

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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The Scottish Parliament returns from recess on 27 October.

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Debate

Immigration Controls

Damian Green: I beg to move, That this House notes that the Government's immigration policy has resulted in a quadrupling of net immigration since 1997; further notes that the European Commission predicts that the UK population will reach 77 million by 2060; further notes that the Select Committee on Communities and Local Government said in July that the pressure on resources as a result of this level of immigration 'increases the risk of community tensions escalating'; further notes that the Chairman of the House of Lords Committee on Economic Affairs said in April that 'the argument put forward by the Government that large-scale immigration brings significant economic benefits for the UK is unconvincing'; and calls on the Government to introduce a limit on economic migration from outside the EU, to ensure that immigration remains a real benefit to the country's economy and its public services and to reform the marriage visa system to encourage better integration into British society.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Debate (continued)

My first task is to welcome the new immigration Minister to his job, and it is a real pleasure to do so. He has made an impact already; indeed, he has made such an impact on the Home Secretary that she has decided that it might be wiser not to let him open the debate for the Government. It would be useful for the House to discover what he has said that she disagrees with.

The immigration Minister gave an interview on Saturday in which he said that he wanted a limit on the numbers coming to Britain. That sounds sensible. In fact, it sounds like every interview that I have given on the subject for the past two years. Sadly, he gave another interview on Sunday, in which he said the opposite, describing talk of a limit as nonsense.

I can only assume that the second U-turn came after a talk with the Home Secretary, because she has spent the past two years energetically criticising the policies that on Saturday the Minister said he would introduce. She spent two years saying that any limit on immigration would be arbitrary and unworkable. Her immigration Minister now wants a limit. She spent two years saying that there are huge economic benefits to immigration at any level. He says that it has been too easy to get into this country.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081021/debtext/81021-0004.htm#08102129000001>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

James Clappison [227937]: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of inward migrants to the UK intending to stay for 12 months or more who cited work-related purposes as the main reason for migration in (a) each year for which figures are available and (b) each quarter since 2004.

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

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your question concerning what estimate has been made of the number of inward migrants to the UK intending to stay for 12 months or more who cited work-related purposes as the main reason for migration in each year for which figures are available and for each quarter since 2004. (227937)

Table 1, attached, gives an estimate of international immigration for work-related reasons between 1977 and 2006. For all years apart from 1995, these estimates include migrants with a definite job to go to and those who are looking for work.

Table 2 provides quarterly estimates since 2004.

Both tables are based solely on data from the International Passenger Survey.

To read the lengthy tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081017/text/81017w0023.htm#08101750000128>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081017/text/81017w0024.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

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.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The information is as follows:

(i) The following tables show the number of principal asylum applicants who have been granted leave to remain in the UK through the pre-1996 asylum application backlog exercise (referred to in the question as the 1998 backlog exercise) by nationality during 1999 and 2000. The backlog clearance exercise ran for these two years only.

Information on dependants granted leave to remain in the UK through the backlog exercise is not available by nationality and can be obtained only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost. Total figures for principal applicants including dependants granted exceptional leave under the backlog exercise were 15,195 and 14,045 in 1999 and 2000 respectively.

(ii) For information on the 2003 family indefinite leave to remain exercise, I refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne) gave on 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1298W.

UKBA is no longer reporting on the performance of the Family ILR Exercise. The small number of remaining cases are being processed with other legacy cases, not as a separate workstream, and will be reported on as part of normal business.

(iii) Information on the legacy exercise by nationality is not available and could be obtained only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

(iv) Discretionary leave to remain has only been granted since April 2003. For information on the numbers granted discretionary leave to remain from April 2003 to 2006, I refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne) gave on 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1298W. 2007 figures on the discretionary leave to remain can be found in tables 4.1 and 4.2 of the annual Statistical Bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2007: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1108.pdf>

Further National Statistics on asylum 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>.

To read the extremely lengthy tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081017/text/81017w0004.htm#08101750000045>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081017/text/81017w0005.htm>

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<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081017/text/81017w0006.htm>

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<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081017/text/81017w0007.htm>

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Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Damian Green [227536]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has conducted a review of (a) financial and (b) other support provided to people at all stages of the asylum process.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Asylum seekers who are destitute, or likely to become destitute, are provided with support under sections 95 and 98 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 from the time they arrive in the UK until their claim has been fully determined. This support takes the form of cash subsistence or accommodation, or both. Failed asylum seekers can receive support, as accommodation and non-cash vouchers, under section 4 of the Act if they would otherwise be destitute and they are taking reasonable steps to return or are able to point to a legitimate barrier to their return.

Cash subsistence support rates for asylum seekers supported under section 95 are reviewed annually.

In January 2008 new regulations came into force following a review and public consultation on essential living needs not connected with the provision of accommodation under section 4 for the most vulnerable.

Regional Target Contracts for the provision of accommodation across the UK were introduced from 2006 following a review which identified how contractual improvements could be made.

We are currently holding regional meetings with stakeholders to seek a range of views on how to improve the way we provide asylum support to asylum seekers, including those unsuccessful in their claim.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081020/text/81020w0002.htm#08102037000038>

Anne McIntosh [221894]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers remained in the UK following the failure of their asylum application in each of the last five years; for what reasons failed asylum seekers are not removed from the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Since the phasing out of embarkation controls in 1994, no Government has been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally and that includes failed asylum seekers. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by December 2008 the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country. This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) will only seek to enforce removal when the asylum application has been unsuccessful having been fully determined, including the exhaustion of suspensive appeal rights.

The Enforcement business plan 'Enforcing the Deal' published in June 2008, sets out the UKBA's priorities for enforcing the immigration laws in the UK communities and increasing removals. 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/cm081021/text/81021w0020.htm#08102154000034>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Damian Green [227530]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of its fee income from immigration documents and services for (a) 2008-09 and (b) each of the subsequent three financial years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Our estimate of fee income for 2008-09 from visa application is £300 million.

Our estimate of fee income for 2008-09 from in country application is £350 million. Forecasts are subject to change on a regular basis, at least quarterly; sometimes more frequently than that, as they are revised to account for various events that we believe will impact upon demand.

We are reviewing the position next year in the run-up to laying fees orders and as part of the development of business plan for next year. We do not currently have estimates of fee income for the subsequent three years at the moment as fees have not yet been set for future years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081020/text/81020w0002.htm#08102037000039>

Daniel Kawczynski [227834]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have claimed asylum in the UK in each year since 2000; and how many of those people came from Commonwealth countries, other than Zimbabwe, in each year.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Information on the number of people (principal applicants and dependants) who have claimed asylum is unavailable, by nationality, prior to 2002. The following table shows all nationalities and total Commonwealth principal asylum applications from 2000 to 2007. The Commonwealth total comprises 51 countries: this excludes United Kingdom, Fiji and Zimbabwe (Fiji was suspended from the Councils of the Commonwealth in December 2006 and Zimbabwe withdrew from the Commonwealth in 2003).

<i>Asylum applications received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, 2000-07⁽¹⁾</i>		
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Commonwealth total</i>
2000 ⁽²⁾	22,880	17,370
2001	71,025	15,820
2002	84,130	14,345
2003	49,405	10,425
2004	33,960	7,575
2005	25,710	5,665
2006	23,610	4,775
2007 ⁽³⁾	23,430	5,110

(1) Figures rounded to the nearest five.
 (2) Excludes Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, Malta, Samoa, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad And Tobago.
 (3) Provisional figures.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081021/text/81021w0020.htm#08102154000034>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Peter Bone [227549]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what conditions asylum seekers may work when their application has not been determined after 12 months through no fault of theirs.

Reply from Phil Woolas: An asylum applicant may apply for permission to take up employment if a decision at first instance has not been taken on the applicant's asylum application within one year of the date on which it was recorded. The application to take employment will only be considered if the delay in reaching a decision cannot be attributed to the applicant. If permission to work is granted, this precludes self-employment, business or professional activity.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081021/text/81021w0020.htm#08102154000035>

James Clappison [222337]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal migrant workers were the subject of enforcement action (a) in each year since 1997 and (b) in each quarter of the last three years; and how many have been deported or otherwise removed from the UK.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The United Kingdom Border Agency's records details of enforcement operations and arrests going back as far as 2005. To link that data to subsequent enforcement action and successful removals could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Published information on removals is provided in the quarterly asylum statistics. The most recent figures can be accessed at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/asylumq407.pdf>.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081021/text/81021w0024.htm#08102154000061>

James Clappison [222338]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employers have been made the subject of (a) a civil penalty and (b) a criminal prosecution since the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 came into force; how many of those prosecuted have been convicted; and how many of the employees illegally employed in such cases have been removed from the UK, broken down by sector of the employers concerned.

Reply from Phil Woolas: There have been 354 notices of liability issued to employers under the civil penalty regime since its introduction on 29 February 2008 until 12 July 2008.

Prosecution proceedings are live in a further 27 cases. And in four cases, these proceedings have been completed and have resulted in a fine for the employer. The data provided are management information. They may be subject to change and do not represent published national statistics.

The United Kingdom Border Agency does not hold data in the format requested on those encountered working illegally and that have been removed from the UK. Published information on removals is provided in the quarterly asylum statistics. The most recent figures can be accessed at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/asylumq407.pdf>.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081021/text/81021w0024.htm#08102154000061>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Fiona Mactaggart [222306]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Hitchin and Harpenden on 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1247W, when and how she plans to consult on changes to the immigration rules on length of residence rights of access to a child.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The green paper 'The Path to Citizenship' outlined our proposals to create a new clear framework for the journey to citizenship and clarify the routes to British Citizenship/permanent residence.

These proposals will affect all those who would otherwise have sought settlement under the Long Residence Rules or Rules on those seeking to exercise rights of access to a child.

We published the Government's response to the consultation on 14 July. We will not therefore consult further on these two areas but will continue to determine how these two categories will fit within the revised architecture.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081021/text/81021w0024.htm#08102154000062>

Harry Cohen [222705]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place to examine and check the (a) fingerprints and (b) irises of (i) persons wishing to enter the UK at (A) an overseas post and (B) the UK border and (ii) persons who have entered the UK.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The global rollout of the biometric visas programme was completed at the end of 2007. All visa applicants are now required to provide their biometric data (fingerprints and digital photographs) when making an application.

We have successfully concluded trials involving the use of biometrics to verify the identity of holders of UK biometric visas seeking entry to the UK. Plans are being progressed to introduce a scheme in 2009, which will enable the biometric verification of all arriving passengers who have recorded their biometrics with the UK Border Agency. Proposals are also being developed to meet the longer term objective of ensuring that by the end of 2011, all non-EEA nationals have a biometrically enabled, secure, unique identity before being admitted.

Arrangements are currently in place at 10 terminals across four UK airports to examine and check the iris patterns of people wishing to enter the UK.

There are currently no arrangements in place to examine or check the irises of people at overseas posts, or the irises of those who have already entered the UK.

From the 25 November 2008, foreign nationals applying for leave to remain in certain student categories or as spouses, civil partners or unmarried couples will be required to provide biometric features, including a facial image and 10 fingerprints. These will be checked against existing databases for matches. Successful applicants will be issued with an identity card for foreign nationals. This follows on from a pilot which started on the 28 April 2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081021/text/81021w0024.htm#08102154000064>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Simon Hughes [223731]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what average waiting time for processing visa applications under (a) the highly skilled migrants programme and (b) tier 2 of the points-based system was in the most recent period for which figures are available.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The highly skilled migrant programme was replaced by Tier 1 of the points based system (PBS) on 30 June 2008. During July, the most recent period for which figures are available, the average processing time for visa applications under PBS tier 1 was 11.8 days. This does not include the time taken for applications to be couriered between Visa Application Centres and decision-making Posts. PBS tier 2 has not yet been implemented.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081022/text/81022w0025.htm#08102270000062>

Dominic Grieve [219356]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for (a) indefinite leave to remain and (b) further leave to remain made in person at public enquiry offices were not processed within 24 hours in each of the last three years.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The information requested is in the following table.

<i>Applications for (a) indefinite leave to remain and (b) further leave to remain made at a public enquiry office and percentage completed within 24 hours</i>			
<i>Leave type</i>		<i>Within 24 hours</i>	<i>Percentage of cases</i>
Indefinite LTR	2005	Within 24 hours	96
		Outside 24 hours	4
	2006	Within 24 hours	90
		Outside 24 hours	10
	2007	Within 24 hours	90
		Outside 24 hours	10
Further LTR	2005	Within 24 hours	97
		Outside 24 hours	3
	2006	Within 24 hours	95
		Outside 24 hours	5
	2007	Within 24 hours	91
		Outside 24 hours	9

Notes:

1. Based on lead applications
2. Applications created by General or Employment Casework

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081022/text/81022w0025.htm#08102270000067>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

James Clappison [177352]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of the legacy exercise for resolving old immigration cases.

Reply from Woolas: Total operating costs for the case resolution directorate in 2007-08 were £31.3 million. The indicative budget for 2008-09 is about £30 million. Budgets for the remaining period up to July 2011 have yet to be finalised.

Work on supported legacy cases in 2007-08 yielded savings to the asylum support budget of £22 million in 2007-08 and expected savings of £120 million in 2008-09

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081022/text/81022w0025.htm#08102270000067>

Dominic Grieve [219429]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for (a) indefinite leave to remain and (b) further leave to remain were received in each of the last three years; and how many of these were (i) postal applications and (ii) applications made in person at public enquiry offices.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The information requested is in the following table.

Applications for (a) indefinite leave to remain and (b) further leave to remain by (i) postal and (ii) public enquiry office

Leave type		Work type	Number of cases
Indefinite LTR	2005	PEO	38,057
		Postal	88,926
	2005	Total	126,983
	2006	PEO	20,346
		Postal	79,244
	2006	Total	99,590
	2007	PEO	26,199
		Postal	64,682
	2007	Total	90,881
Indefinite LTR		Total	317,454
Further LTR	2005	PEO	55,996
		Postal	251,193
	2005	Total	307,189
	2006	PEO	60,668
		Postal	273,851
	2006	Total	334,519
	2007	PEO	55,125
		Postal	287,441
	2007	Total	342,566
Further LTR		Total	984,274

Notes:

1. Based on lead applications
2. Applications created by General or Employment Casework

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081022/text/81022w0025.htm#08102270000067>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Keith Vaz [229035]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of under 18-year-olds that arrived unaccompanied in the UK and were taken into care but subsequently went missing in (a) 2007 and (b) 1997.

Reply from Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The numbers of children looked after who went missing from local authority care in each of the last five years are shown in the following tables. Further information can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

(a) The number of children looked after who went missing from care for 24 hours or more, in each of the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007, including asylum-seeking children, was as follows:

	<i>Number</i>
2003	990
2004	730
2005	860
2006	890
2007	950

These figures account for all children looked after excluding children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

(b) The number of asylum-seeking children who went missing from care for 24 hours or more, in each of the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007, was as follows:

	<i>Number</i>
2003	70
2004	50
2005	70
2006	110
2007	90

Note:
For both answers, where a child went missing from his or her agreed placement, for 24 hours or more, on more than one occasion during the same year, he or she has been counted only once.

The figures show the number of children looked after that went missing for a period of 24 hours or more. Some of these may have subsequently returned to care.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081023/text/81023w0011.htm#08102335000121>

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5419]: Whether they will reconsider the provisions of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004 concerning asylum applicants who travel on false passports.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: We have no plans to review the provisions for sanctions against those persons who seek to enter the UK, without travel documents which satisfactorily prove their identity and nationality.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81020w0001.htm#081020800012>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Roberts of Llandudno asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5496]: How they use the funds raised from worker registration scheme fees.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: All the funds raised from the workers registration scheme fees are used to cover the costs of processing and considering the application.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81020w0001.htm#0810208000013>

Lord Roberts of Llandudno asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5497]: What is the net gain to HM Treasury from A8 and A2 nationals paying worker registration scheme fees, taxes and national insurance contributions.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: There is no charge for applications for work authorisation made by A2 nationals. There is no gain to HM Treasury from the fees for the workers registration scheme paid by A8 nationals as the fee is set to only recover the costs of processing and considering the application.

Information about the net gain to HMT from A8 and A2 nationals is not available since the income tax and national insurance paid by migrants is not reported separately.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81020w0001.htm#0810208000013>

Lord Roberts of Llandudno asked Her Majesty's Government: Whether the moratorium preventing the forced return of failed asylum seekers to Zimbabwe, Darfur and Iran will continue.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, we are not enforcing the return of unsuccessful non-Arab Darfuri asylum seekers to Sudan, nor are we enforcing returns to Zimbabwe. The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal is considering the situation in these countries and we have no plans to resume enforced returns before the tribunal has reached its conclusion. We continue to enforce returns to Iran for those found not to be in need of international protection.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: My Lords, I am so grateful to the Minister for that Answer, which meets the crying need of the moment. I say thank you. Can we have a sort of permanent moratorium, without any tribunals to issue their decrees on returns to these desperate nations of Zimbabwe and Sudan, at least until they are settled? When we resume the return of failed asylum seekers, although I hope that will not happen, will he accompany me on the repatriation of the first batch—especially the unaccompanied children—to either of those places?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, I thank the noble Lord. I felt warmed up by the fact that he was thanking me, but I knew that the sting would be in the tail. I am in a particularly good mood, because 203 years ago today, at this time, sadly, Lord Nelson was mortally wounded, but we were about to win a great victory. It is a marvellous day for me in that sense, as well.

As the noble Lord knows, we consider each and every case individually, and each is dealt with by an individual case officer. We do not accept that we should make a presumption that every asylum seeker from a country, regardless of the individual circumstances, should not be sent back. That is why I would not want to make the blanket moratorium run into the future, and it is appropriate that the AIT looks at the situation in this way, to make sure that it is still safe.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81021-0001.htm#08102134000004>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Roberts of Llandudno asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5498]: What rights A8 nationals have to use jobcentre facilities.

Reply from Lord McKenzie of Luton: All A8 nationals may access generic jobsearch services on exactly the same basis as other groups of employed or unemployed people as soon as they arrive in the country. Generic services include the job points located in Jobcentre Plus offices and the Jobseeker Direct telephone service. All Jobcentre Plus vacancies are also advertised on the internet.

Once they have completed 12 months' continuous employment as a registered worker, A8 nationals who remain in the labour market have the same rights to access further Jobcentre Plus services, including benefit and personal adviser support, as other EEA and UK nationals.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81022w0002.htm#08102253000014>

Lord Roberts of Llandudno asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5716]: What is the longest period that an unaccompanied child asylum seeker has been held in a United Kingdom detention centre; and what were the reasons for this.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Unaccompanied children are detained only in exceptional circumstances for short periods while alternative arrangements are made for their care and safety. This would normally be no more than overnight.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81023w0002.htm#08102341000017>

Press Release

Transitional arrangements for Tiers 2 and 5

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/transitionalarrangements2and5>

New publications

Asylum Levels And Trends in Industrialized Countries: First Half 2008

<http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/STATISTICS/48f742792.pdf>

The EU Immigration Pact – from Hague to Stockholm, via Paris

http://www.epc.eu/TEWN/pdf/304970248_EU%20Immigration%20Pact.pdf

Benchmarking Integration in the EU

http://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/cps/rde/xbcr/SID-0A000F0A-583CB0D2/bst/xcms_bst_dms_25692_25693_2.pdf

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **News**

Minister denies bid to cap migrant numbers

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2461699.0.Minister denies bid to cap migrant numbers.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2461699.0.Minister_denies_bid_to_cap_migrant_numbers.php)

Tougher rules aimed at curbing population rise

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/oct/25/immigrationpolicy-immigration-points-system>

I haven't gagged Woolas - Smith

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7685776.stm

'I was not gagged,' says Immigration Minister Phil Woolas

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article5005842.ece>

End in sight for Dungavel detentions

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/End-in-sight-for-Dungavel.4620884.jp>

Plan aims to end the detention of young in Dungavel

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2462542.0.Plan aims to end the detention of young in Dungavel.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2462542.0.Plan_aims_to_end_the_detention_of_young_in_Dungavel.php)

Solution to asylum crisis became 'Scotland's shame'

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2462564.0.Solution to asylum crisis became Scotlands shame.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2462564.0.Solution_to_asylum_crisis_became_Scotlands_shame.php)

A civilised attitude

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/editorial/display.var.2462523.0.A_civilised_attitude.php

Politicians demand no child is held at Dungavel

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2462795.0.Politicians demand no child is held at Dungavel.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2462795.0.Politicians_demand_no_child_is_held_at_Dungavel.php)

Call for no more kids at Dungavel

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2463017.0.call for no more kids at dungavel.php](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2463017.0.call_for_no_more_kids_at_dungavel.php)

Sharia law fear mother wins right to stay in Britain

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2462565.0.Sharia law fear mother wins right to stay in Britain.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2462565.0.Sharia_law_fear_mother_wins_right_to_stay_in_Britain.php)

Economic slowdown leading to migration slowdown says ippr

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/pressreleases/?id=3274>

Health trusts spend £50m on translators

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article5014745.ece>

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Race Relations

Ministerial Speech

Speech by Jack Straw at the "Global Peace and Unity Event"

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/sp241008a.htm>

News

Race not an issue for Glasgow's minorities

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2461696.0.Race not an issue for Glasgows minorities.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2461696.0.Race%20not%20an%20issue%20for%20Glasgows%20minorities.php)

Meet Roshni Hafeez: White, blind and.. a Muslim

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/editors-choice/2008/10/24/meet-roshni-hafeez-white-blind-and-a-muslim-86908-20834283/>

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Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

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.

Reply from Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) sponsors two non departmental public bodies (NDPBs):

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), an executive NDPB and; The Women's National Commission (WNC), an advisory NDPB.

There is no central requirement to collect data on faith, age and sexual orientation. However, details are shown in the following table for gender, disability and ethnicity and these percentages are based on figures as at 31 March 2008.

<i>Percentage</i>				
	<i>Appointees</i>			
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>Ethnic minority</i>
EHRC	37.5	62.5	18.8	37.5
WNC	0	100	0	33.3

This data will also be available along with other Departments' statistics in the Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies 2008", which will be released in the new year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081017/text/81017w0016.htm#08101750000091>

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Mark Harper [228315]: When she expects the Equality Bill to be ready for introduction.

Reply from Maria Eagle: We are making good progress in preparing the Bill. It is a significant challenge to simplify all the existing legislation and to strengthen protection in the ways that we are proposing. I therefore cannot give a precise answer as to the timing of the Bill's introduction, but the House can rest assured that we are getting on with it and that the Bill will be introduced when it is ready.

Mark Harper: I am grateful for that response, and wish the Parliamentary Secretary no insult when I say that I hope that the Minister for Women and Equality is back with us shortly and in time for business questions on Thursday. I am interested in the Parliamentary Secretary's answer, as the director general of the Government Equalities Office suggested in an interview in *Whitehall and Westminster World* on 27 August that the Bill would be introduced to the House at the end of February or in early March. I received a written answer from the Parliamentary Secretary's predecessor on 6 October that simply committed to it happening sometime during this Parliament. Perhaps she cannot give us an exact answer, but will she give us some idea as to whether the director general's suggestion about February or March is accurate, or whether the Bill will be introduced later? That would be very helpful to all the organisations that wish to lobby us about the contents of the Bill.

Reply from Maria Eagle: When preparing legislation, I am great one for pressing for it to be brought forward as soon as possible, but I am also keen to make sure that it is in a fit state to be dealt with properly by this House. I think that that is desirable, but I have been doing this particular job for only a week and a half and I do not wish to commit myself to a precise date. [*Interruption.*] No, the Bill is in a fit state, but I and my officials will be pressing to make sure that it is introduced in the best possible state and as soon as possible.

Julie Morgan: Does my hon. Friend agree that the measures in the Equality Bill should apply in good times and in bad, and that progressive policies that address inequality, such as the right to request flexible working, should not be the first to go when there is a downturn in the economy?

Reply from Maria Eagle: I agree completely with my hon. Friend. I also agree with my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who said yesterday that we will carry on supporting flexible working, because a whole load of people need it. That is absolutely true, and it is important that fairness is at the forefront of our employment practices at times of economic downturn as well in the good times. We intend to make sure that it remains that way.

Shailesh Vara: The timetable for the Equality Bill has slipped already, and we now hear that the Government are seriously considering scrapping their commitment to the right to an extension of flexible working and paid maternity leave. Given that, and the importance that the Minister for Women and Equality places on the Bill, will the Parliamentary Secretary give a firm commitment that the Bill will be on the statute books before the next general election?

Reply from Maria Eagle: I think that the hon. Gentleman is overreacting to coverage in the newspapers that has gone a bit too far. His own party has also had coverage in the newspapers. On the Sunday before last, *The Observer* suggested that the shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions was saying that flexibility should be scrapped immediately and that there should be less regulation of businesses, by which he meant less employment protection. There are different signals coming out of the hon. Gentleman's party. At the same time, the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) is proposing a private Member's Bill—

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Mr. Speaker: Order. I must say to the Minister that she should be speaking about the responsibilities of her Department. We will leave it at that.

Judy Mallaber: In reviewing the equality legislation, will my hon. Friend take full account of last week's debate on the report on women and work by the Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Committee, including its recommendations on flexible working, introducing clarification on the use of public procurement to promote such policies, and ensuring that businesses meet their requirements to promote equality?

Reply from Maria Eagle: I am happy to give my hon. Friend that commitment. As she is aware, public procurement is worth up to £160 billion of business in any particular year. It is sensible that the Government's commitment to closing the gender pay gap and promoting equality should make use of that purchasing power. When the new Bill gets on to the statute book, which will be as soon as possible, it will ensure that the purchasing power of public procurement can be used to promote these desirable objectives.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081021/debtext/81021-0003.htm#08102129000022>

Lord Ouseley asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5480]: Whether the recommendations in the Macpherson report into the murder of Stephen Lawrence have been implemented; if so, with what results; and, if not, what action, if any, is proposed.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The police service has made substantial progress over the past nine years in increasing the proportion of minority ethnic officers and staff in its workforce. Currently, minority ethnic officers and staff together represent 5.6 per cent of the service.

The increase of minority ethnic officers to 4.1 per cent of warranted officers represents a doubling in representation since 1999. However, despite this progress, the service recognises that there is a lot more to do to achieve a truly representative service which is reflective of the communities it serves.

The policing Green Paper: Cm 7448 *From the Neighbourhood to National: Policing Our Communities Together*,

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/policereform/Policing_Green.pdf, sets out a shift in the Government's approach to targets, setting out performance management generally. In future, there will be a single top-down numerical target for forces relating to public confidence. The emphasis will be on national support with greater local responsibility.

The Green Paper also sets out proposals to develop an equality, diversity and human rights strategy. The strategy will include local setting of equality standards. The aim of these standards, which are currently being developed by the National Policing Improvement Agency, will be to assist the service to continue to improve performance and mainstream activity on equality and diversity. The standards will be set within a framework which will support authorities and forces in setting equality standards locally with national oversight retained through a new, more robust HMIC inspection regime including a proposed 2010 workforce inspection which will scrutinise (among other issues) the equality standards.

The Government are currently consulting on whether the equality standards should include local employment targets such as for race and gender. This shift from national target-setting will provide for targets being agreed locally by police authorities in consultation with communities. This local approach would provide more local ownership and help reflect the needs of local diverse communities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81020w0002.htm#0810208000020>

Equality (continued)

New publications

Review of Equality Statistics

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Documents/Equalities/review_of_equality_statistics.pdf

Financial Inclusion and Ethnicity

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

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Bill Butler (S3W-16342): To ask the Scottish Executive how many times it has met with the STUC to discuss sectarianism since 17 May 2007.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government has met with the STUC on four occasions since 17 May 2007 to discuss sectarianism.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1016.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-16343): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it has received representations since 17 May 2007 from the Irish Government in respect of concerns about offensive songs being sung in public places in Scotland and, if so, whether it will publish its response.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government has a very positive and constructive on-going dialogue with the Irish Consulate in Scotland, and meets with them regularly to discuss a very wide range of issues covering many portfolio interests. The Scottish Government and the Irish Consulate are united in their condemnation of all forms of bigotry and prejudice and will continue to work together co-operatively to tackle these social ills and ensure all of our people can live free from discrimination.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1016.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-16344): To ask the Scottish Executive whether the First Minister plans to make a ministerial statement to the Parliament about sectarianism in Scotland and, if so, when.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: The First Minister has regularly spoken out against sectarianism, and his support for and personal participation in efforts to tackle this problem in Scotland is well known. In the Scottish Parliament on 18 September, the First Minister reaffirmed his commitment to tackling all forms of sectarian bigotry and will make a statement on this in due course.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1016.htm>

Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Bill Butler (S3W-16345): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it plans to produce detailed annual reports on crime aggravated by religious prejudice and develop a programme of rehabilitation for offenders convicted under section 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: We are considering the potential for the development of a rehabilitation programme aimed at addressing the behaviours of those involved in sectarian activities, and will look at this as part of the development of new activities to build on what has been achieved so far. The Crown Office and Procurator Service publishes annual statistics to provide a snap-shot of charges which were aggravated by religiously motivated prejudice on its website. This information can be viewed at:

<http://www.copfs.gov.uk/About/Departmental-Overview/diversity/racist-crime/Analysis>.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1016.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-16383): To ask the Scottish Executive how many times Scottish ministers have met representatives of Scotland's faith communities to discuss sectarianism since 17 May 2007.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: Scottish ministers have met with representatives from Scotland's faith communities on eleven occasions since 17 May 2007 when sectarianism was a major part of the discussion.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1016.htm>

Pauline McNeill (S3W-17045): To ask the Scottish Executive what action it is taking to tackle Islamophobia.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-10-20e.htm>

Holyrood Parliamentary Motions

Shirley-Anne Somerville S3M-2727: **No Place for BNP in Scotland**—That the Parliament is pleased to note that the British National Party (BNP) was unable to find a candidate for the council by-election for the Edinburgh Forth ward on 6 November 2008; believes there is no place for racist and fascist ideology in Scottish politics; welcomes the fact that the many ethnic minority citizens in the area will not be faced with BNP propaganda stirring up racial division, hatred and fear; believes that all members of Scottish society must stand together against the politics of fear and hatred and work to tackle the common enemy of poverty, and calls on politicians from all parties to unite in opposition to any presence in Scotland of the BNP.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-10-20f.htm>

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Motions (continued)

Bill Butler S3M-2712: Show Racism the Red Card's Fortnight of Action—That the Parliament supports Show Racism the Red Card's (SRTRC) 5th annual Fortnight of Action, which takes place from 16 to 30 October 2008 and will see a number of high profile events aimed at tackling racism and celebrating cultural diversity at football matches across the country; notes that, since its inception in Scotland, SRTRC has proved consistently successful in using football as a tool to challenge racism, ignorance, intolerance and bigotry in both sport and wider society; recognises the quality of SRTRC educational resources and programmes, which are rolled out across schools in Scotland; welcomes the development of SRTRC's Islamophobia package, which seeks to challenge many of the myths that have become attached to the subject of Islam, and wishes the Scottish Parliament's football team the best of luck with its contribution to the campaign when it plays against the SRTRC team at Tynecastle on 17 October 2008.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-10-20f.htm>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

John Mann [227788]: To ask the Solicitor-General in what initiatives arising out of the 13th Annual Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors, New Technologies and Challenges in Crime and Prosecution, relating to anti-semitic hate crime on the internet the Government are participating.

Reply from the Solicitor-General: There were no specific initiatives arising out of the 13th Annual Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) in relation to anti-Semitic hate crime on the internet.

However, recognising that e-crime is one of the most rapidly expanding forms of criminality, during that event the Attorney-General announced the establishment of the Global Prosecutors' E-Crime Network (GPEN). This is an initiative developed by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in conjunction with the IAP which recognises the fact that prosecutors play a very significant role in combating all forms of e-crime, including hate crime on the internet, and that their knowledge and advice at an early stage of police investigations can be fundamental to success. The GPEN will comprise: a secure database for e-crime prosecution specialists from across the world; a channel for exchanging advice, queries and best practice between prosecutors; and host e-crime material including training packages and legal guidance that will constitute a virtual college for those who need access to training, and support. It will become fully operational early next year and will help keep prosecutors on top of the latest trends and developments in terms of technology, the law in other jurisdictions, and emerging forms of criminality—thereby raising standards of knowledge and improving prospects for successful prosecutions.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081021/text/81021w0009.htm#08102136000100>

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Tim Boswell [228308]: To ask the Solicitor-General what progress the Crown Prosecution Service has made on an action plan following its response to the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into anti-Semitism.

Reply from the Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has written to the Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on anti-Semitism with a copy of its anti-Semitic crime action plan. The plan sets out how the CPS will take the following action:

Provide prosecutors with better guidance to help them identify and refer appropriate cases to the CPS' counter-terrorism division;

Ensure a proactive approach when working with the police so that the strongest possible cases are built;

Improve the level of support provided to victims of anti-Semitic crime, and encourage victims to support a prosecution; and

Increase and improve community engagement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081020/text/81020w0014.htm#08102037000112>

Westminster Early Day Motion

John Mann (2303) **Football against racism in Europe (FARE) anti-racism week** – That this House notes the Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) anti-racism week celebrates 15 years of Kick Racism Out of Football campaigns; sees the need for more progress across the board but particularly to combat anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in football; welcomes local projects like Game On that are being launched as part of the 2008 FARE anti-racism week; commends the creation of the FA Working Group on anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in Football; recognises the best practice that has taken place in UEFA; and congratulates the leadership of FARE, Kick it Out and other national affiliates for their excellent anti-racism campaigns.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/81023e01.htm>

News

Met's most senior Muslim woman 'ostracised even from coffee run'

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article4969448.ece>

Soldier fined for turban scuffle

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/7684621.stm

Soldier in racial attack on Sikh

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Soldier-in-racial-attack-on.4620878.jp>

Britain's most senior Muslim police officer rejects payout because he won't deny Sir Ian Blair is a racist

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1079019/Britains-senior-Muslim-police-officer-rejects-payout-wont-deny-Sir-Ian-Blair-racist.html>

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Other Westminster

Debate

Gypsies and Travellers

Eleanor Laing: I am most grateful for the opportunity to raise this important matter in Westminster Hall. I shall begin gently to allow the Minister to take his place.

This has become an extremely important issue in my constituency, which is small, rather overcrowded and close to London. We are protective of our green belt and of the ancient woodlands in Epping Forest, which are important socially and environmentally. I am glad that the Minister has now found his seat.

Let me explain. There have always been Gypsies and Travellers temporarily accommodated in and around Epping Forest—that is part of life and no one objects to it. Sometimes, they have stopped for a while before passing on peacefully to their next place of residence, and sometimes, especially in recent years, some have unfortunately caused trouble by leaving an enormous mess behind. Many hon. Members will be familiar with such a situation in their own parts of the country. Once the Gypsies and Travellers have moved on, they sometimes cause health and safety problems and leave taxpayers an enormous financial cost for clearing up the mess that they have left behind. However, that is an occasional problem that every local authority and every community has to deal with at times. It is not the problem that I wish to address today.

The problem that I want to discuss is entirely of the Government's making—that is the main point of my debate. With regard to this problem, which is entirely avoidable, I have received countless letters, e-mails and phone calls, and I have held numerous meetings and been visited today at the House of Commons by some of my constituents. The Government are riding roughshod over local democracy and opinion. They are not only insisting, but directing in law, that Epping Forest district council provide 96 additional pitches for Gypsies and Travellers over the next few years.

I appreciate that there must be somewhere for Gypsies and Travellers to go to, but I completely disagree and take issue with the Minister who said in Westminster Hall on 22 May 2008 that this is

“a relatively solvable problem of providing 4,000 additional pitches, spread throughout the length and breadth of this country, covering about 1 square mile”.—[*Official Report, Westminster Hall*, 22 May 2008; Vol. 476, c. 171WH.]

He continued, “We can sort this.”

Let me tell the Minister that 1 square mile in one part of the country is not the same as in another. Our little corner of Essex in Epping Forest sits on the London border and is dependent on the green belt, the surrounding countryside and the ancient forest. A little bit of land is very precious. I mean that it is precious not in terms of its monetary value, but rather in how it is used for our environment and communities.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081022/halltext/81022h0009.htm#08102245000005>

Other Westminster (continued)

Parliamentary Question

Lord Ouseley asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5662]: Whether the Housing Corporation is seeking to merge all black and minority ethnic (BME)-led housing associations into larger white-led associations and

[HL5663] How many black and minority ethnic (BME)-led housing associations existed in 1997; and how many exist now; and

[HL5664] Whether they plan to promote the development of black and minority ethnic (BME)-led housing associations and social enterprise projects.

Reply from Baroness Andrews): The Housing Corporation is not seeking to merge all BME-led housing associations. All decisions concerning the merger of housing associations—BME or otherwise—are taken by the governing bodies of those associations. Where a new group structure is created or an existing one amended, the corporation will need to approve the registration of any new body or the constitutional changes required to effect the new structure. When considering proposals for new group structures and mergers, the corporation's registration committee takes into account a number of factors including how simple, clear and straightforward the governance structures are.

There were 56 BME associations in 1998 and 65 in 2008. These figures are derived from Housing Corporation regulatory and statistical return (RSR) data. BME associations are defined by having either 80 per cent BME members on their board or self-declared BME association. Figures for 1997 are not available.

The Government recognise the contribution that all housing associations, including BME-led housing associations, make through housing and neighbourhood and community-focused services; and the need to ensure that they have the capacity to effectively respond to the needs of the diverse communities they serve. This will remain an important focus for the new Homes and Communities Agency and the Tenants Services Authority. Both agencies are committed to responding to the needs and circumstances of BME communities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81023w0002.htm#08102341000016>

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Other News

Scottish gipsies are distinct ethnic group, rules judge

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2463167.0.scottish_gipsies_are_distinct_ethnic_group_rules_judge.php

Apology to travelling people urged

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/10/22/newsstory12134675t0.asp>

'Stolen son' reveals heartache over traveller mum's doomed battle to get him back

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/lifestyle/real-life-stories/2008/10/21/stolen-son-reveals-heartache-over-traveller-mum-s-doomed-battle-to-get-him-back-86908-20823934/>

Other News (continued)

Family courts can accept sharia law

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Family-courts-can-accept-sharia.4630029.jp>

Sharia rulings on divorces and disputes to be rubber-stamped by English courts

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/politics/lawandorder/3258965/Sharia-rulings-on-divorces-and-disputes-to-be-rubber-stamped-by-English-courts.html>

Islamic courts cleared to deal with family and divorce disputes as Government endorses sharia

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1080509/Islamic-courts-cleared-deal-family-divorce-disputes-Government-endorses-sharia.html>

Sharia law incompatible with human rights legislation, Lords say

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/oct/23/religion-islam>

Forced marriage on police radar

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/10/24/newsstory12145195t0.asp>

Dare we stand up for Muslim women?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/johann-hari/johann-hari-dare-we-stand-up-for-muslim-women-969631.html>

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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>

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 (continued) **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-iv.htm>

House of Lords consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81021-0002.htm#08102134000002>

Bill as amended in Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/082/2008082.pdf>

**** Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill**

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

House of Commons consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081022/debtext/81022-0006.htm#08102242000005>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081022/debtext/81022-0009.htm#08102242000001>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081022/debtext/81022-0020.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081022/debtext/81022-0014.htm#08102255000006>

House of Commons summary of decisions on amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/120/pro1201022p.749-755.html>

House of Commons amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/083/2008083.pdf>

Explanatory Notes on House of Commons amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/083/en/2008083en.pdf>

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Consultations (closing date)

**** New or updated this week**

Acquisition and Retention of DNA and Fingerprint Data in Scotland

(21 November 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/239066/0065846.pdf>

Consultations (continued)

Religious and Moral Education (30 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 (30 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>

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

**** this week!**

Conversation with the Archbishop of Canterbury and Professor Mona Siddique

29 October 2008 in Glasgow (5.30 – 7.00)

Public lecture organised by Glasgow University. For information contact Clare Laidlaw
C.Laidlaw@admin.gla.ac.uk / 0141 330 4978

**** 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

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

Statutory Review and Reconsideration Orders: Access to Justice for Asylum Seekers

24 November 2008 in Glasgow (9.30-4.00)

Training event organised jointly by the Glasgow Immigration Practitioners' Group, Scottish Refugee Council, and the Murray Stable. For more information see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/GILPA_Training_Event or contact train@scottishrefugeecouncil.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>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Discrimination Law Update**

9 December 2008 in Glasgow (10.00 – 1.00)

Legal Services Agency seminar to provide an awareness and understanding of the up-to-date changes in discrimination law, consider the impact of these changes and how to apply those changes in the workplace, and consider any forthcoming changes to the law. For information see <http://www.lsa.org.uk/discriminationlawupdate.aspx> or contact 0141 353 3354.

**** Scottish Refugee Council AGM**

15 January 2009 in Glasgow

For information contact Graeme Corbett 0141 248 9799 / graemecorbett@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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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>

Scotland Helpline 0845 604 5510

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

SCVO <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Home/Home.aspx>

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

Useful Links (continued)

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

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

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

BBC Parliament online

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

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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/>