muslim students back killings

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article4407115.ece>

To beat extremism we must dissolve religious groups

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/minette_marrin/article4407173.ece

Killing for religion is justified, say third of Muslim students

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/religion/2461830/Killing-for-religion-is-justified%2C-say-third-of-Muslim-students.html>

Radical Islam gains ground in campuses

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jul/27/islam.highereducation>

The racist south has gone with the wind

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/us_and_americas/article4405766.ece

A cast-iron case for a secular society

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/aug/03/race.equality>

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Equality

Westminster Early Day Motion

Diane Abbott (2096) Increasing employment rates for ethnic minorities report –

That this House notes with concern the findings of the Public Accounts Committee's recent report on the employment levels of ethnic minorities in the UK; further notes the findings that there is a 14.2 per cent. gap between the employment rate of ethnic minorities and that of the general population; further notes that the report estimates that this lack in ethnic minority employment costs the Government £1.3 billion in benefits and lost tax revenue as well as a £7.3 billion loss to the UK economy; recognises the report's conclusions that there is a severe lack of continuity in the Government's approach to tackling this employment gap, that there are no clear targets given to the Department for Work and Pensions to increase ethnic minority employment, that discrimination remains a barrier to ethnic minority employment, and that the reduction in outreach activities carried out by Jobcentre Plus has had a negative impact on engaging unemployed ethnic minorities; and calls on the Department for Work and Pensions to tackle this employment gap by setting specific targets for improvement, making better use of pilot projects to influence best practice, and improving services provided by Jobcentre Plus.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80721e01.htm>

Press Release

Government launches Bristol search for role models to inspire Black boys

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/909189>

New publications

The Language of Equality

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/Documents/EHRC/languageofequality.pdf>

How to measure progress in combating discrimination and promoting equality?

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/pdf/pubst/stud/measprog08_en.pdf

News

Inquiry into lack of minority MPs set up

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2406650.0.Inquiry_into_lack_of_minority_MPs_set_up.php

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Johann Lamont (S3W-15167): To ask the Scottish Executive what its position is on the view, expressed in a recent British Academy-funded study by academics from the universities of Strathclyde and West of Scotland, that anti-sectarian policies and initiatives need to be put back on the political agenda in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-07-28e.htm>

Press Release

An international coalition of cities against racism launched at the Nantes World Forum on Human Rights

<http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php->

[URL_ID=12155&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL_ID=12155&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

New publications

Antisemitic Incidents: January – June 2008

http://www.thecst.org.uk/docs/Incidents_Report_sixmonths.pdf

State of the Nation Report

http://www.gara.org.uk/index.php?option=com_attachments&task=download&id=23

Discrimination in the European Union: Perceptions, Experiences and Attitudes

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_296_en.pdf

News

Hate crimes – the ugly face of racism, anti-Semitism, anti-Gypsyism, Islamophobia and homophobia

http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/Viewpoints/Default_en.asp

Cleared lawyer hits out at ‘institutionally racist’ Scottish judiciary

<http://www.muslimnews.co.uk/paper/index.php?article=3595>

Sikh girl wins bangle law battle

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/7529694.stm>

Sikh teenager wins discrimination case over religious bangle

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Sikh-teenager-wins-discrimination-case.4334400.jp>

Ban on Sikh bangle was discrimination

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Ban-on-Sikh-bangle-was.4336624.jp>

Fairness matters

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/aug/02/religion.communities>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Anti-Semitic incidents 'rise 9%'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7534243.stm>

£850 race abuse fine for footballer who escaped punishment from the SFA

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/08/01/exclusive-850-race-abuse-fine-for-footballer-who-escaped-punishment-from-the-sfa-86908-20679139/>

Footballer who suffered racial abuse wants his battle to inspire others

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Footballer-who-suffered-racial-abuse.4352528.jp>

BA worker gets 'final warning' over taking Shabbat as day off

<http://thejc.com/articles/ba-worker-gets-final-warning%E2%80%99-over-taking-shabbat-day>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Questions

Ken Macintosh (S3W-14769): To ask the Scottish Executive why it has not renewed funding to enable the provision of Panjabi qualifications in Scotland.

Reply from Adam Ingram: It is the responsibility of the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) to develop, set and assess qualifications in Scotland. SQA currently offers unit qualifications in Panjabi. Although there has been no uptake for these over the last few years, SQA will continue to make this provision available. SQA have also undertaken an environmental scanning and scoping exercise to investigate the demand for further development of qualifications in Panjabi. On the basis of the results of this work, SQA do not intend to develop additional qualifications in Panjabi at present.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0721.htm>

Ken Macintosh (S3W-14770): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it made any assessment of the success of the Centres of Excellence programme in funding the provision of qualifications in the Panjabi language before deciding not to renew that funding.

Reply from Adam Ingram: A review of the national Centres of Excellence programme was undertaken by the previous Scottish Executive in 2005. The review concluded three of the centres were not in fact acting as national centres. Their funding was therefore phased out, although it is open to the local authorities in question to continue to fund those elements of the centres work which are a local priority.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0721.htm>

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Ken Macintosh (S3W-14771): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it has any plans to review the impact of its decision not to fund Panjabi qualifications in Scotland.

Reply from Adam Ingram: It is the responsibility of the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) to develop, set and assess qualifications in Scotland. SQA currently offers unit qualifications in Panjabi. Although there has been no uptake for these over the last few years, SQA will continue to make this provision available. They have also undertaken an environmental scanning and scoping exercise to investigate the demand for further development of qualifications in Panjabi. On the basis of the results of this work, SQA do not intend to develop additional qualifications in Panjabi at present.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0721.htm>

Press Release

New ethnicity classification

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/07/30120328>

New publications

Scotland's New Ethnicity Classification for Scottish Official Statistics and Recommended for Scotland's 2011 Census

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/233640/0063967.pdf>

Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland: The Twice Yearly Count - No. 13: January 2008

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/232250/0063545.pdf>

News

A question of identity: are you Scottish or British?

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2413586.0.A_question_of_identity_are_you_Scottish_or_British.php

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Question

Andrew George [220062]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to improve education provision for gypsy and traveller communities.

Reply from Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families provides funding to local authorities through the Children's Services Grant to improve provision and outcome for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) pupils and many local authorities use this to maintain a Traveller Education Support Service which works closely with schools on issues relating to GRT pupils.

The Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Achievement Programme, part of our National Primary and Secondary Strategies, was launched in 2006 and aims to improve the quality of provision, improve rates of attendance and standards of behaviour and thus raise attainment for GRT pupils. 47 schools in 12 local authorities are currently involved in this programme and a further 40 schools in 10 new local authorities will join the programme in autumn 2008.

We have also recently published, in February 2008, "The Inclusion of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children and Young People". This document offers practical advice to local authorities, schools, pupils and parents on how to raise ascription and attainment among GRT pupils.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080721/text/80721w0049.htm#08072233000034>

Early Day Motion

Philip Davies (2134) **Sharia law** – That this House notes the views of the Centre for Islamic Pluralism that for non-Muslim authorities to propose the introduction of Sharia as a legal standard for Muslims in any non-Muslim land is not only absurdly patronising and discriminatory but also violates the canons of traditional Sharia law; calls on the Lord Chief Justice to accept that his comments have caused a considerable amount of damage to community cohesion in the UK and to the principle of integration; and further calls on the Government to confirm that Sharia law will have no place in the British legal system in any shape or form, in accordance with the wishes of the estimated two thirds of Muslims who oppose its introduction.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80722e01.htm>

Press Release

Working to stop forced marriages

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/stopping-forced-marriages>

New publication

Women's Changing Lives: Priorities for the Ministers for Women One Year On Progress Report

[http://www.equalities.gov.uk/publications/7783-TSO-ChangeWomensLives\(P\).pdf](http://www.equalities.gov.uk/publications/7783-TSO-ChangeWomensLives(P).pdf)

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New Publication

Public and Charity Perspectives: Summary of the 2008 OSCR Surveys

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=6db7df7b-0223-4ad6-9b93-1593f8807db7>

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Other News

Scottish & proud of it

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2409258.0.scottish_proud_of_it.php

Muslims hold police debate over searches

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/uk/Muslims-hold--police-debate.4311021.jp>

Moslems voice concern over interviews at Scots airport

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/751989>

Government drops plan to allow Muslim schools to police themselves

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/politics/education/2439866/Government-drops-plan-to-allow-Muslim-schools-to-police-themselves.html>

Fashion world stunned by Vogue for black

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2008/jul/27/fashion.pressandpublishing>

Rendell: not enough done to prevent female circumcision

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2410640.0.Rendell_not_enough_done_to_prevent_female_circumcision.php

New insurance firm to suit Muslim rules

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/uk/New-insurance-firm-to-suit.4329369.jp>

The trusts they are a-changin'

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/features/display.var.2411571.0.The_trusts_they_are_a-changin.php

Navanethem Pillay confirmed as new High Commissioner for Human Rights

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/NewHC.aspx>

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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>

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>

proposed amendment

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/065/amend/am065-f.htm>

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

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

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Consultations (closing date)

** New or updated this week

** *closes this week!*

UK Parliament draft legislative programme (6 August 2008)

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

The Duty to Promote Community Cohesion in Schools Survey 2008 (short online questionnaire – no closing date specified)

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=DuLrl_2bXuA9e2GClgeKbcwA_3d_3d

** **European Agency for Fundamental Rights Annual Report 2008** (20 August 2008)

http://fra.europa.eu/fra/index.php?fuseaction=content.dsp_cat_content&catid=48848cb530d4c

** **European Agency for Fundamental Rights Work Programme 2009**

(20 August 2008)

http://fra.europa.eu/fra/index.php?fuseaction=content.dsp_cat_content&catid=48848c9d7795d

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>

**** Forced Marriage Statutory Guidance** (15 October 2008)

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/forcedmarriage-consultation>

**** Strengthening the Common Travel Area** (16 October 2008)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/strengtheningthecommontravelarea/travelareaconsultation?view=Binary>

**** No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility** (22 October 2008)

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/welfarereform/noonewrittenoff/noonewrittenoff-complete.pdf>

Religious and Moral Education (November 2008)

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)

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>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

The trusts they are a-changin'

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/features/display.var.2411571.0.The_trusts_they_are_achangin.php

Volunteering Scotland Grant Scheme

Deadline for applications: 30 September 2008

The Volunteering Scotland Grant Scheme can provide grants for up to three years for projects that attract harder to reach volunteers to enable organisations to develop and sustain high quality volunteering opportunities for people who need more support to get involved, and enrich their services with an extra resource of volunteers. Substantial grants for one or two years are available, as well as one-off small grants of £5,000 to smaller organisations. For information and application form see

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** this week!**

Islam Festival

1 – 31 August in Edinburgh

Festival to promote awareness and understanding of Muslim faith and life through the *Discover Islam* Exhibition and a variety of talks, performances, and artistic events. For information see <http://www.islamfestival.com/>

**** this week!**

Ethnic Minority Eye Health Project

7 August 2008 in Glasgow (5.00-6.30)

Launch of a new initiative to improve the eye health of ethnic minority communities and the access to appropriate services in Greater Glasgow and Clyde.; speakers include Nicola Sturgeon Cabinet Secretary for Health and Well-Being, and Mohammed Sarwar MP. For information contact Gozie Joe Adigwe 0131 311 8500 /

gozie.joadigwe@mib.org.uk

**** deadline for applications this week!**

Mainstreaming Equalities

Six session course, beginning 28 August 2008 in Glasgow

deadline for applications: 4 August 2008

GCVS course to support organisations to mainstream equality across their operations and functions. The course will cover: equality key concepts, understanding mainstreaming, equality impact assessment, consultation for equality, applying equality practice, and moving forward the agenda, and is designed from a human rights framework encompassing the broader concept of equality enshrined in human rights law. For information see <http://www.gcv.org.uk/documents/383> or contact Charlene Reilly 0141 332 2444 / charlene.reilly@gcv.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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)

**** OSCR Meet the Regulator Roadshow**

[23 September 2008 in Edinburgh](#) (9.15 – 1.30)

[1 October 2008 in Edinburgh](#) (9.15 – 2.00)

[2 October 2008 in Kelso](#) (9.15 – 1.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training events aimed at charity trustees and administrators of smaller charities with an income less than £100,000. For information contact the OSCR communications@oscr.org.uk or follow above weblinks.

Sharing Experience – Sharing Concern

2 October 2008 in Perth (10.00 – 3.00)

National Commission for Pastoral and Social Care conference for faith communities on the theme of raising awareness on domestic abuse. For information contact 0141 847 6137 / nacosoca.admin@btconnect.com or see

http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/08vii_national_commission.doc

**** Volunteer Recruitment Fair**

2 October 2008 in Edinburgh (11.0 – 7.00)

Recruitment and networking event organised by volunteer Centre Edinburgh to promote volunteering. For more information, or to book a stall contact Ellis Ciruello ellis.ciruello@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk or see

<http://www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk/news/pressreleases/BookingForm2008comp.doc>

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>

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Useful Links

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

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

Useful Links (continued)

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/>

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

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



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

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