

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with **BEMIS**.*

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

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

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The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 27 October.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Jack McConnell (S3W-16800): To ask the Scottish Executive how many Leave to Remain visas have been requested in each year since the launch of the Fresh Talent initiative.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-10-06e.htm>

Jack McConnell (S3W-16801): To ask the Scottish Executive how many Leave to Remain visas have been requested in each year since the launch of the Fresh Talent initiative.
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-10-06e.htm>

Jack McConnell (S3W-16802): To ask the Scottish Executive what evaluation has taken place of the Leave to Remain scheme and the Relocation Advisory Service.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-10-06e.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Jack McConnell (S3W-16803): To ask the Scottish Executive what arrangements there are for overseas students graduating in Scotland to provide them with opportunities to remain in Scotland for an extended period following graduation and how these compare with arrangements elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-10-06e.htm>

Jack McConnell (S3W-16804): To ask the Scottish Executive how often Scottish ministers met UK ministers between May 2007 and September 2008 to discuss the new UK immigration policy.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-10-06e.htm>

Jack McConnell (S3W-16805): To ask the Scottish Executive whether written representations were made to the UK Government by Scottish ministers in advance of the launch of the new UK Government immigration policy and what representations were made between May 2007 and September 2008.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-10-06e.htm>

Jack McConnell (S3W-16806): To ask the Scottish Executive what representations have been, or will be, made by Scottish ministers to UK ministers to allow trainee doctors to complete their training using the provisions of the Fresh Talent initiative.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-10-06e.htm>

Jack McConnell (S3W-16807): To ask the Scottish Executive what representations have been made by Scottish ministers to UK ministers to allow financial services trainees to complete their training and remain in Scotland beyond the two years of the Leave to Remain scheme under the Fresh Talent initiative and what decisions have been implemented as a result.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-10-06e.htm>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Andrew Smith [225202]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many days children who were British citizens were in immigration detention in the last 12 months.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The information requested on the number of days children with British citizenship have been detained in immigration detention is not centrally collated and could be provided only by examining individual cases in disparate locations (local enforcement offices) at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of persons detained is published in the Quarterly Asylum Bulletin, on 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/cm081009/text/81009w0015.htm#08100957000069>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Peter Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to allow asylum seekers to work while their status is being determined; and if she will make a statement. [224552]

Reply from Phil Woolas: We have no current plans to change the position whereby asylum seekers are only allowed to work if they have not had a decision on their asylum application within 12 months of the date of their application and the delay is not attributable to them.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081009/text/81009w0015.htm#08100957000063>

John Mann [224611]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many Bassetlaw residents were deported from the UK in each of the last five years; (2) [224827] how many UK residents have been deported to Australia in the last five years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The information regarding how many Bassetlaw residents have been deported from the UK in each of the last five years is not available at the geographical level requested and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the number of removals and voluntary departures from the UK to Australia, which includes those subject to a deportation order, from 2004 to 2007. These figures exclude persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls) since they were not resident in the UK at the time.

Destination data have only been recorded since 2004, so information on persons removed to Australia during 2003 is not available.

Further National Statistics on removals from the UK are available from the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>.

Removals and voluntary departures^(1,2) from the UK to Australia, 2004 to 2007⁽³⁾

	<i>Number of removals</i>
2004	15
2005	50
2006	30
2007 ⁽⁴⁾	70
Total ⁽⁴⁾	170

⁽¹⁾ Includes enforced removals, persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under the Assisted Voluntary Return Programme run by the International Organisation for Migration since January 2005, persons who it has been established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

⁽²⁾ Excludes persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls).

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

⁽⁴⁾ Provisional figures.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081009/text/81009w0015.htm#08100957000067>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Peter Bone [224553]: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what procedures are in place to allow (a) asylum seekers under the age of 18 years and (b) asylum seekers who are 18 years old or over to obtain education and training; what guidance is given to universities; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from David Lammy: The children of asylum seekers have the same rights as all other children in the United Kingdom during the period of compulsory education. All 16 to 18-year-old asylum seekers are eligible for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funding in respect of their attendance on a further education course in the same way as UK students.

Asylum seekers aged 19 or over are treated as UK students for the purpose of fees for further education where they have been legally in the UK for longer than six months pending consideration of their application for asylum or where they have failed in their claim but have been granted support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. This follows the granting of concessions to enable asylum seekers to access LSC funding in certain circumstances, for example for courses teaching English for speakers of other languages. Otherwise they are treated as international students, and may be required to cover the full cost of their course. However an FE college or provider has discretion over the level of fee that they actually charge.

Asylum seekers access higher education courses as international students and can expect to be charged the full cost of their course by the university concerned. However, universities have discretion over the level of fee that they actually charge. The Higher Education Refugees and Asylum Seekers network provides guidance on the detailed rules which apply.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081009/text/81009w0016.htm#08100957000086>

John Bercow (224630): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers were refused asylum on grounds that they are suspected of (a) a crime against peace, (b) a war crime and (c) a crime against humanity under article 1F(a) of the UN Refugee Convention in each year since 2000.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81007w01.htm>

John Bercow (224631): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers who were refused asylum under article 1F(a) of the UN Refugee Convention were granted (a) humanitarian protection, (b) discretionary leave, (c) exceptional leave to remain and (d) indefinite leave to remain in each year since 2000.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81007w01.htm>

John Bercow (224632): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers who were refused asylum under article 1F(a) of the UN Refugee Convention were refused (a) humanitarian protection, (b) discretionary leave, (c) exceptional leave to remain and (d) indefinite leave to remain in each year since 2000.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81007w01.htm>

Peter Bone (224550): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers' applications had been outstanding for (a) six months to one year, (b) one to two years, (c) two to three years, (d) three to four years, (e) four to five years, (f) five to six years, (g) six to seven years, (h) seven to eight years, (i) eight to nine years, (j) nine to 10 years and (k) more than 10 years on 31st December in each of the last 11 years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81007w01.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Peter Bone (224551): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers were deported from the UK in each of the last 11 years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81007w01.htm>

Peter Bone (224554): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many outstanding asylum seekers' applications there were on 31st December in each of the last 11 years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81007w01.htm>

Peter Bone (224555): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers entered the UK in each of the last 11 years; and how many such people were aged (a) under 18 years and (b) 18 years and over.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81007w01.htm>

Paul Holmes (225296): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from the Occupied Palestinian Territories were refused asylum in the UK in each of the last (a) 12 months and (b) five years; and how many are awaiting a decision on an asylum application.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81008w01.htm>

Paul Holmes (225298): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) Afghani, (b) Belarusian, (c) Burmese, (d) Chinese, (e) Colombian, (f) Cuban, (g) Democratic Republic of Congo, (h) Democratic People's Republic of Korea, (i) Iranian, (j) Iraqi, (k) Israeli, (l) Nepalese, (m) Pakistani, (n) Russian, (o) Saudi Arabian, (p) Syrian, (q) Turkmenistani, (r) Uzbekistani and (s) Vietnamese nationals were refused asylum in the UK in each of the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years; and how many in each category are awaiting a decision on an asylum application.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81008w01.htm>

Harry Cohen (225886): To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the effect on staff shortages in care homes of restrictions on asylum seekers working.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81009w01.htm>

James Clappison (226120): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) asylum claimants and (b) their dependants of each nationality have been granted leave to remain in the UK through (i) the 1998 backlog exercise, (ii) the 2003 family indefinite leave to remain exercise, (iii) the legacy exercise and (iv) discretionary leave to remain since 1997.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81009w01.htm>

Press Releases

Strengthening the EU's Comprehensive migration policy: new initiatives of the European Commission on the Global Approach to migration, on Integration and on Family Reunification of third-country nationals

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1473&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

UK Border Agency celebrates six months of success

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

New publication

Mixing it

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/articles/?id=3263>

News

Immigration farce will damage Scottish NHS

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/opinion/Immigration-farce-will-damage-Scottish.4561066.jp>

MacAskill clashes with immigration chiefs over reforms

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2459610.0.MacAskill_clashes_with_migration_chiefs_over_reforms.php

Homosexuality ban 'no reason for asylum'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Homosexuality-ban-39no-reason-for.4582179.jp>

Poles apart: the new Presbyterian pulpit war has begun

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article4925434.ece>

GPs win care fight for asylum seekers

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/oct/12/nhs-health>

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Race Relations

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Bob Doris S3M-2673 : Scottish Asian Action Committee's 25th Anniversary—That the Parliament congratulates the Scottish Asian Action Committee (SAAC) on its 25th anniversary celebrations, having been founded in 1983 as a broad-based secular organisation providing a community development, campaigning and advice information service for ethnic minority communities in Scotland, originally made up of groups representing Pakistani, Indian, Kashmiri, Bengali and Bangladeshi communities, and notes that SAAC was a catalyst for activities such as the Glasgow Mela and the annual day of action against racism and was recently honoured with an Outstanding Achievement Award at the Scottish BME Achievement Awards, acknowledging its work in community development and anti-racism initiatives as well as its welfare rights and immigration advice services.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-10-08f.htm>

Race Relations (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Jim Cunningham [222704]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government has taken to raise awareness of all religions amongst school children.

Reply from Jim Knight: Religious education syllabuses, other than for voluntary aided schools with a religious designation, are drawn up by an agreed syllabus conference which advises each separate local authority. To assist in drawing up these syllabuses the Department, with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), has published a non-statutory framework for religious education which has been supported by all the main faith groups and the British Humanist Association. It says that pupils should learn about Christianity throughout each key stage though, by the end of key stage 3, pupils should have encountered all five principal religions (Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism) in sufficient depth. It also recommends that all pupils have opportunities to study other religious traditions such as the Baha'i faith, Jainism, Zoroastrianism and secular philosophies such as humanism. It can be obtained from the QCA website at www.qca.org.uk.

In addition, the Government is investing £1 million in an RE action plan to improve the quality of teaching and learning in the subject. Key areas for the action plan include updating existing guidance on RE, reviewing materials used in schools to teach world religions and their contribution to promoting community cohesion, supporting the work of the RE subject association (the National Association of Teachers of RE), and increasing the involvement of minority faith groups in local Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education by rolling out a national programme of recruitment and training.

The plan is being implemented with full involvement and in full consultation with faith and belief communities and the RE professional community.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081006/text/81006w0107.htm#08100876000051>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Gregory Campbell (2195) **Media coverage of comments about religions** - That this House notes the condemnation by sections of the media, particularly in Northern Ireland and Scotland, of those who use language which could be construed as anti-Catholic; but also notes the lack of criticism or condemnation by similar sections of the media about comments which could equally be construed as anti-Protestant, such as those of the former Policing Ombudsman in Northern Ireland Nuala O'Loan who, in August 2008 during a BBC Radio 4 interview for Woman's Hour, said Protestants would have been taught as children that they could not trust Catholics; and calls for a fair and balanced media approach in trying to ensure that such ill-informed and inaccurate comments cease to be made by all of those in positions of influence.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/81009e01.htm>

Press Releases

Blears - Strengthening community leadership

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/987558>

The next generation of Muslim community leaders

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/987399>

Race Relations (continued)

New publications

What and who is it we don't trust?

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/pdf/2283.pdf>

Why are fear and distrust spiralling in twenty-first century Britain?

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/pdf/2282.pdf>

News

Baroness Warsi: Labour's Young Muslim Advisory Group is patronising and divisive

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/politics/labour/3155177/Baroness-Warsi-Labours-Young-Muslim-Advisory-Group-is-patronising-and-divisive.html>

British Muslims: cultural clash and loss of direction

http://www.gulfnews.com/world/United_Kingdom/10249629.html

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Equality

Holyrood Committee

Equal Opportunities Committee

European Year of Equal Opportunities for All 2007

The Convener (Margaret Mitchell): Our final agenda item is evidence on the outcomes of the 2007 European year of equal opportunities for all. I attended the year's closing conference in Lisbon. The event was worth while and reinforced the fact that equal opportunities are relevant throughout the whole European Community and Europe.

I therefore take much pleasure in welcoming Belinda Pyke, who is the European Commission's director of equality. She has kindly agreed to come over from Brussels and I welcome her back to Edinburgh, where she used to live. We look forward to hearing what she has to say. As well as updating the committee on the European year, Belinda will talk about other European Union work that is relevant to our remit. That is not surprising, given that equal opportunities legislation that we consider emanates from the EU. We have chosen a good time to speak to Belinda, because the Commission has recently proposed a new directive on non-discrimination outside the workplace.

To continue reading the evidence session see

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/or-08/eo08-1402.htm#Col666>

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Mark Lancaster (225859): To ask the Minister for Women and Equality, what the make up of the board of each public body is broken down by (a) gender, (b) race, (c) disability, (d) faith, (e) age and (f) sexual orientation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81009w01.htm>

Equality (continued)

New publication

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Equality News

<http://cecollect.com/ve/ZZ81KSj70M31a7497t2>

News

Education expert attacks schools for failing black students

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2008/oct/10/raceinschools-race>

Male, white, middle class, privately educated, Edinburgh resident, New Club member ... is it time to change the face of the Scottish judiciary?

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2459760.0.male_white_middle_class_privately_educated_edinburgh_resident_new_club_member_is_it_time_to_change_the_face_of_the_scottish_judiciary.php

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Parliamentary Question

Lord Lester of Herne Hill asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5344]: What is their stance on the resolutions on defamation of religion proposed by members of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: The UK has consistently voted against resolutions on defamation of religion in the UN Human Rights Council. Under international human rights law it is individuals (and not religions) who have rights, beliefs or philosophies. The UK is concerned that the concept of defamation of religion can be used to undermine human rights such as freedom of expression, freedom of information and freedom of religion itself. We strongly believe that freedom of expression and freedom of religion go hand in hand and that both rights are complementary and necessary in a democratic society.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81007w0002.htm#08100735000010>

Press Releases

World experts meet to discuss Freedom of Expression and Advocacy of Religious Hatred

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

Top UN human rights official urges States to uphold pledges to fight racism

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=28445&Cr=racism&Cr1>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) **New publications**

ENAR Shadow Reports 2007:

Racism in the United Kingdom

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/UK%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in Austria

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Austria%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in Belgium

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Belgium%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in Bulgaria

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Bulgaria%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in Cyprus

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Cyprus%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in the Czech Republic

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Czech%20Republic%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in Denmark

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Denmark%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in Estonia

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Estonia%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in Finland

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Finland%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in France

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/France%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in Germany

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Germany%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in Greece

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Greece%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism and Religious Hatred

New publications (continued)

Racism in Hungary

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Hungary%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in Ireland

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Ireland%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in Italy <http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Italy%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in Latvia

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Latvia%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in Lithuania

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Lithuania%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in Malta <http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Malta%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in the Netherlands

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Netherlands%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in Poland

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Poland%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in Romania

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Romania%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in Slovakia

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Slovakia%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in Spain

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Spain%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism in Sweden

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/en/Sweden%20-%20SR%202007.pdf>

Racism and Religious Hatred

New publications (continued)

Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region - Incidents and Responses Annual Report for 2007

http://www.osce.org/documents/odhr/2008/10/33851_en.pdf

Durban Review Conference (Review of the Declaration and Programme of Action issued by the 2001 World Conference against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance): papers

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/DurbanReview/session2-documentation.htm>

Address by Navanethem Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Opening of the Durban 2nd Preparatory Committee

<http://www.unhcr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/6BC9732D5EB6CB18C12574DA0037070C?opendocument>

News

Inquiry into Met racism concerns

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7653914.stm>

Police chief speaks out on racism

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Police-chief-speaks-out-on.4560510.jp>

Black group boycotts 'racist' force

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Black-group-boycotts-39racist39-force.4560516.jp>

Met Police racism probe 'is flawed'

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Met-Police-racism-probe-39is.4560515.jp>

Smith orders police race review

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7655984.stm

Review ordered amid police race row

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Review-ordered-amid-police-race.4564144.jp>

High ranking police chief says 'racism' in the force never held me back

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1076452/High-ranking-police-chief-says-racism-force-held-back.html>

A black police association – now that is racism in action

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/minette_marrin/article4926558.ece

Kicking out anti-social behaviour

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7661083.stm>

Irish ministers join the battle to rid Scottish football of sectarian chanting

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Irish-ministers-join--the.4583403.jp>

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Other Holyrood

Debate

Elections 2007

The Presiding Officer (Alex Fergusson): Good morning. The first item of business this morning is a debate on motion S3M-2667, in the name of Duncan McNeil, on behalf of the Local Government and Communities Committee, on the committee's report on the elections in 2007. I warn members that time is very tight in this debate, so Presiding Officers will be enforcing time limits on members' contributions.

Duncan McNeil (Greenock and Inverclyde) (Lab): Let me start by thanking the committee members, the clerks, the officers and the Scottish Parliament information centre for all their hard work and patience in putting together this report, which has allowed us to have this debate today. Although there will be many differing views and personal experiences of the problems that marred the 2007 elections, it is clearly in everyone's interests that we do our best to avoid a repeat of the failures.

As members know, local government elections have been held simultaneously with the Scottish Parliament election since 1999. However, at the election last year, there were two significant changes: the single transferable vote system and electronic counting were both used for the first time. Having watched the events from close quarters, members will need no reminding of the problems that occurred that night. At an early stage, it became apparent that there was a high number of spoiled ballots—higher than normal—and that there were problems with the electronic counting machines. In some cases, the problems extended the count into the following day. In the Lothians count, they even led to suspension.

In the two previous local government elections that were tied to the Scottish parliamentary elections, the number of rejected ballot papers accounted for 0.77 per cent and 0.59 per cent of the overall votes cast. In 2007, the number was as high as 1.85 per cent. The rate of rejected ballots varied from 1.11 per cent in East Dunbartonshire to 2.77 per cent in West Dunbartonshire.

The number of rejected ballot papers in the local government elections was considerably smaller than the numbers involved in the parliamentary election, in which the rate of rejection was as high as 4.07 per cent, but that should not be allowed to detract from the fact that the level of rejected ballot papers in the council elections was unacceptably high.

In light of the controversy that arose from the high level of rejected ballots, the Electoral Commission engaged Ron Gould, an international expert, to conduct an independent review. The resulting report was published in October last year and the Local Government and Communities Committee agreed to study its recommendations. The Scottish Affairs Committee of the House of Commons conducted its own inquiry into the Scottish parliamentary elections, and a report was published in May 2008.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor1009-02.htm#Col11629>

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Gavin Brown: To ask the Scottish Executive what plans it has for the promotion of volunteering in Scotland. (S3O-4483)

Reply from Jim Mather: We made it clear in our economic strategy that we place a high value on the contribution that the third sector makes to creating a more successful Scotland, and we reinforced that with funding of £93 million over the spending period. Volunteering is central to that contribution, whether it is people working as charity trustees, being involved in organising youth clubs, being involved in befriending or working in partnership with public services such as the national health service, or as part of an informal community group. We will invest £11.5 million in the network of volunteer centres over the spending review period and are in positive discussions with Volunteer Development Scotland about the funding of its role as the Scottish centre for excellence in volunteering.

Gavin Brown: I asked the question because there is a sense that volunteering specifically—as opposed to the third sector in general—has moved down the agenda somewhat. Will the minister agree today to engage further with the relevant organisations to address that concern? Community Service Volunteers Scotland will hold its big make a difference day towards the end of October. Will the minister encourage those who are under his wing to support that initiative?

Reply from Jim Mather: I can go further and say that such engagement is already under way—at the CSV conference last week, people got a clear understanding of what is being done. The Government is providing 32 pots of money across the country to fund volunteering activity. Voluntary organisations have been invited to operate together to shape with local community planning partnerships plans that will be part of single outcome agreements.

The message is clear—the power is in organisations' hands and they must get involved. That is beginning to happen across Scotland. I encourage any organisation that Mr Brown comes across to become part of that process and to work together closely to ensure that we get maximum value out of volunteering and the £11.5 million that will be spent on volunteer centres over the spending review period.

Robert Brown: I listened with care to the minister's previous answer. Does it represent a policy change in the Government's approach to the voluntary sector, especially headquarters functions of national bodies, which do not fit so well into the community planning framework at local level? Does he accept that some of us find the Government's statements of support for the voluntary sector slightly difficult to swallow after engaging with ministers on the funding of project Scotland and hearing of significant cuts to good projects—run by organisations such as CSV, to which Gavin Brown referred—that support volunteers. Does the minister recognise the importance of those organisations? My question relates to their headquarters and central functions, as well as to their involvement in community planning arrangements.

Reply from Jim Mather: We recognise the importance of voluntary organisations—that is why we have run two sessions that have brought third sector organisations together to have the fullest possible debate and why we have included Martin Sime and the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations in the national economic forum. We regard the third sector as a very important part of our economy. We note with great interest that in Finland the third sector represents 21 per cent of gross domestic product, compared with only 4 per cent in Scotland. We see massive scope for development and are working with everyone involved, including on headquarters functions, to make that happen.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor1009-02.htm#Col11710>

Other Holyrood (continued) Press Release

Parliament marks a decade of Devolution

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-08/pa08-034.htm>

New publication

Protection of Vulnerable Groups: Scottish Vetting and Barring Scheme Scottish Government response to the analysis of consultation on policy proposals for secondary legislation

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/239624/0066106.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Debate

Welfare: Churches and Faith Communities

The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford asked Her Majesty's Government what future role they envisage for churches and faith communities in voluntary sector and welfare delivery partnerships.

The right reverend Prelate said: My Lords, I hope that the House will forgive me for having broadened the scope of this debate by removing the reference to the Von Hugel report, *Moral, But No Compass*, from the original Question that I tabled. On reflection, I consider that report to be an important and provocative contribution to a rather wider subject and debate.

There has been a growing political and principled interest, both in the United States of America and in the United Kingdom, in the role that the churches might play in social provision. Let us be clear at the outset that this is not simply a pragmatic issue about how, in times of scarce resources, we cajole agencies such as the churches into filling the increasing number of gaps in the welfare state. Churches and voluntary agencies are not a backstop for the public sector. I want to make that important point right at the beginning. The strength of the churches and, indeed, of other voluntary agencies is in their being local and offering a faith that motivates people to action. They have historically been the stimulators of prophetic and innovative action in the field of neighbourly care. So this hour-long lunchtime discussion, for which I am grateful, must focus not on filling gaps in state provision but on the positive role that these communities can play in meeting the needs of our society.

For me, this is a principled and philosophic issue. At its heart is the question: what is the place of the church in a modern democracy? In a short but superb book on the history of the church and welfare provision, *Christianity and Social Service in Modern Britain—The Disinherited Spirit*, Frank Prochaska begins his study with some words of de Tocqueville: "Christianity must be maintained at any cost in the bosom of modern democracies".

That is based on the principle that democracy flourishes on the associational life of the community. It raises not only the question of the role of civil society, as we now call it, bridging the gap between the individual and the state, but the role of faith communities, and of the churches in particular, in sustaining that culture.

Other Westminster

Debate (continued)

The 20th century, with the development of the welfare state, saw the growing marginalisation and privatisation of religion and the increasing dependency of people on the state for social provision. You and I live in a double bind as a result of that experience. On the one hand, religion is viewed as a private and personal matter rather than something primarily of public concern. Religion is a hobby, a leisure-time pursuit outside the framework of public life. That is an outmoded secular view still all too present in public debate. On the other hand, increasing expectations of the state have contributed to a growing and dangerous disillusionment with our public institutions.

Where the Von Hugel report stirs us to think again is in the fact of the presence of the church right across our society; that is, in all the four nations that make up the United Kingdom. There are church communities and church buildings all over these nations. In the 21st century, there is a growing debate in the churches about what this means for our public life. Faith is not a private choice but a public reality.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81009-0006.htm#08100958000007>

Parliamentary Questions

Linda Riordan: What recent reports he has received on the practice of female circumcision in other countries; and if he will make a statement. [224420]

Reply from Gillian Merron: The UK Government condemn female genital mutilation as an extreme violation of women's and girls' human rights—a violation to which the World Health Organisation estimates up to 140 million women and girls have been subjected. We work through international organisations to eradicate the practice, which is now a criminal offence in the UK.

Linda Riordan: I thank the Minister for that reply. At least 2 million girls are thought to be subjected to the barbaric practice of female circumcision every year. The process is painful, dangerous and extremely frightening; the girls are often held down and forcibly circumcised. Will the Minister confirm again that she will do everything that she can, working with the World Health Organisation and the United Nations, to put an end to that inhumane practice?

Reply from Gillian Merron: I certainly can confirm that. I congratulate my hon. Friend on being a long-standing campaigner against that abuse. Last year, the UK Government gave about £64 million to support the work of the UN agencies and the World Health Organisation in their commitment to stop female genital mutilation in one generation. That will be used to fund work with civil society and traditional, religious and political leaders, to help to change the attitudes of women as well as men, because that is what needs to happen.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081007/debtext/81007-0003.htm#08100734000021>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

David Drew [218166]: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to encourage people from ethnic minorities to visit the countryside.

Reply from Gerry Sutcliffe: DCMS provides grant in aid to VisitBritain to promote England to the British and Britain to the rest of the world, their Rural Escapes campaign has run for two years and is aimed at attracting all sections of society to rural locations in England and has involved print, website and broadcast advertising.

VisitBritain's international inbound tourism strategy involved a campaign around Bollywood film locations aimed specifically at the Indian market. The imagery used by Britain on View, VisitBritain and enjoyEngland, is designed to reflect the fact that visitors from all ethnic backgrounds are to be encouraged to visit rural and urban destinations within the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081006/text/81006w0012.htm#08100639000058>

Rob Marris (221519): To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, for which ethnic groups not included in the current Census 2011 Test questionnaire consultation on ethnic group, national identity, religion, and language there were the most requests for inclusion in the Census 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81006w01.htm>

Rob Marris (221520): To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, how many of the Sikh organisations which responded to the Census 2011 Test questionnaire consultation on ethnic group, national identity, religion, and language were (a) in favour of and (b) against the inclusion of Sikhs as a separate ethnic group on the Census 2011 itself.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81006w01.htm>

Rob Marris (221521): To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, how many responses to the consultation on the Census 2011 questionnaire the Office for National Statistics received from (a) organisations representing Sikhs and (b) all organisations on possible questions in the 2011 Census on (i) ethnic group, (ii) national identity, (iii) religion and (iv) language.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81006w01.htm>

Press Release

Schools to play key role in preventing violent extremism

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0223

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New Publications

The housing and neighbourhood impact of Britain's changing ethnic mix

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/housing/pdf/2305.pdf>

New Publications (continued)

Volunteering while receiving benefits

http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/JCP/stellent/groups/jcp/documents/websitecontent/de_v_015837.pdf

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Other News

Sharia courts set to bring Muslim law to bear in Scottish cities

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Sharia-courts-set-to-bring.4573444.jp>

Burning Issue: Would Sharia law courts create a divisive and two-tier legal system?

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/opinion/Burning-Issue.4573511.jp>

Kirk welcomes Sharia courts into Scotland

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news/nr621008.htm>

Muslims rebuffed over sharia courts

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article4926612.ece>

Islamic school 'unfair admission'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7656486.stm>

OSCR statement on the current financial situation

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=7fd3d110-7895-4c5c-a647-c25dfbf40395>

Human Rights Defenders Take the Floor

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/BrusselsUDHR60.aspx>

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Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

** Education (Additional Support for Learning) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/16-EdAddSup/index.htm>

Bill as introduced

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/16-EdAddSup/b16s3-introd.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/16-EdAddSup/b16s3-introd-en.pdf>

Policy Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/16-EdAddSup/b16s3-introd-pm.pdf>

Delegated Powers Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/16-EdAddSup/b16s3-introd-dpm.pdf>

Bills in Progress

Holyrood (continued)

Health Boards (Membership and Elections) Bill

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

Judiciary and Courts Bill

Bill as passed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/06-JudiciaryCourts/b6bs3-aspassed.pdf>

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 amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/065/amend/ml065-ii.htm>

House of Lords consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81009-0002.htm#08100958000002>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81009-0008.htm#08100961000002>

**** 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/pb1201007a.3115.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/120/amend/pbc1201009a.3117-3118.html>

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Consultations (closing date)

**** New or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

Forced Marriage Statutory Guidance (15 October 2008)

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

**** closes this week!**

Immigration appeals: Fair decisions, faster justice (16 October 2008)

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

**** closes this week!**

Strengthening the Common Travel Area (16 October 2008)

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

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

Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) (Scotland) Bill (21 October 2008)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/inquiries/Offences/offencescall.htm>

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

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

Acquisition and Retention of DNA and Fingerprint Data in Scotland

(21 November 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/239066/0065846.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/onlinesurveys/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/onlinesurveys/religiouseducationinroman Catholicschools.asp>

**** Health in our Multi-ethnic Scotland: Future Research Priorities**

(8 December 2008)

<http://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/8248-Report%20-%20Health%20in%20our%20Multi-ethnic%20Scotland.pdf>

The Modern Scottish Jury in Criminal Trials (11 December 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/238536/0065469.pdf>

Consultations (continued)

**** Adoptions with a Foreign Element Regulations 2009** (19 December 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/240124/0066276.pdf>

Monitoring of Cross-border charities (23 December 2008)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=6990ead9-bbfc-427d-9f8c-3f3495363092>

Appendix 1 <http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=0be569cc-6efc-45f9-9829-43a784b3c6b7>

Appendix 2 <http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=11a26977-b23e-4c67-b083-6e3bd00c2d90>

Patients' Rights Bill for users of the NHS in Scotland (16 January 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/238978/0065812.pdf>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

**** New or updated this week**

Scotland's Role - Turning Principles into Practice National Human Rights Institutions at the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

31 October 2008 in Glasgow (9.00-6.15)

Conference organised by the Centre for the Study of Human Rights Law, the University of Strathclyde, and the Scottish Human Rights Commission to consider how the newly instituted Scottish Human Rights Commission will in practice aim to root the principles of international human rights within the cultural and constitutional context of Scotland.

For information see <http://www.law.strath.ac.uk/udhr60/> or contact cshrl@law.strath.ac.uk

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator Annual Conference

3 November 2008 in Carnoustie (9.15 – 2.30)

OSCR will report on its work over the past 12 months and its strategic and operational priorities for 2009. For information see

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=f0d64243-9ef7-4354-a89a-4e756d2680c2>

PAiH AGM

7 November 2008 in Glasgow (11.00 -)

For more information contact home@paih.org / 0141 353 2220

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Leadership Development Day

12 November 2008 in Glasgow

Radar Disability Network training day designed to help disabled people and those with long-term health conditions realise their leadership potential and thus increase the number of disabled people in positions of leadership and influence around the UK. For information contact Judith Simpson Judith.Simpson@radar.org.uk

St Andrew's Day anti-racism march and rally

29 November 2008 in Glasgow

March organised by the STUC to celebrate unity and challenge racism and fascism everywhere. For information see <http://www.stuc.org.uk/events/496/st-andrew-s-day-march-and-rally>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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/>

Useful Links (continued)

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>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism.

<http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>