

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.

Supported by



Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Race Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)

[Other Westminster](#)

[New Publications](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Events/Conferences/Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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

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

The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 4 January 2009, and the UK Parliament until 12 January 2009. The next MEMO will be issued on 12 January 2009.

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Phil Woolas (Minister for Borders and Immigration): I am today announcing the Government's decision in relation to restrictions on the labour market access of migrants coming to the UK from Romania and Bulgaria.

We have decided to maintain the closure of Tier 3 of the points based system, for unskilled migrant labour from outside the European Economic Area.

We have decided to retain the current restrictions on the employment rights applied to nationals of Bulgaria and Romania beyond the end of this year, subject to the following changes:

The current quota of 3,500 places under the Sectors Based Scheme for the food processing sector will remain unchanged but may be opened up to a wider range of occupations within the sector.

The quota for the number of Bulgarian and Romanian workers admitted under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) will be 21,250 places in 2009.

We will review these arrangements before the end of 2009.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

We have previously made clear our intention to gradually open access to our labour market following accession of Bulgaria and Romania on 1 January 2007. This decision is in line with that policy of gradual opening of the labour market.

We sought advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) on the labour market impact of relaxing restrictions, and whether it would be sensible to do so. The committee has produced an impressive and comprehensive report, which it is publishing today. I have arranged for copies to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. In advising against lifting restrictions the committee pointed in particular to the impact of the current economic downturn, and the possible approach of other member states. We also sought views from members of the Migration Impacts Forum, which provides information to Government on the wider impacts of migration on local areas and services. <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081218/wmstext/81218m0001.htm#08121885000018>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Greg Mulholland [242964]: What the Government's policy is on holding Zimbabwean asylum seekers in immigration detention.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency only detains Zimbabwean nationals who have committed crimes within the United Kingdom, who are subject to deportation action, and who have been assessed as unsuitable for release owing to their being a threat to the public and/or likely to abscond. Anyone detained under immigration powers has his or her detention regularly reviewed, and can apply for release on bail to the independent Asylum and Immigration Tribunal.

Greg Mulholland: As I am sure all Members know, according to reports from Zimbabwe, the situation is worse than ever, with oppression, political violence, beatings as an everyday occurrence, corruption and, now, the added plight of those affected by the cholera epidemic. In the light of the tribunal's decision two weeks ago—or, rather, the Government's response that they would not challenge it—will the Minister tell me what will happen to the other 7,500 cases? Have those people some hope now, and will he examine their situation again?

Reply from Phil Woolas: I am grateful to the hon. Gentleman for his question. I think that the whole House will share his sentiments about the situation in Zimbabwe. He referred to the country court judgment. It states that each case can be considered individually, and indeed that must be done. As I am sure the hon. Gentleman will agree, not all those presenting themselves as Zimbabwean turn out to be Zimbabwean on examination. That is why we must examine each case properly, within the rules.

Neil Gerrard: In the light of the recent judgment on an Eritrean asylum seeker, will my hon. Friend consider the position of Zimbabweans and others who cannot be returned at this moment but who are not allowed to work?

Reply from Phil Woolas: I hear what my hon. Friend says. When someone cannot be returned through no fault of his or her own, having exhausted all appeal rights, it is our policy for that person to receive section 4 support from the United Kingdom Government. The overall number of people with whom we are having to deal has fallen, but that support is there.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081215/debtext/81215-0001.htm#0812153000011>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081215/debtext/81215-0002.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Anne Moffat [242971]: What assessment she has made of the recent work of the Migration Advisory Committee on shortage occupation lists.

Reply from Phil Woolas: We are grateful for the work of the Migration Advisory Committee. The committee provides expert independent advice on where the country needs economic migration and where it does not. The Government have decided to implement the committee's recommendations in full, and in addition to retain social workers on the UK shortage list while the MAC considers evidence of relevance to their inclusion.

Anne Moffat: I thank my hon. Friend for that answer. How does the work of the committee assist British businesses and workers, including in Scotland?

Reply from Phil Woolas: The idea, of course, is that, through the committee's expert advice, we can identify where there are skill shortages in order to place those shortages on the migration list under the points-based system, but also, crucially, to provide for training and skilling for British workers—for my hon. Friend's constituents—to get jobs. As part of that approach, we also have specific measures for Scotland to identify those sectors of the economy where there are particular short-term problems.

Pete Wishart: The Minister will appreciate that Scotland has different population and immigration requirements from the rest of the UK, yet the MAC list has as additional groups only care home nurses and fish filleters. In his assessment, what difference will that make to Scottish population problems? Do we not need significantly more help than that?

Reply from Phil Woolas: The hon. Gentleman is being slightly unfair, as he has missed out quality controllers in the fish processing industry, which in Scotland is extremely important. As I said, the UK list covers Scotland so that within those sectors that apply to Scotland and to the rest of the UK we can provide for training and skilling in skill shortage areas, for the benefit of his constituents. It is a fair and tough policy, but flexible for local economic needs.

Mr. Frank Field: Given that more than 70,000 skilled workers have come into the country in the past three years under the skilled workers scheme and that the Home Office does not know where any one of them has found a job or whether they have found skilled jobs, and given that unemployment is now rising, what steps are the Government taking to control the scheme?

Reply from Phil Woolas: I am grateful to my right hon. Friend for that question. It is precisely because of the concerns that have been raised that we have introduced the points-based system and the criteria that we can apply to skills within the different tiers of the system. As a result of that system, we can provide reassurance to our constituents that their concerns are being put foremost and we can match the skills shortages with the skills training programmes for British workers while applying the criteria of the tiers within the points-based system to control migration.

Nicholas Soames: What further thought has the hon. Gentleman given to the proposals put to him by the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) and me arising from the balanced migration campaign and the need to break the link between people's coming here to work and their apparently now automatic right to settle?

Reply from Phil Woolas: I am grateful to be in the middle of a pincer movement, which is a very effective one, if I may say so. The hon. Gentleman is right. It is important to break the link between people's coming here to work for a specific purpose under the skills shortage scheme or the high skills scheme, or under other smaller schemes, and their automatic right to settlement. It is very important that we break that link and that is what we are doing.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081215/debtext/81215-0002.htm#081215300014>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Andrew Pelling [242972]: How many asylum seekers supported under section 98 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 were in emergency hotel accommodation in (a) the London borough of Croydon and (b) England and Wales in the last period for which figures are available.

Reply from Phil Woolas: As at week ending Friday 5 December 2008, there were 156 asylum seekers supported under section 98 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 in the London borough of Croydon and just over 1,000 supported under the same section in England and Wales. Section 98 accommodation is predominantly provided in blocked accommodation, such as former hotels and hostels.

Andrew Pelling: The Home Department should be congratulated on providing such accurate information. In the constituency that neighbours mine—the constituency of the right hon. Member for Croydon, North (Malcolm Wicks)—there was an unfortunate incident where an asylum seeker sought to be fed but ended up being involved in a contretemps where he was hit with a chain. What is done by the Government to ensure that reasonable service is provided to section 98 asylum seekers and what is done to oversee the quality of the contracts that are delivered?

Reply from Phil Woolas: I am grateful to the hon. Gentleman for raising that issue. On sight of his question, I asked for information and I shall write to him with the details of that investigation. I am satisfied that our officials and officers acted properly. It would appear that there was provocation and I shall give the hon. Gentleman details in my letter.

Jeremy Corbyn: Would the Minister not agree that it might be better to house people in emergency or local accommodation where they are allowed to remain for some time? We all come across cases where asylum seekers are frequently moved, which means that schools for children, access to GP services and other essential services that are required are often simply not available or that the lives of those asylum seekers are subject to incredible disruption. Would it not be better if they were given a more stable living?

Reply from Phil Woolas: The best thing to do is to deal with the asylum applications quickly, effectively and fairly. The improvements that we are making in that regard have been quite rightly applauded. On my hon. Friend's specific point, the section 98 people to whom the hon. Member for Croydon, Central (Mr. Pelling) referred are, of course, immediate applicants. The dispersal policy strives to meet the objectives outlined by my hon. Friend the Member for Islington, North (Jeremy Corbyn) and it is important that we have as many local authorities in partnership as possible in order to achieve that fairly.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081215/debtext/81215-0003.htm#0812153000015>

Paul Rowen [241413]: 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.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency and Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) offers all asylum seekers the services of an interpreter at public expense whenever it is considered necessary in connection with proceedings relating to their application or appeal.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081215/text/81215w0041.htm#0812167000015>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Patrick Mercer [241000]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Border Agency, when considering the deportation of an individual to a country with which the UK does not have a Memorandum of Understanding (a) assesses the human rights and political situation in the relevant country each time an individual case arises and (b) has a general policy on the human rights and political situation of a country at any one time.

Reply from Phil Woolas: All asylum and human rights claims are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the European Convention on Human Rights against the background of the latest accurate, sourced and up-to-date country information.

The UK Border Agency's Country of Origin Information Service closely monitors the situation in all countries that generate asylum seekers to the UK. The material is compiled from a wide range of reliable external information sources and reports are updated frequently and significant changes in country conditions communicated to decision makers.

The UK Border Agency will only enforce the return of individuals who they, and the courts, are satisfied are not in need of international protection and who do not elect to leave the UK voluntarily.

Removal will be carried out only where it is considered both appropriate and safe to do so. This general policy applies to all removals whether or not an individual has raised an asylum or human rights claim.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081215/text/81215w0042.htm#0812167000026>

Alistair Carmichael [241496]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) families and (b) children under the age of 18 years were detained within Dungavel detention centre on 1 December 2008.

Reply from Phil Woolas: On 1 December 2008 there was one family with two children under the age of 18 years in detention at Dungavel House.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081215/text/81215w0043.htm#0812167000029>

Paul Holmes [241065]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long it took on average to process a (a) short-term and (b) long-term visa application in the latest period for which figures are available.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Average processing times for visa applications received in August 2008 are shown in the following table:

<i>Length of stay</i>	<i>Visa applications received in August 2008</i>	<i>Number resolved</i>	<i>Percentage resolved</i>	<i>Average processing time (days)</i>
Short-term	117,703	116,248	98.8	2.9
Long-term (more than six months)	104,559	103,943	99.4	4.7

Note:

This data is unpublished and should therefore be treated as provisional.

Source:

Central Reference System, 8 December 2008

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081215/text/81215w0043.htm#0812167000030>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Nicholas Winterton [242967]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the UK visa system.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency operates a robust visa system that protects the UK border while taking fast and fair decisions.

The range of procedures in place, including taking of fingerprints and checking of watch lists, help ensure that only those who should be able to come to this country are granted visas.

Already the UK Border Agency have fingerprinted more than 3.5 million visa applicants and identified 4,900 cases of identity fraud. So far this year they have refused visas to nearly 20 per cent. of applicants.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081215/text/81215w0043.htm#0812167000030>

Neil Gerrard [241131]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of people who have been trafficked who are (a) in the UK and (b) working as prostitutes in the UK.

Reply from Alan Campbell: The covert and deceptive nature of the crime make it difficult to provide an accurate assessment of the numbers of people who have been trafficked into the United Kingdom.

However, we estimate that at any one time in 2003 there were up to 4,000 women who had been trafficked into the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081215/text/81215w0044.htm#0812167000034>

Paul Rowen[241027]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimates she has made of the cost of providing support for migrant women who have no recourse to public funds while their application for indefinite leave to remain is considered;

(2) [241046] what recent discussions she has had on the application of the recourse to public funds rule to migrant women subjected to domestic violence;

(3) [241047] what estimate she has made of the number of migrant women who are victims of domestic violence and have no recourse to public funds;

(4) [241048] when she plans to begin a consultation on policy relating to migrant women who are victims of domestic violence and have no recourse to public funds;

(5) [241337] what estimate she has made of the number of migrant women subject to the no recourse to public funds rule who would become eligible for retrospective support if their application for independent leave to remain were successful.

Reply from Alan Campbell: In March, the Home Office announced a new scheme where those supporting victims of domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds may be eligible to receive financial support towards their housing and living costs. Under the new scheme victims of domestic violence whose applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) are successful may qualify for a contribution towards these costs, following their grant of leave. Support will not be provided by UKBA to women while their applications are outstanding. The development of the new scheme is currently being negotiated in partnership with the UKBA, the No Recourse to Public Funds Network and stakeholders.

The UK Border Agency does not routinely collect data on the number of all women who are victims of domestic violence and who have no recourse to public funds. Information is available on the number of victims who have applied for ILR on the basis of domestic violence. In the last three years there have been approximately

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

3,500 applications for ILR as the victim of domestic violence. It is estimated, from figures supplied by UKBA and the voluntary sector, that there are approximately 1,500 migrant women per annum who apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain under the domestic violence rule, approximately one in three claim to be destitute and may therefore be eligible for support under the scheme (500 per year).

There are currently no plans to launch a consultation on migrant women who are victims of domestic violence and have no recourse to public funds.

The figures quoted have not been quality assured and are not a national statistic. It should be treated as provisional management information and may be subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081215/text/81215w0044.htm#0812167000041>

Baroness Hanham [HL83]: To ask Her Majesty's Government why the conditions of tier 5 of the Immigration Rules limit young people's cultural visits to those coming from Australia, Canada, Japan and New Zealand.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The youth mobility scheme under tier 5 of the new points-based system is open to any country which meets the eligibility criteria for the scheme, as set out in the tier 5 statement of intent published in May. Australia, Canada, Japan and New Zealand are the countries which applied and met the conditions to join the scheme at its launch.

In addition, young nationals of any country can come and enjoy the cultural benefits of a six-month stay in the UK where they meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules for visitors. We hope other countries will join.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/81215w0001.htm#08121514000073>

Andrew Mitchell [241113]: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what (a) financial, (b) administrative and (c) other resources his Department (i) has provided and (ii) plans to provide in each of the next five years to the Returns and Reintegration Fund from (A) its central budget and (B) its country offices.

Reply from Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has made available up to £35 million over two financial years (2008-09 and 2009-10) to the Returns and Reintegration Fund (which is a pooled fund comprising DFID, FCO, UKBA and MOJ financial resources and expertise, administered by the FCO) of which we have provided £4 million so far this financial year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081216/text/81216w0014.htm#0812172000069>

Frank Field [243465]: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the Answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 408W, on immigration, what the level is of net immigration at which the population of the UK would remain below 70 million on unchanged assumptions about birth rates, mortality and emigration levels and on the basis of the most recent population projections.

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 December 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question, pursuant to the answer of 18th November 2008 (Official Report, column 408W) on immigration, regarding what the level of net immigration is at which the population of the UK would remain below 70 million on unchanged assumptions about birth

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

rates, mortality and emigration levels on the basis of the most recent population projections. (243465)

Migration assumptions for national population projections are conventionally expressed in terms of net migration (immigration less emigration) rather than for the gross flows separately. However, nominal immigration and emigration totals are used in the projection process mainly to enable plausible age distributions to be calculated for the assumed net migration totals.

The 2006-based principal (or central) projection assumed a long-term annual net inflow to the UK of +190,000 persons a year. In this projection, the population of the UK is projected to reach 70 million in 2028. To answer your question, further population projections have been produced by reducing the nominal immigration totals applied in the 2006-based principal projection, but leaving the fertility, mortality and emigration assumptions unchanged. Based on these assumptions, with a long-term net migration inflow of +60,000 a year, the population would reach 70 million in the 2070s. However, with a net migration inflow of +50,000 a year the population would be just below 70 million in 2081, although it would still be continuing to rise.

In practice, this may not be a realistic scenario. If immigration fell permanently to levels well below those experienced in recent years, it is likely that this would, in time, lead to a reduction in the level of emigration as well, it is possible to have a range of combinations of levels of immigration and emigration consistent with any particular level of net migration and these would lead to different projected population sizes.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081216/text/81216w0024.htm#08121714000039>

Dominic Grieve [241611]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there is a limit on the number of times a person can be granted entry to the UK for six months as a business visitor.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: There is no restriction on the number of business visits a person may make to the UK, or any requirement that a specified time must elapse between successive visits. The fact that a person has made a series of visits with only brief intervals between them would not, in the absence of any other relevant factors, constitute sufficient grounds for refusal of leave to enter.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081216/text/81216w0041.htm#08121724000015>

Alistair Carmichael [241497]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) families, (b) children under the age of 18 and (c) people over the age of 18 years were detained within Dungavel detention centre between 1 December and 31 December in each of the last five years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The number of families and children detained over the last five years between 1 December and 31 December are as follows:

2003: 16 families with 20 children

2004: 6 families with 10 children

2005: 6 families with 4 children

2006: 13 families with 28 children

2007: 3 families with 8 children

The number of individuals aged over 18 years detained between 1 December and 31 December over the last five years are as follows:

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

	<i>Number of individuals</i>
2003	⁽¹⁾ —
2004	⁽¹⁾ —
2005	99
2006	143
2007	161
⁽¹⁾ Data not available.	

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081218/text/81218w0034.htm#0812191000289>

Neil Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's definition is of a person who has been trafficked. [241130]

Reply from Alan Campbell: The Department considers a victim of human trafficking to be an individual who has been subjected to the crimes set out in sections 57-60 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004.

However identifying if someone is a victim of human trafficking is a complex issue. It is a largely an unreported crime and there is also a need to protect against fraudulent claims. The UK is currently in the process of developing a formal identification procedure to help identify if there are reasonable grounds to believe that an individual is a victim of human trafficking. This will follow the internationally recognised definitions of human trafficking as set out in the Palermo protocol.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081216/text/81216w0041.htm#08121724000017>

Neil Gerrard [241132]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has used to estimate the number of people who have been trafficked into the UK.

Reply from Alan Campbell: The current estimate is that at any one time in 2003 there were up to 4,000 women who had been trafficked into the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation. This was a result of work by Home Office officials which formed part of a wider piece of work on the economic and social costs of organised crime.

The UK Human Trafficking Centre, in conjunction with the Serious Organised Crime Agency and Police Regional Intelligence Units, continues work to build a clearer picture of the nature and scale of the threat posed by all forms of trafficking.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081215/text/81215w0044.htm#0812167000034>

Damian Green [243145]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of people-trafficking related (a) investigations, (b) resultant trials and (c) subsequent convictions have arisen through the activity of the Metropolitan Police Human Trafficking Unit in each year since its inception.

Reply from Alan Campbell: It is not possible to give a percentage breakdown of trials and investigations which are ongoing throughout the country.

The data provided by the UK Human Trafficking Centre indicates that of the 92 convictions secured for offences of human trafficking for sexual exploitation, 28 have been as a result of operations by the police in the Metropolitan Police Service area. It is not possible to break down the number solely related to the

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

work of the Met's trafficking unit as operations against this crime often involve officers from the boroughs, the clubs and vice unit as well as from the joint operations involving UKBA staff. The number of convictions by year is as follows:

	<i>Number</i>
2004	1
2005	10
2006	10
2007	1
2008	6

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081216/text/81216w0041.htm#08121724000017>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081216/text/81216w0042.htm>

Jo Swinson [243480]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of individuals trafficked into the UK for (a) sexual exploitation and (b) forced labour purposes in the most recent year for which figures are available.

Reply from Alan Campbell: The covert nature of crime makes it difficult to make an accurate assessment of the scale of the problem faced by the United Kingdom. The latest estimate is that at any one time in 2003 there were up to 4,000 women in the UK who were possibly victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. There is no estimate available at this time on the numbers of possible victims of trafficking for the purpose of forced labour.

The UK Human Trafficking Centre, in conjunction with the Serious Organised Crime Agency and Police Regional Intelligence Units continues work to build a clearer picture of the nature and scale of the threat posed by all forms of trafficking.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081216/text/81216w0042.htm>

Jo Swinson [243481]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate has been made of the number of individuals trafficked into the UK for (a) sexual exploitation and (b) forced labour purposes who have been rescued as a result of work carried out by the Metropolitan Police human trafficking team.

Reply from Alan Campbell: It is not possible to give an estimate of the number of trafficking victims rescued solely as a result of the work of the MPS human trafficking team as operations against this crime often involve officers from the boroughs, other forces, the Clubs and Vice Unit as well as from the joint operations involving UKBA staff.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081216/text/81216w0042.htm>

Jo Swinson [243482]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have been prosecuted as a result of work carried out by the Metropolitan Police human trafficking team.

Reply from Alan Campbell: Of the 92 convictions secured for human trafficking offences 27 have been as a result of operations by the police in the Metropolitan Police Service area. It is not possible to break down the number solely related to

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

the work of the Met's trafficking unit as operations against this crime often involve officers from the boroughs, the Clubs and Vice Unit as well as from the joint operations involving UKBA staff.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081216/text/81216w0042.htm#08121724000020>

Damian Green [243116]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for the withdrawal of funding for the Metropolitan Police Human Trafficking Unit; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Alan Campbell: Following discussions with the Metropolitan Police Service, we have decided to provide additional funding for the MPS trafficking team.

Human trafficking is part of core police business and this funding, which is a one-off grant, is designed to enable the MPS to mainstream this work into its daily activities in a planned and organised fashion.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081216/text/81216w0042.htm#08121724000022>

Dominic Grieve [241516]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 75W, on human trafficking: females, what steps are being taken by the (a) Serious Organised Crime Agency and (b) United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre to improve collection of intelligence of human trafficking; and when she expects improved statistics on the extent of human trafficking in the United Kingdom to be published.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: SOCA produces the National Intelligence Requirement (NIR) for Serious Organised Crime, which systematically identifies gaps in knowledge around all key threat areas, including human trafficking. Agencies report against the NIR throughout the year in order to inform the UK Threat Assessment (UKTA) of Serious Organised Crime, which is collated by SOCA on behalf of UK law enforcement and published annually. The resultant improvements in knowledge of human trafficking will be reflected in the UKTA.

This work is supported by the UKHTC through its collaboration with SOCA and through its role as the central repository of all data and intelligence on human trafficking. We already have an estimate of the number of women trafficked into the UK for sexual exploitation. We hope to be able to revise this estimate by the end of 2009.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081217/text/81217w0022.htm#08121797000012>

Dominic Grieve [241542]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many victims of human trafficking were identified during police operations in each of the last five years.

Reply from Maria Eagle: Data on the number of victims identified during police operations is not collected centrally. The police did collect data on the number of victims recovered during the co-ordinated enforcement campaigns Operation Pentameter 1 and 2 which is shown in the following table.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

	<i>Campaign</i>	<i>Victims recovered</i>
2006	Pentameter 1	88
2007-08	Pentameter 2	⁽¹⁾ 167
		⁽²⁾ 5
⁽¹⁾ Victims of sexual exploitation. ⁽²⁾ Victims of trafficking for domestic servitude/forced labour.		

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081217/text/81217w0022.htm#08121797000012>

Dominic Grieve [243330]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) arrests and (b) convictions there have been for human trafficking offences under Operation Pentameter 2.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Of the 528 arrests as a result of Operation Pentameter 2, 99 were for human trafficking. Many of those arrested were charged with offences other than human trafficking, such as causing or inciting prostitution for gain and money laundering offences

It is not possible to disaggregate the conviction figures to provide a breakdown of convictions resulting from Operation Pentameter 2 and many cases arising from that operation are still progressing through the criminal justice system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081217/text/81217w0023.htm>

John McDonnell [244928]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's definition is of a person who has been trafficked.

Reply from Alan Campbell: The UK uses the definition of trafficking set out in the Protocol to the 2000 UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime called the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, which states that:

"Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081217/text/81217w0023.htm>

Neil Gerrard [242701]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the research her Department used to inform its calculation that 80 per cent. of women working in prostitution have been trafficked into the UK.

Reply from Alan Campbell: The Home Office has neither made nor cited this calculation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081217/text/81217w0023.htm#08121797000013>

Chris Huhne (242735): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her most recent estimate is of how long it will take to (a) clear the backlog of outstanding asylum cases and (b) deport all those unsuccessful in these cases.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmordbk1/81216w01.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Chris Huhne (242775): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much expenditure her Department has incurred in removing unsuccessful asylum seekers from the United Kingdom in each of the last five years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmordbk1/81216w01.htm>

Westminster Petition

David Amess [P000303]: I have the honour to present a petition on behalf of 100 families concerning their views on the Green Paper "The Path to Citizenship: Next Steps in Reforming the Immigration System". It states:

The Humble Petition of the Malayalee community of Southend-on-Sea, Essex, Sheweth: that the proposal in the Home Office's Green Paper 'The Path to Citizenship' to increase the minimum period of temporary residency on the path to permanent settlement from five years to as much as ten years would not be fair to immigrants already in the United Kingdom who had anticipated they could permanently settle after only five years, and would result in one of the longest delays in access to citizenship in the European Union.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House do urge the Secretary of State for the Home Department to allow those already in the United Kingdom to keep their entitlement to settle as per the existing rules.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081218/debtext/81218-0021.htm#08121891000414>

Press Releases

Government ratifies European convention against human trafficking

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/government-ratifies-convention>

First identity cards issued to foreign nationals in Sheffield

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

Migration advisory committee publishes advice on work restrictions for Bulgarian and Romanian workers in the UK

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/macpublishesadvicefora2>

Work restrictions will continue for Bulgarians and Romanians

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/work-restrictions-continue>

New publications

UK Border Agency Complaints Audit Committee Annual Report 2007/2008

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/cacreports/cacreport0708.pdf?view=Binary>

The labour market impact of relaxing restrictions on employment in the UK of nationals of Bulgarian and Romanian EU member states

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/macreports/macreport1208/mac_dec08?view=Binary

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **News**

MSP backing fight against deportation

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/12/15/newsstory12383654t0.asp>

Refugees find a home on the stage

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/features/display.var.2475450.0.Refugees_find_a_home_on_the_stage.php

£150,000 plan to end Dungavel incarceration of children criticised

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2476468.0.150_000_plan_to_end_Dungavel_incarceration_of_children_criticised.php

More work permits for EU migrants

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/More-work-permits-for-EU.4807991.jp>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

News

Homecoming race row over airbrushed Asian

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Homecoming-race-row-over-airbrushed.4812231.jp>

Religious charity faces closure over cash crisis

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Religious-charity-faces-closure-over.4812208.jp>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Johann Lamont (S3W-19130): To ask the Scottish Executive, with reference to the Audit Scotland report on the impact of the race equality duty on council services, what action the Scottish Government intends to take in light of comments from the chairperson of the Accounts Commission who suggests that the main focus of councils has been the development of policies and processes which, by themselves, do not meet the needs of minority ethnic communities.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-12-17e.htm>

Equality (continued)

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Petition by Darren Burnside calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to amend the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to remove the entitlement of a church or denominational body to approve the religious belief and character of prospective teachers so that any teacher, regardless of their religious belief, can teach in any school.

http://epetitions.scottish.parliament.uk/view_petition.asp?PetitionID=298

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Asked by Lord Ouseley [HL121]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they will take regarding the trend of the number of African and Caribbean individuals admitted to mental hospitals each year, as detailed in the fourth national census of the ethnicity of patients in the National Health Service and independent mental health and learning disability hospitals in England and Wales.

[HL122] To ask Her Majesty's Government in the light of the participation rates of African and Caribbean individuals in the mental health system, what assessment they have made of claims that the mental health system is institutionally racist and in need of action to end any such discrimination.

Reply from Lord Darzi of Denham: There is consistent evidence of inequality in the mental health of black and minority-ethnic (BME) communities, especially in the incidence of severe mental illness. For example, the 2006 *Aetiology and Ethnicity in Schizophrenia and Other Psychoses* (AESOP) study indicates that, compared with the white British population, people from African-Caribbean communities are nine times more likely to experience schizophrenia and eight times more likely to experience manic psychosis; people from black African communities are six times more likely to experience either condition; and other BME groups have more modestly increased rates. The AESOP findings apply across the adult age range and for both women and men. The rates of psychosis in Africa and the Caribbean are comparable to those in the United Kingdom overall. The reasons for this are still not fully understood, but this suggests that recognised risk factors for mental illness, including poor housing, unemployment, social exclusion and the experience of racism itself are still burdens borne disproportionately in the UK by BME populations and are contributing to an increased incidence of mental ill health.

In 2005 the department launched Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health Care (DRE), a five-year action plan designed to improve BME communities' experience of mental health services, and to address the apparent inequalities in the incidence of severe mental illness between ethnic groups in England. There has been significant progress. For example, the DRE programme has helped to develop replicable good practice around tailored pathways of care for BME service users; new training in race equality for mental health staff has been tested successfully and made available nationally; pilot projects of the programme improving access to psychological therapies have demonstrated that BME communities can have equal access to, and equal outcomes from, the new services; and primary care trusts have so far recruited over 400 new community development workers, whose role is to build links between local BME communities and mental health services and to help communities play a part in planning and providing those services. We do, though, believe that the National Health Service still must do more to meet the needs of increasingly diverse local populations, particularly by delivering early and equitable access to effective community-based interventions.

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

These issues will stay a priority for services for the duration of the DRE programme and beyond. We do not believe that institutional racism is a helpful label to apply—the solutions lie in the hands of individuals, not just institutions. We have been open and honest about the problems in mental health care and how we intend to tackle them.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/81217w0003.htm#08121790000369>

Ashok Kumar [242374]: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the findings of the Healthcare Commission's report on the 2006 national census of inpatients in mental health and learning disability services, Count Me In, with respect to the diagnosis, medication and accommodation of patients from ethnic minorities.

Reply from Phil Hope: The Healthcare Commission published its report on the 2008 Count Me In census on 27 November. Count Me In does not collect information about patients' diagnosis or medication.

We welcomed the report and concur with its principle conclusions. Mental health services still need to do more to meet the needs of diverse communities and tackle inequalities in mental health. Our Delivering Race Equality action plan, supported by over 400 new community development workers across the country, has already helped to deliver progress and remains the blueprint for services to follow.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081217/text/81217w0034.htm#081217112000040>

Ashok Kumar [242377]: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve mental health provision in the Asian community; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of those steps.

Reply from Phil Hope: In 2005 the Department launched 'Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health Care' (DRE). DRE is a five year action plan designed to improve black and minority ethnic (BME) communities' experience of mental health services, including that of Asian communities.

There has been significant progress. The DRE programme has helped to develop replicable good practice around tailored pathways of care for BME service users—for example, the collaboration between the Sheffield mental health crisis resolution and home treatment service and the local Pakistani Muslim Centre. New training in race equality for mental health staff has been tested successfully and made available nationally. The pilot project in Newham, East London, of the programme improving access to psychological therapies has demonstrated that Asian and other BME communities can have equal access to, and equal outcomes from, the new services. Primary care trusts have so far recruited over 400 new community development workers, whose role is to build links between local BME communities and mental health services and to help communities play a part in planning and providing those services.

We do, though, believe that the national health service still must do more to meet the needs of increasingly diverse local populations, particularly by delivering early and equitable access to effective community-based interventions. These issues will stay a priority for services for the duration of the DRE programme and beyond.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081217/text/81217w0034.htm#081217112000040>

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Ashok Kumar [242378]: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has commissioned research into mental health problems amongst Asian women in England;

(2) [242379] what steps his Department is taking to address the stigma attached to mental health problems in the Asian community.

Reply from Phil Hope: The Department's National Institute for Health Research is not currently funding research of this kind. The 2002 survey of Ethnic Minority Psychiatric Illness Rates in the Community (EMPIRIC) provided estimates of the prevalence of common mental disorders and psychosis, information on social support and information on access to services. Estimates are provided for Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi women. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library and is on the Department's website at:

The Department's Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health Care programme (DRE) is helping to raise awareness among black and minority ethnic communities of mental health issues and to develop services more sensitive to communities' particular needs. It is also collaborating with Shift, the Department's five-year campaign addressing stigma and mental health.

In November 2008 Shift launched the award-winning short film 'Open Secrets', about the stigma surrounding mental illness in the Asian community. The film has been dubbed into Gujarati and Hindi. 'Open Secrets' is intended to be used by DRE's network of community development workers and as a tool to influence Asian media, health and social care organisations and policymakers. Shift and DRE will promote the film at regional and local screenings in community and health and social care contexts to raise awareness and promote discussion. The film will be available on the internet from 1 April 2009.

Shift has also commissioned the consultancy Ethnic Communications to carry out a qualitative research project looking at how mental health stories are portrayed in the South Asian media. This work will be published at the DRE national conference in March 2009.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_4005698.

Press Releases

Prison Service publishes report on five year Race Review

<http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/news/index.asp?id=9355,22,6,22,0,0>

Young Black People and the Criminal Justice System

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/young-black-people-cjs-dec-08.pdf>

New publications

Race Review 2008: Implementing Race Equality in Prisons – Five Years On

Part 1

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/assets/documents/1000439CRace_Review_part_1.pdf

Part 2

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/assets/documents/1000439DRace_Review_part_2.pdf

Equality

New Publications (continued)

Early years, life chances and equality: a literature review

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Documents/Equalities/Early%20Years,%20life%20chances%20and%20equality.pdf>

Equality group inequalities in education, employment and earnings: A research review and analysis of trends over time

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Documents/Equalities/Inequalities%20in%20education%20-%20Final.pdf>

News

Young Brits at Art - Equality and Human Rights Commission competition for young people

Young Brits at Art will see young people using self-portraiture or pictures to tell their own story - whether about themselves, their families or the communities they come from - and is aimed at helping schools and youth centres deal with difference and diversity in an entertaining and accessible way. For more information see <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/projects/yba/pages/youngbritsatart.aspx>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

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

Reply from Fiona Hyslop: The Scottish Government has no current plans to develop new sectarianism-awareness projects or campaigns in further and higher educational establishments.

The funding of Scotland's further and higher education establishments is the responsibility of the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council. It is for the colleges and universities to determine the learning activity which is offered to students and potential students and which best meets the needs of local communities and businesses.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1217.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.

Reply from Stewart Maxwell: Sense over Sectarianism funds projects within the Glasgow and travel-to-work area. This includes Glasgow City Council and a number of surrounding local authority areas.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1218.htm>

Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

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.

Reply from Stewart Maxwell: Information on the number of staff employed by organisations which are involved in tackling sectarianism is not held centrally.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1218.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.

Reply from Stewart Maxwell: Sense over Sectarianism were provided with £42,000 between January and June 2008 to deliver a number of specifically identified community projects. The £412,731 funding award was made from the Race, Religion and Refugee Integration Funding Stream and, in common with all other projects funded by this funding stream, covers the period July 2008 to March 2011.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1218.htm>

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

Reply from Stewart Maxwell: This information is not held centrally.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1218.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-19127): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will ensure that Show Racism the Red Card's Islamophobia educational resource is made available to every school in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-12-17e.htm>

Holyrood Parliamentary Motions

Bill Butler (S3M-3135): **Support Nil by Mouth**—That the Parliament notes with concern that financial support from the Scottish Government to Nil by Mouth, the country's foremost anti-sectarian charity, runs out on 31 March 2009; acknowledges the pivotal role that Nil by Mouth has played in challenging sectarian attitudes and behaviour in Scotland through its campaigns, events and educational workshops, and encourages the Scottish Government to end the uncertainty over the charity's future by making a commitment to continue its funding.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-12-18f.htm>

Bashir Ahmad (S3M-3138): **Show Racism the Red Card - Tackling Islamophobia**—That the Parliament congratulates Show Racism the Red Card (SRTRC) for successfully launching in the Parliament its DVD, entitled Islamophobia, which aims to raise awareness of the rising scourge of Islamophobia; believes that the DVD and accompanying education pack produced by SRTRC should be available to every school pupil in Scotland; expresses concern that in the recent Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 50% of Scots viewed Muslims as a cultural threat, and commits to working hard and collectively with grassroots organisations to eradicate this problem from every tier of our society.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-12-19f.htm>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Paul Holmes [240929]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which her Department is responsible have been (a) investigated and (b) upheld in the last 12 months.

Reply from Phil Woolas: During the last 12 months (for the period 1 November 2007 to 31 October 2008) the Home Office, including the UK Border Agency, the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau, received fewer than five official complaints of racial discrimination or racial harassment from staff against their colleagues. Further information is therefore withheld on grounds of confidentiality.

All employees have a duty to respect the dignity of others at work, be mindful of the effect their behaviour may have on colleagues, and ensure their own conduct does not breach the provisions of the Home Office bullying, harassment and discrimination policy.

Under the policy, line managers are responsible for maintaining a workplace that is free from bullying, harassment and discrimination, confronting unacceptable behaviour wherever it arises.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081215/text/81215w0047.htm#081216700049>

Graham Allen (243850): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what measures are in place to ensure religious organisations working under contract with his Department do not discriminate in their employment practices on grounds of (a) religious belief or (b) sexual orientation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmordbk1/81215w01.htm>

Press Releases

Young Muslims at OSCE roundtable meeting voice concern over increasing anti-Muslim attitudes

<http://www.osce.org/item/35740.html>

Global free speech rapporteurs concerned about 'defamation of religion' and 'anti-extremism' laws

<http://www.osce.org/item/35706.html>

New publications

Limits and potential of the concept of indirect discrimination

http://www.migpolgroup.com/multiattachments/4229/DocumentName/146.LimitsandPotentialoftheConceptofIndirectDiscrimination_EN_09.08.pdf

News

Former first minister calls for funding for anti-bigotry group

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/987508>

Football ban for fan who sang sectarian chorus

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2475844.0.Football_ban_for_fan_who_sang_sectarian_chorus.php

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Famine song fan is banned

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/scotland/Famine-song-fan-is-banned.4799115.jp>

Dizaei due to launch Met race claim

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Dizaei-due-to-launch-Met.4799215.jp>

Islamophobia shown the Red Card

<http://scottishislamic.org/index.php?go=news&id=242>

Hokey Cokey is 'faith hate crime'

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article5375697.ece>

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Debate

Human Rights

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081218/halltext/81218h0001.htm#08121889000001>

Parliamentary Questions

Keith Vaz [241227]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many suspected cases of forced marriage were reported to (a) the UK Border Agency and (b) UK agencies abroad in the last 12 months;
(2) [241228] what timetable she has set for taking steps to assist victims of forced marriage with no recourse to public funds;
(3) [241229] what progress has been made towards full implementation of the scheme to give victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds access to assistance with their housing and living costs;
(4) [241230] what steps her Department is taking to prevent forced marriage by raising public awareness of the matter.

Reply from Phil Woolas: During the first three quarters of 2008 the Forced Marriage Unit provided support in 196 reluctant visa sponsors cases that were dealt with by the UK Border Agency and provided consular assistance overseas in 192 cases.

Since January this year the Forced Marriage Unit has participated in over 90 outreach events to raise awareness of forced marriage in the community.

Over the next two years the Forced Marriage Unit will continue to provide a programme engagement, including rolling out pilot surgeries in selected areas in order to raise awareness and provide support around forced marriage directly to local communities and participating in a further series of regional "honour" based violence roadshows.

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

In March, the Home Office announced a new scheme where those supporting victims of domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds may be eligible to receive financial support towards their housing and living costs. If someone is a victim of forced marriage and has no recourse to public funds then they will be able to apply for ILR under the Domestic Violence Rule. They may also be eligible to apply for support under the new No Recourse to Public Funds scheme, in order to receive support for their housing and living costs.

We continue to work closely with colleagues in the UKBA, the No Recourse to Public Funds Network and stakeholders, on the detail of the scheme to give victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds, access to assistance with their housing and living costs, if their application for indefinite leave to Remain is successful. The scheme is currently being negotiated and will be implemented shortly.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081215/text/81215w0043.htm#0812167000032>

Keith Vaz [241225]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding has been allocated to public information campaigns to increase awareness about access to assistance for suspected victims of forced marriage in 2008-09.

Reply from Gillian Merron: So far this year the Forced Marriage Unit has either allocated or spent £25,237 on developing awareness raising materials. These include work with the Department for Children, Schools, and Families to develop new materials for schools, development of bilingual posters in Urdu, Bengali, Hindi, Kurdish and Arabic and development of materials for a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender audience.

Our high commission in Islamabad has allocated a further £25,000, including awareness raising at airports and on airlines as well as projects targeting the Mirpur region, where most of our cases originate. Our high commission in Dhaka has also allocated £22,600 for a publicity campaign to raise awareness of forced marriage in Bangladesh.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081216/text/81216w0036.htm#08121714000102>

Keith Vaz [241220]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many full-time permanent members of staff work for his Department's Forced Marriage Unit.

Reply from Gillian Merron: Seven full-time staff work in the joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office/Home Office Forced Marriage Unit.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081217/text/81217w0026.htm#081217110000005>

Keith Vaz [241221]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the operational budget of the Forced Marriage Unit is for 2008-09.

Reply from Gillian Merron: In addition to staffing costs, the Forced Marriage Unit has a budget of £273,000 for 2008-09. This budget is used to support work with non-governmental organisations in the UK and overseas, to fund outreach activities, to produce awareness raising materials, and other publications, such as the recent statutory guidance for agencies dealing with forced marriage. <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081217/text/81217w0026.htm#081217110000005>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Keith Vaz [241222]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many cases of suspected forced marriage were reported to the Forced Marriage Unit in (a) 2008 and (b) 2007.

Reply from Gillian Merron: In the first three quarters of 2008 the Forced Marriage Unit provided advice or support in a total of 1,308 incidences of suspected forced marriage. This included advice to individuals, non-governmental organisations and other agencies on specific cases. Of these 388 required direct support from the Unit, 192 needing consular assistance, and 196 requiring support as reluctant visa sponsors. Prior to 2007 figures were only recorded for cases where assistance was provided. In 2007 the Unit handled 168 cases requiring consular assistance, and 94 reluctant sponsor cases.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081217/text/81217w0026.htm#081217110000005>

Keith Vaz [241223]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what training is provided to embassy staff who negotiate with suspected victims of forced marriage and their families.

Reply from Gillian Merron: All consular staff overseas receive training which includes handling of forced marriage cases. Consular staff being deployed to countries where we commonly see forced marriage cases receive additional briefing and information from the Forced Marriage Unit.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081217/text/81217w0026.htm#081217110000005>

Keith Vaz [241224]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what legal guidance his Department provides for staff in agencies working outside the UK who deal with suspected cases of forced marriage.

Reply from Gillian Merron: Consular staff overseas can draw on legal guidance from honorary legal advisers in country and from the Foreign and Commonwealth legal advisers in London. Advice can be general or case specific.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm081217/text/81217w0026.htm#081217110000005>

[TOP](#)

Other News

Doctor held captive by parents freed by Bangladeshi courts

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/foreign/display.var.2475180.0.Doctor_held_captive_by_parents_freed_by_Bangladeshi_courts.php

The fight against forced marriage

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7783351.stm>

Doctor court plea to annul marriage

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Doctor-court-plea-to-annul.4808192.jp>

Other News (continued)

Doctor who was forced to wed can't be removed, court rules

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Doctor-who-was-forced-to.4810950.jp>

Doctor forced to marry 'was drugged by relatives'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/doctor-forced-to-marry-was-drugged-by-relatives-1204982.html>

Forced marriage GP starts on road to recovery

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/forced-marriage-gp-starts-on-road-to-recovery-1206391.html>

Are you a tenant of a local authority or registered social landlord and interested in raising standards in social housing?

The Scottish Housing Regulator regulates and inspects Registered Social Landlords and the housing and homelessness functions of Local Authorities. It is here to protect the interests of tenants and to regulate to secure decent homes and services. Our panel of Tenant Assessors work with us, on a voluntary basis, to bring a service users' perspective to the inspection process. Tenant Assessors work with inspection teams to review and comment on the services provided by social landlords. While the work is unpaid all expenses are reimbursed. For more information see www.scojec.org/memo/files/08xii_scottish_housing_regulator.doc

[TOP](#)

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>

Health and Sport Committee: Stage 1 report

Vol. 1 <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/reports-08/her08-07-vol1.htm>

Vol. 2 <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/reports-08/her08-07-vol2-00.htm>

** Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/09-AggPrej/index.htm>

Equal Opportunities Committee: Stage 1 report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/reports-08/eor08-03.htm>

Sexual Offences Bill

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

Bills in Progress (continued) **Westminster**

Draft (Partial) Immigration and Citizenship Bill

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

[TOP](#)

Consultations (closing date)

** New or updated this week

** *closes this week!*

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>

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>

Consultations (continued)

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>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

UNHCR Litigation Strategy

7 January 2009 in Glasgow (2.30 – 4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council / UNHRC 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

[TOP](#)

Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Scottish 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>

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

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

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

BBC Parliament online

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

[TOP](#)



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