

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Christina McKelvie (S3M-3097): Opposition to People Trafficking—That the Parliament condemns the practice of people trafficking; welcomes the Scottish Government's support for the Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance and the commitment from civic Scotland, including justice and peace groups in Cupar and Motherwell, which is supporting victims of trafficking, and supports all measures and groups which seek to end the practice.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-12-12f.htm>

Westminster Ministerial Statements

Phil Woolas (Minister for Borders and Immigration): I have made an authorisation under section 19D of the Race Relations Act 1976, as amended, in the light of a sharp increase in applications to the Border and Immigration Agency from inadequately documented individuals who claim to be North Korean in 2007, and intelligence indicating that significant numbers of these may hold South Korean citizenship gained through the South Korean "new settlers" scheme, which provides citizenship to all North Koreans who request it within the South Korean territory.

The authorisation will enable the Secretary of State to forward to the South Korean

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

authorities fingerprints of inadequately documented individuals who claim to be North Korean, for the purposes of checking against their national fingerprint database and ascertaining their citizenship.

With the valued co-operation from the South Korean Government, this authorisation will facilitate the return to South Korea of those individuals who come to the UK and falsely claim to only hold North Korean citizenship and who do in fact hold South Korean citizenship. The authorisation will be reviewed in one year and will be revoked if it is established that there is no longer justification for the authorisation.

I am placing copies of the authorisation in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081209/wmstext/81209m0001.htm#08120943000017>

Phil Woolas (Minister for Borders and Immigration): I have made an authorisation under section 19D of the Race Relations Act 1976 as amended, to enable the Secretary of State to request that asylum applicants claiming to be nationals of Afghanistan submit to language analysis.

Language analysis carried out for some Somali and Eritrean asylum applicants demonstrates that significant proportions of those tested have claimed to be of a nationality, or from a region or grouping, that is not their own in order to try to gain residence in this country. We are aware that a proportion of Afghan claims also are from other nationalities. This new authorisation will assist the Secretary of State to make decisions in individual Afghan cases, and to ascertain the extent of abuse within this nationality.

The Secretary of State may take a refusal to submit to testing into account when determining whether an applicant has assisted in establishing the facts of his case or her case. The authorisation will remain in place for five months—until April 2009—at which point we will review whether it is still necessary and appropriate.

I am placing copies of the authorisation in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081209/wmstext/81209m0001.htm#08120943000018>

Phil Woolas (Minister for Borders and Immigration): The United Kingdom Border Agency is withdrawing DP5/96, a concession which has also been referred to as the seven year child concession, as of 9 December 2008. The concession set out the criteria to be applied when considering whether enforcement action should proceed or be initiated against parents of a child who was born here and has lived continuously to the age of seven or over, or where, having come to the UK at an early age, they have accumulated seven years or more continuous residence. The original purpose and need for the concession has been overtaken by the Human Rights Act and changes to immigration rules. The fact that a child has spent a significant period of their life in the United Kingdom will continue to be an important relevant factor to be taken into account by case workers when evaluating whether removal of their parents is appropriate. Any decision to remove a family from the UK will continue to be made in accordance with our obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the Immigration Rules.

The withdrawal of DP5/96 and replacing it with consideration under the Immigration Rules and article 8 of the ECHR will ensure a fairer, more consistent approach to all cases involving children, whether accompanied or unaccompanied, across UKBA. Withdrawing the policy will also prevent those overstaying or unlawfully present in the UK having the benefit of a concession which does not apply to those persons who comply with the Immigration Rules and remain in the UK lawfully.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081209/wmstext/81209m0002.htm#08120943000019>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Paul Rowen [241020]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many interpreters her Department employs for assistance with asylum claims.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) has a panel of freelance interpreters to assist with asylum claims. As at 4 December 2008, the number of interpreters registered with the UKBA Panel was 2,378.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081209/text/81209w0001.htm#08120951000020>

Paul Burstow [240491]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will fund an increase in emergency refuge accommodation for young people in (a) 2008-09 and (b) 2009-10; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Beverley Hughes: The provision of emergency accommodation for young people who need it is the responsibility of local authorities. Support services for runaways should be determined and run through local children's trusts and other stakeholders, according to focal service needs. Where local partners agree that a refuge is a useful and appropriate form of emergency accommodation provision in their area, it is our expectation that this is funded by the relevant local authorities.

In order to support local authority children's services in their provision of emergency accommodation my Department is funding research which will identify successful and cost effective commissioning models using services provided by the voluntary sector, and by helping commissioners at every level understand more about young people's perceptions of different models of emergency accommodation.

In 2008-09, my Department will also be providing £114,500 to the St. Christopher's Fellowship, which runs the London Refuge, in the form of a development grant to help them find more sustainable forms of funding.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081209/text/81209w0013.htm#08120965000025>

Ashok Kumar [242579]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government's policy is, with reference to its policies on community cohesion, on encouraging those who have settled in the UK in the last 30 years to learn English.

Reply from Sadiq Khan: The Government believe that the ability to speak and write English is vital to integrating into British society and to improving equality of opportunity. Language skills help people get on in the workplace and make a contribution to their local community. Migrants who have a good level of English are employed at a higher level, are able to work safely and confidently in their jobs, find it easier to integrate into society; and are aware of the unwritten rules of behaviour. We are therefore promoting the learning of English through the immigration and citizenship process and the provision of English language classes.

Government have taken the following steps to encourage immigrants to learn English:

In December 2007, we published Guidance on Translation for local authorities. The guidance spreads existing good practice, which ensures that translation is only provided where it is necessary and acts as a stepping stone to speaking English.

The Home Office Green Paper on citizenship (published 20 February 2008) considers that it is right to allow ESOL further education courses at the 'home rate' in order that migrants can acquire key skills needed for good community cohesion.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Funding changes for ESOL provision were introduced last August to improve accessibility for the most vulnerable learners, with those who can afford to pay for English classes currently contributing up to 37.5 per cent.

In October 2007 DIUS launched a new suite of ESOL for work qualifications. The new qualifications are shorter and more work-focused than traditional ESOL qualifications, giving learners practical English skills in essential workplace matters, such as health and safety and customer service. These provide more flexibility and choice for employers, agencies and learners. Employers should share responsibility for supporting employees with ESOL needs.

The DIUS consultation on ESOL earlier this year set out an approach to ESOL funding centred on integration and community cohesion outcomes, and placing the assessment of need at a local level. DIUS are currently developing more detailed proposals for future ESOL funding on the basis of the consultation response.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081211/text/81211w0012.htm#08121157000051>

Paul Rowen (203): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum claimants did not have the services of an interpreter offered to them in proceedings relating to their claim in the last five years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmordbk1/81209w01.htm>

Tom Brake (242460): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer from Lord West of Spithead of 29 October 2008, Official Report, House of Lords, column WA165, on asylum seekers, how her Department ensures that asylum seekers with grounds to make an appeal or fresh claim are given the opportunity to do so before attending a re-documentation interview.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmordbk1/81210w01.htm>

Chris Huhne (242733): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers were removed through (a) assisted voluntary returns and (b) enforced returns in each of the last five years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmordbk1/81210w01.htm>

Fiona Mactaggart (242365): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she plans to take in response to the recommendation by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child that the UK should provide disaggregated statistical data on the number of children seeking asylum; and when she plans to take those steps.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmordbk1/81210w01.htm>

Damian Green (243122): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, to which countries her Department cannot return unsuccessful asylum seekers on humanitarian grounds; and how many unsuccessful asylum seekers from each such country were present in the United Kingdom on 1 November 2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmordbk1/81211w01.htm>

Chris Huhne (243154): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have committed suicide while being held in an immigration centre in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (a) centre, (b) age and (c) sex.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmordbk1/81211w01.htm>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Early Day Motion

Mark Hendrick (265) Latin American Ambassadors to The UK and Immigration – That this House thanks the Latin American ambassadors to the UK for meeting the Latin America and Brazil All Party Parliamentary groups; shares the concerns raised by them relating to the issue of immigration, which included the application of restrictive rules that will negatively impact on hundreds of Latin American students, the criminalisation of legitimate migrants and the heavy-handed treatment of Latin American citizens at British points of entry; and calls on the Government to meet the Latin American ambassadors to the UK and to address these concerns as a matter of urgency.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=37266&SESSION=899>

Press Release

Living in the UK as a spouse or partner

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

New publication

Building a New Home: Migration in the UK construction sector

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=%2Fecomm%2Ffiles%2FBuilding+a+New+Home>

News

Immigrants must earn the right to claim benefits

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Immigrants-must-earn-the-right.4770367.jp>

Zimbabwean asylum seekers 'trapped' in UK

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/975971>

Immigrant amnesty 'would cost £2bn'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Immigrant-amnesty-39would-cost-2bn39.4777365.jp>

Immigration centre 'is unsafe'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7777270.stm>

Home Office to deport Zimbabwean family who fled Mugabe's regime

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-to-deport-zimbabwean-family-who-fled-mugabes-regime-1066094.html>

Cities of Migration showcases good practice in the integration of urban migrants and promotes innovative ideas that create equity, social cohesion and urban prosperity. Connect with cities around the world to learn more about labour force integration, inclusive communities, healthy neighbourhoods and city leadership on migration issues internationally.

<http://citiesofmigration.ca/>

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Race Relations

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Bill Kidd (S3M-3073): Knightswood Youth Theatre Announced as a Winner of Phillip Lawrence Awards—That the Parliament offers its congratulations to Knightswood Youth Theatre, which was announced a winner in the Phillip Lawrence Awards, a prestigious national awards scheme that celebrates outstanding contributions made by young people to their community; commends the Knightswood Youth Theatre for bringing together young asylum seekers and refugees with young people from the local area to talk and share feelings, and commends its use of drama as a medium to increase mutual understanding and help the wider community gain a better understanding of young people's views and aspirations, on a wide range of controversial issues, including dawn raids, racism, alcoholism, divorce, bullying, teen suicide, friendship and romance.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-12-10f.htm>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Lord Renton of Mount Harry: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve relations with the Muslim community in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Baroness Andrews: My Lords, our community relations approach, as set out in our community empowerment White Paper, aims to give control and influence to local people and covers all faith communities. We have continuing good relations with all faiths, as highlighted in our interfaith strategy in July this year, including the Muslim community, with whom we work bilaterally, and through the Faith Communities Consultative Council.

Lord Renton of Mount Harry: My Lords, I thank the Minister for that Answer. Does she agree that, following, and against the background of, the tragic events in Mumbai, this is a particularly appropriate and necessary moment to strive to find wise and sympathetic relations with the Muslim communities in our country? Does she recollect that in July the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Hazel Blears, mentioned that there was a proposal for young Muslims to be taught citizenship in school so that they could see that there was no necessary conflict between Islam and British life? That is a difficult task, but has the process started and is it succeeding?

Reply from Baroness Andrews: My Lords, I start by saying that our sympathy goes out to all the innocent victims of that indiscriminate terror attack in Mumbai. We monitor the effect of such events on our communities in this country, and it is worth telling the House that the Secretary of State has today called together a parliamentary round table, the aim of which is to meet parliamentarians to update them on the situation and to get their understanding of their communities. However, so far nothing significant has been reported in our communities by way of a response.

The noble Lord used some very positive and encouraging words, such as "wise and sympathetic". That is exactly what we try to do in our work to promote cohesion and prevent extremism by building up the resilience of the local communities. Young people are critical in that. It is encouraging that an increasing number of mosques are choosing to teach citizenship, and of course young Muslims in our schools continually have the opportunity to access the citizenship curriculum, so it is a very positive movement.

Lord Hylton: My Lords, do the Government recognise that British Muslims and others should be free to make political criticisms of military occupations and regimes, where these occur, without automatically being labelled as extremists?

Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Baroness Andrews: My Lords, we certainly agree with that. Our work to prevent extremism is simply to build up the resilience of local communities to deal with distortions of the faith. That is why we are working at civic and community level and with faith groups to put into practice some of the opportunities, for example new activities for young people and leadership programmes for women and young people, which can help to challenge such distortion.

The Lord Bishop of Southwark: My Lords, while acknowledging the efforts which the Government are making to improve relations with the Muslim community, is the Minister aware that other faith communities in Britain, such as the Sikh and Hindu communities, believe that they too deserve more attention and support, particularly in capacity building?

Reply from Baroness Andrews: Yes, my Lords, that is a very proper use of the argument. I am grateful to the right reverend Prelate because I can tell him, as he will know, that we recognise the contributions made by all faith communities and the need to build up capacity. With DIUS, for example, we are funding a community leadership qualification for all leaders from all faiths. Our Inter Faith Network is growing. Over the past few years, we have had 183 new interfaith groups. We aim to promote side-by-side engagement—not face to face—as that is the way to make the real difference.

Lord Lester of Herne Hill: My Lords, is there a danger in lumping people together into different communities, such as the Muslim community, the Sikh community and the Hindu community? People within those groups are individual human beings with very different positions. If we classify them in that way, will we not create a divisive rather than a united system?

Reply from Baroness Andrews: My Lords, there is an issue about how we describe communities. The practical work which we do recognises that there is much diversity within communities. We are certainly not blind to that. Some highly innovative work is being undertaken by local authorities, for example, at ground level with grass-roots funding to ensure that all groups are supported and helped.

Baroness Warsi: My Lords, can the Minister confirm that British Muslim communities are part of the general communities which make up Britain? If that is so, can she explain why the British Muslim engagement unit is based in the Foreign Office?

Baroness Andrews: My Lords, the noble Baroness is absolutely right that, of course, they are part of our national community. I hope that, increasingly, our work together will strengthen those communities and help them to become productive and resilient. I do not know much about the work of the unit, but I shall find out. I presume it is in the Foreign Office because it engages with Muslim communities abroad. That would seem to be logical.

Reply from Baroness Andrews: My Lords, does my noble friend agree that all these consultations would have more validity as regards social cohesiveness if they included representatives of those with no faith who have other values?

Reply from Baroness Andrews: Yes, my Lords. We have had many debates in this House about the work which we do with people of no faith. Of course, they are included. We have regular engagement with such groups.

Baroness Falkner of Margravine: My Lords, in January we saw the appointment of 19 women to the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group. In August that was augmented by 20 young people becoming Cabinet advisors to Ministers Byrne, Blears and Balls. Without getting stuck on the Bs, can the Minister tell us, in the interests of equality, why a Muslim men's group has not been established to work with the Government, as that might be part of the problem?

Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Baroness Andrews: My Lords, as the noble Baroness well knows, we work with women because they are underrepresented as leaders in the community. They have a great deal to give and have a great reach into those communities. Our leadership programmes concentrate on women for that very reason. She will know that men in the Muslim communities—this is a rather mischievous question—are very well represented. Of course, we engage through NMWAG and through our interfaith work with all members of the community, and having young people helping Cabinet Ministers is an extremely progressive way forward.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/81209-0001.htm#08120935000429>

New publications

Cohesion Guidance for Funders Consultation: Summary of responses

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1096594.pdf>

Faith in the Nation Religion, identity and the public realm in Britain today

(executive summary - full text not available online)

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=/ecomm/files/Faith%20in%20the%20Nation%20introduction.pdf&a=skip>

News

Muslim bid for non-believers

<http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6006225>

Muslims in European cities: A case for vigilance, not despair

http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story_id=12724930&fsrc=rss

Muslims and city politics: When town halls turn to Mecca

http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story_id=12724966

Islam in urban America: Hockey and hijab

http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story_id=12725575

Sorry we killed your cow, RSPCA tells Hindus – have another one

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/sorry-we-killed-your-cow-rspca-tells-hindus-ndash-have-another-one-1064471.html>

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Equality

Holyrood Committee

Equal Opportunities Committee

Evidence on the UK Equality Bill from the Solicitor General, Vera Baird

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/or-08/eo08-1702.htm#Col761>

Westminster Parliamentary Question

John Bercow [241347]: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made in responding to the recommendations contained in the report of the group chaired by Professor Mayur Lakhani on primary care for black and minority ethnic people; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Ben Bradshaw: As part of the GP Access Programme, the Department has sought to engage primary care trusts and general practitioner (GP) practices in improving access for people with the poorest experience such as patients from black and minority ethnic groups. In 2008, the national GP Patient survey showed that patients from a black and minority ethnic group had seen the biggest improvement in their experience of accessing GPs with whom they are registered. Nevertheless, more needs, and can be, done to improve access for such patients. We are continuing to work with strategic health authorities to collate and share the best practice that exists within the national health service in order to support implementation of Professor Mayur Lakhani's recommendations. We expect to see continued improvements in patient experience and satisfaction with the access they receive to general practices as reported through the national GP Patient Survey.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081210/text/81210w0013.htm#08121043000029>

New publications

Collecting equality information: Guidance on asking questions on: Religion and Belief <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/253583/0075143.pdf>

Collecting equality information: Guidance on asking questions on: Ethnic Groups <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/253579/0075142.pdf>

Collecting equality information: Guidance on asking questions on: Age <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/253575/0075141.pdf>

Collecting equality information: Guidance on asking questions on: Gender <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/253587/0075144.pdf>

Five types of inequality

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/pdf/2289.pdf>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Bill Butler (S3W-18009): To ask the Scottish Executive how many of the 33 projects awarded funding from the Race, Religion and Refugee Integration Fund on 28 July 2008 are aimed at tackling sectarianism.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: The 33 projects which were awarded funding from the Race, Religion and Refugee Integration Funding Stream are listed on the One Scotland website. All of these projects aim to break down barriers which exist between different communities and build an inclusive Scotland for all of our people. <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/onescotland/366.1.223.html>.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1205.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-18765): To ask the Scottish Executive whether applications for grants from the £150,000 awarded to Sense over Sectarianism for 2009-10 can be made by projects from all local authority areas.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-12-11e.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-18766): To ask the Scottish Executive how many people are employed on a full-time basis with anti-sectarianism organisations, broken down by organisation.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-12-11e.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-18767): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it plans to develop new sectarianism-awareness campaigns in further and higher educational establishments.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-12-11e.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-18768): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it provides funding for sectarianism-awareness projects or campaigns in further and higher educational establishments.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-12-11e.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-18769): To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the report in The Herald on 10 December 2008, whether the award of £412,731 to Sense over Sectarianism includes money already awarded for 2008-09.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-12-11e.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-18770): To ask the Scottish Executive how much financial support Sense over Sectarianism receives from its partner organisations.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-12-11e.htm>

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Phil Woolas (Minister for Borders and Immigration): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has today laid before Parliament the fifth and final annual report produced under section 19E of the Race Relations Act 1976 by Mary Coussey, the Independent Race Monitor. Copies of the report and her response are available in the Vote Office. The Independent Race Monitor has a statutory duty to report to Parliament through the Home Secretary on ministerial authorisations made under section 19D of the Race Relations Act enabling immigration staff to discriminate on the basis of nationality or ethnic or national origin in the exercise of their functions. The position of Race Monitor has now been abolished and its functions have been included in those of a new position of chief inspector. My right hon. Friend and I would like to place on record our thanks to Mary Coussey for the work she carried out as the Race Monitor.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081209/wmstext/81209m0001.htm#08120943000016>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued)

Westminster Early Day Motion

John Cruddas (216) British National Party racism cuts both ways campaign – That this House deplores the Racism Cuts Both Ways campaign being waged by the British National Party (BNP); believes that this is a deliberate attempt by the BNP to whip up racism by spreading lies and misinformation; is particularly concerned that the BNP is now intending to target secondary school children; and deplores the incitement of racial violence by the spread of falsehood in such propaganda.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=37210&SESSION=899>

New publication

European Anti-Discrimination Law Review

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/pdf/legnet/08lawrev6_7_en.pdf

News

Funding for anti-sectarian drive

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7771556.stm

Racist gets 99-year Asbo ban from supermarket

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2473988.0.racist_gets_99year_asbo_ban_from_supermarket.php

Pupils act against bigotry at inter-school workshop

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2474183.0.pupils_act_against_bigotry_at_interschool_workshop.php

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Other Holyrood

Debate

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor1210-02.htm#Col13263>

Parliamentary Question

Cathy Jamieson (S3W-18274: To ask the Scottish Executive when it will make a statement on the action it is taking to address the issues faced by the Gypsy/Traveller community in Scotland.

Reply from Stewart Maxwell: On Monday 8 December the Minister for Communities and Sport officially launched the Scottish Government Race Statement. The statement lays out the Scottish Government's approach to race equality over the next three years and the issues faced by Gypsies/Travellers have been considered.

We are aware that this community is one of the most disenfranchised in Scotland and we will take specific action to address the issues that they face.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1208.htm>

Other Holyrood (continued) Press Release

2011 Census plans unveiled

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/12/11142331>

New publication

Scotland's census 2011: A Government statement

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files2/the-census/e0043545-scotlands-census-2011/e0043545-scotlands-census-2011.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Early Day Motion

Keith Vaz (168) Forced Marriage Unit – That this House congratulates the Forced Marriage Unit for its efforts in protecting the lives of young people who suffer tremendous physical and emotional trauma in situations of forced marriage; notes that the Unit has handled over 1,300 cases since the beginning of 2008; recognises that the implementation of the Forced Marriage Act 2007 will help supplement the efforts of the Unit; and believes that in order to deal with the increasing number of cases the Government needs to support an expansion in the operations of the Unit by making an increase in human and financial resources made available to it.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=37160&SESSION=899>

Press Releases

PM speaks on 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page17748>

PM sends Eid Al-Adha greetings

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page17723>

Eid UI-Adha greeting from Sadiq Khan

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/sadiqeid2008>

60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=PressR&id=10481109>

Government steps up the fight against extremism

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1094678>

Proposals for the 2011 census announced (England and Wales)

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cenwp1208.pdf>

Other Westminster (continued) **New publications**

Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund: Mapping of project activities 2007/2008

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1092863.pdf>

2011 Census White Paper (England and Wales)

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-questionnaire-content/2011-census-white-paper--english-.pdf>

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New Publications

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Comparative Study on Smaller Charities

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=edcf081c-3149-4db7-aeda-cacce1232431>

UN Declaration of Human Rights at 60: what role for EU foreign policy?

http://www.epc.eu/TEWN/pdf/645856722_UN%20Declaration%20of%20Human%20Rights%20at%2060.pdf

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Other News

Protecting human rights is an obligation, not a choice

http://fra.europa.eu/fra/material/pub/speeches/Dir_hr-day08-stat_en.pdf

Human Rights Council marks UDHR 60

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/HumanRightsCouncilMarksUDHR60.aspx>

Closing a historic gap in human rights

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

Missing NHS GP released to court

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7782182.stm>

'Forced marriage' doctor, Humayra Abedin, freed by Bangladesh court

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article5340058.ece>

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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>

Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee: Stage 1 evidence from the Additional Support Needs Tribunals for Scotland

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/ellc/or-08/ed08-3002.htm#Col1755>

**** Health Boards (Membership and Elections) Bill**

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

Health and Sport Committee: Stage 1 evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/or-08/he08-2902.htm#Col1346>

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

Draft (Partial) Immigration and Citizenship Bill

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm73/7373/7373.pdf>

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Consultations (closing date)

** New or updated this week

Closes this week!

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>

Discussion paper: Coverage of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
(12 January 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/925/0069128.pdf>

Consultations (continued)

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

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

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Strategic plan, Equality Scheme and Grants Programme

Consultation guides

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/policyresearch/consultations/pages/consultation08.aspx>

online consultation <http://equalityhumanrights.dialoguebydesign.net/>

UK Border Agency race, disability and gender equality scheme, 2009 to 2010

(28 January 2009)

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/workingforus/racedisability_genderscheme/

Publication of candidates' addresses at UK Parliamentary elections

(28 January 2008)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/candidate-address-consultation.pdf>

Identity Cards Act secondary legislation (13 February 2009)

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/downloads/NIS_Legislation.pdf

Proposed Palliative Care Bill (28 February 2009)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/MembersBills/pdfs/PalliativeCareConsultation.pdf>

Big Lottery Fund (28 February 2009)

<http://www.big-thinking.org.uk/consultationsurvey.aspx>

**** Consultation on the legislative framework for the regulation of alternative finance investment bonds (sukuk)** (4 March 2009)

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/consult_sukuk101208.pdf

**** End of Life Choices Bill** (9 March 2009)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/MembersBills/pdfs/EndOfLifeChoicesConsultation.pdf>

Forced Marriage: A Civil Remedy? (28 March 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/248674/0071298.pdf>

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Funding Opportunities

Third sector enterprise fund

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/12/09101508>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** UNHCR Litigation Strategy**

7 January 2009 in Glasgow (2.30 – 4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council / UNHCR seminar to discuss UNHCR's priorities and approaches with respect to formal legal interventions in refugee related cases in the Scottish courts, and explore how UNHCR seeks to identify appropriate cases and how interventions are taken forward. For information contact Sheila Coutts 0141 24 9799 / sheila.coutts@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/UNHCR_Flyer

Scottish Refugee Council AGM

15 January 2009 in Edinburgh

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

**** Equality and Human Rights Commission**

21 January 2009 in Stirling

11 February 2009 in Melrose

25 February 2009 in Inverness

18 March 2009 in Aberdeen

Opportunities for advice-giving and frontline representatives of voluntary, community, and educational organisations to meet the EHRC Legal Team and find out more about the Commission and how to work with it, and to let the EHRC know what issues are most significant to you and your service users. For information contact James Andrew 0141 228 5917 / David Reilly 0141 228 5967 / roadshow@equalityhumanrights.com

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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

Useful Links (continued)

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

BBC Parliament online

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

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The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charity SC029438) <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/>