

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with the **Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland**. 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

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Jacqui Smith (Secretary of State for the Home Department): I have today placed in the Library a copy of the report by Mrs. Linda Costelloe Baker, the Independent Monitor for Entry Clearance Refusals with Limited Rights of Appeal, covering the period 1 October 2007 to 31 March 2008. A copy is also being made available on the UKBA website at: <http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/independentmonitor/imparliamentaryreports> together with UK Border Agency's response to the Independent Monitor's recommendations.

I am most grateful to Mrs. Costelloe Baker for this positive report based on the 860 sample cases which she has reviewed for the period 1 October 2007 to 31 March 2008, and the 445 cases reviewed during her monitoring visits to visa issuing posts during the period April to September 2008.

In the report Mrs. Costelloe Baker comments that of the file sample analysed this year, 85.6 per cent. of the cases were reasonable and had the correct information on appeal rights an improvement on 83.7 per cent. for the previous report covering the period 1 April to 30 September 2007; and that 91.2 per cent. of decisions were reasonable, an improvement on 91 per cent. for the last report. She notes a big improvement in evidence based decision making "There has been a marked improvement in the way entry clearance officers handle evidence. In this sample, 98 per cent. of the refusal notices contained applicant specific evidence..."

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

She further notes that “[the] Overall appearance [of Refusal Notices] has improved tremendously. Most Refusal Notices now look neat and tidy and few have typing or spelling errors...I am pleased to report almost no ridiculous reasons [for refusal]...”

Mrs. Costelloe Baker also makes a number of constructive recommendations as to how UK Border Agency can continue to improve the quality of decision-making, guidance to entry clearance staff, and correspondence and complaint handling. UK Border Agency welcomes these comments and is keen to use these recommendations to drive up the quality of its service to customers whilst maintaining a high level of immigration control.

I wish to record our thanks to Mrs. Costelloe Baker for the work and effort she has put into producing this her third report as Independent Monitor for Entry Clearance Refusals with Limited Rights of Appeal. The Independent Monitor’s next report will cover the period 1 April to 30 September 2008 and will be published in the first half of 2009.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090113/wmstext/90113m0001.htm#09011354000014>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Baroness Stern: [HL234] To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the ages at first arrival, country of birth and last United Kingdom school attended (where applicable) of children who were held in an immigration removal centre for the greatest number of days in each of the past five years.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The UK Border Agency does not keep central records for the country of birth and schools attended by children held in immigration removal centres.

It is not possible to confirm the age of children when they arrived in the UK as it would rely on information provided by their parents which may not be accurate.

The table attached shows the greatest number of days that any child has been detained in an immigration removal centre. All children were detained as part of a family unit. Data are not available for 2004.

Year (1 April—30 March)	Number of Days detained
2005	137
2006	190
2007	140
2008 (year to date)	95

The average length of time that children are held in detention is, however, significantly lower, with most families being released or removed within seven days of being detained.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90112w0005.htm#09011227000772>

Baroness Stern: [HL235] To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the ages at first arrival, country of birth and last United Kingdom school attended (where applicable) of children who are currently detained in immigration removal centres.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The information requested is not held centrally and to try to establish it would be at disproportionate cost. Even then, the UK Border Agency might not be able to confirm dates of arrival as it may rely on the accuracy provided by the parents; neither does the agency routinely collect details of schools attended by children.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90112w0005.htm#09011227000772>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Damian Green [243112]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the additional costs to local authorities of decisions made under the Case Resolution programme for asylum legacy cases which have resulted in the granting of leave to remain.

Reply from Phil Woolas: I am in a position to report that following Ms Lin Homer's appearance before the Home Affairs Select Committee on 20 November 2008, she wrote to the committee on 8 December 2008 with an update on the legacy programme. This contains the latest position on agreed payments to local authorities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090113/text/90113w0033.htm#09011512000012>

Robert Goodwill [244686]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what security checks are carried out on (a) external companies contracted and (b) personnel employed to escort refugees being deported.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The contract for the escorting of individuals being removed or deported from the UK is operated by Group 4 Securicor (G4S), this company would have been subject to commercial and credit checks when tendering for the contract.

The contractors employ Detainee Custody Officers (DCOs) to carry out the duties of escorting those people being removed from the UK, all individuals seeking employment as a DCOs are required to undergo counter-terrorist checks and criminal record checks to enhanced level, and before they can commence employment they have to be accredited by the UK Border Agency Detention Services Accreditation Team.

Applicants must pass all the security checks before they can be accredited.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090113/text/90113w0033.htm#09011512000013>

Stephen O'Brien [246061]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 321-22W, on foreign workers: health services, how many economic migrants were working in each occupational category at the latest date for which figures are available.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following tables provide information on the number of work permits approved and Worker Registration Scheme certificates issued by occupation category.

To read the lengthy tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090113/text/90113w0035.htm#09011512000035>

James Gray [244496]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of asylum-seekers (a) in total and (b) who will enter and remain in the UK in each year to 2018.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The information requested is as follows:

(a) People leave their countries of origin and claim asylum elsewhere in response to world events. Where those events will be and the countries to which people flee, are inherently unpredictable. Estimates of the total number of asylum seekers are thus not available.

(b) The Proportion of those who do claim in the UK who are subsequently granted leave to remain here also depends on the current world situation at the time of claim. All asylum claims are considered without prejudice on their individual merits in accordance with the UK's obligations under the 1951 UN Convention and the

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

1967 Protocol. The estimates of the number of asylum seekers who enter and remain in the UK in each year to 2018 is subject to the same level of unpredictability and are thus also unavailable.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090113/text/90113w0033.htm#09011512000012>

Damian Green [243491]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 318-19W, on deportation, how her Department establishes that a person has left the UK without informing the immigration authorities; and how many people so recorded subsequently have been found to have been in the United Kingdom illegally in each of the last five years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Department establishes that a person has left the UK without informing the immigration authorities via:

Manual embarkation operations at UK ports

Data matching visa applications made at British Missions overseas

Data matching incoming/departing passenger and flight data recorded under the e-Borders programme (Semaphore)

The information requested on how many people have subsequently been found to have been in the UK illegally in each of the last five years could only be obtained by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090113/text/90113w0039.htm#09011512000062>

Lord Hylton [HL455]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they are giving to regularising the position of long-resident asylum seekers and other immigrants, following calls for amnesty by the Mayor of London and the head of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: There are no plans to regularise the position of long-resident asylum seekers and other immigrants following calls for an amnesty. The Government have ruled out an amnesty and this remains our position.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90115w0001.htm#090115101000657>

Chris Huhne [242776]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on the (a) assisted voluntary returns and (b) enforced returns of unsuccessful asylum seekers in each of the last five years; and how many were returned under each system.

Reply from Jacqui Smith The information is as follows.

<i>Asylum based assisted voluntary returns (AVR)</i>		
	<i>AVR spend (£)</i>	<i>Number returning under AVR</i>
2003-04	⁽¹⁾ 4,787,054.00	—
2004-05	8,767,885.83	2004—2,705
2005-06	9,450,020.00	2005—3,235
2006-07	14,851,442.42	2006—5,340
2007-08	12,135,665.00	2007—2,865

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

(1) Assisted voluntary returns figures were not published in 2003.

Notes:

1. Financial spend figures for AVR Programme year 2008-09 are not yet available as the programme is still currently operating.
2. Financial spend figures for AVR programme years 2006-07 and 2007-08 are still subject to audit and are therefore subject to change and should be treated as provisional
3. Asylum based returns under assisted voluntary return programmes (run by the International Organization for Migration) may include some cases leaving under the Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants Programme and some cases where enforcement action has been initiated.
4. Asylum based AVR returns figures for 2007 should be treated as provisional.

A breakdown of the spend on enforced returns of unsuccessful asylum seekers in each of the last five years is not available. The National Audit Office (NAO) give a breakdown of what it costs to enforce the removal of a failed asylum seeker in Appendix 2 of their Report "Returning Failed Asylum applicants". In this they estimate the average cost of an enforced removal as being £11,000.

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

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090114/text/90114w0013.htm#090115103000139>

Chris Huhne [246238]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal workers are estimated to be residing in the UK.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Since the abolition of embarkation controls, which started in 1994, no Government has ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally and that includes those that might be working illegally.

By the end of December 2008, the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country.

This is one part of the biggest shake up of border security and the immigration system in a generation which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

The UK Border Agency is committed to tackling illegal migrant working and will act on any intelligence it receives that a business is employing illegal workers. Equally, if an employer is found to be employing an illegal migrant worker and they have not ensured that the person has full entitlement to work in the UK, then they may be subject to a civil penalty of up to £10,000 or, in more serious cases, criminal prosecution. If convicted on indictment, the employer may face an unlimited fine and in some cases, imprisonment for up to two years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090114/text/90114w0017.htm#090115103000158>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

James Brokenshire [246847]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of children illegally trafficked into the UK.

Reply from Alan Campbell: A recent Government estimate was published in the Impact Assessment for the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against trafficking in Human Beings, laid before Parliament on 7 October 2008. This estimates that 360 children are trafficked each year into and within the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090113/text/90113w0036.htm#09011512000039>

John Barrett [244675]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent research she has commissioned on the links between prostitution and trafficking.

Reply from Alan Campbell: To inform the Government's Tackling the Demand for Prostitution: A Review, the Home Office commissioned research from the child and woman abuse studies unit at London metropolitan university which compared prostitution regimes across nine countries. This considered the impact of trafficking on the development of these regimes and the effect of each regime on levels of trafficking. We also commissioned a Rapid Evidence Assessment to look at existing research on the demand for prostitution. This considered the extent to which trafficking contributed to the demand for prostitution and the effect of different approaches to tackling demand on levels of trafficking. These reports will be published this year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090113/text/90113w0036.htm#09011512000040>

John Barrett [244770]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the immigration status is of the 167 victims of human trafficking recovered during Operation Pentameter 2.

Reply from Alan Campbell: The reluctance of many victims to accept third sector support and co-operate with the authorities made accurate assessment of immigration status difficult. But we know 60 were EU nationals and five others had indefinite leave to remain in the UK. 36 adult victims are recorded as having returned home voluntarily, including some EU nationals. A further 16 adults were removed using immigration powers. Of the remainder, a number ceased to cooperate at a very early stage while others lodged applications to remain in the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090113/text/90113w0036.htm#09011512000041>

John Barrett [244952]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what protection is made available to trafficked persons following the conviction of those responsible for their trafficking.

Reply from Maria Eagle: The Government's victim protection measures are not dependent on a conviction. We currently fund the Poppy project to provide specialist support to adult victims of these crimes. Victims are provided with unconditional intensive support for four weeks, with longer-term services provided in return for co-operation with a criminal investigation. The TARA project is funded to provide similar support services in Scotland. We also offer victims support with resettlement in their home country or within the United Kingdom where eligible. A victim whose safety is seriously at risk as a result of giving evidence may be placed in a police witness protection programme. Victims can also apply for asylum and humanitarian protection where appropriate.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

We have ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against the Trafficking in Human Beings which will come into force in April 2009. This will see the introduction of a 45 day reflection period where victims can consider their future options and one-year temporary resident permits, both of which can be extended in certain circumstances. Each case will have to be considered on its individual merits. The new measures are intended to compliment the asylum and humanitarian procedures and for many victims that may remain the most appropriate avenue of protection.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090113/text/90113w0036.htm#09011512000041>

Dominic Grieve [243326]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many victims of human trafficking have been rescued by the Metropolitan Police human trafficking unit in each of the last two years.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Figures from the Metropolitan police indicate that in 2007, there were 39 crime reports involving a potential 42 victims of human trafficking. Up to the 1 December 2008, there had been 31 reports alleging trafficking for sexual exploitation involving 34 possible victims.

It is not possible to break down the number of victims rescued solely by the activities of the MPS trafficking team, which is one part of the Met's wider commitment to tackling organised immigration crime including human trafficking.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090114/text/90114w0017.htm#090115103000153>

Dominic Grieve [243327]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) arrests and (b) convictions there have been for human trafficking offences as a result of the activity of the Metropolitan Police human trafficking unit in each of the last two years.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Figures from the Metropolitan police indicate that in 2007-08, the MPS human trafficking unit made a total of 33 arrests for human trafficking offences. The figures from the Met indicate that to date there have been eight convictions within the last two years for human trafficking with six others being convicted of related offences such as controlling prostitution.

It is not possible to detail the outcome of all cases as many are still progressing through the criminal justice system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090114/text/90114w0017.htm#090115103000153>

Dominic Grieve [243305]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many trafficked children have gone missing from the care of social services in each of the last five years.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: There is no central record of the number of victims of child trafficking who have gone missing from social services over the past five years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090114/text/90114w0017.htm#090115103000154>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Dominic Grieve [243300]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average sentence was for those convicted of human trafficking offences over the last five years.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The sentences imposed by the courts on those convicted of human trafficking ranges from suspended sentences to 14 years imprisonment.

The average length of sentence however for the offence of human trafficking is 4.69 years although it should be noted in many cases those convicted are serving longer terms of imprisonment as result of convictions for other related offences such as rape, inciting prostitution or immigration related offences.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090114/text/90114w0017.htm#090115103000155>

John Bercow [247384]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps he has taken to improve the protection of children who may have been trafficked.

Reply from Beverley Hughes: The Government ratified the Council of Europe convention on action against the trafficking of human beings on 17 December 2008 as part of its wider strategy set out in 'UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking' and published in March 2007. In December 2007 the DCSF and Home Office jointly published guidance on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who may have been trafficked.

Early identification is the key to protecting these vulnerable children, DCSF is therefore working with the Home Office and key stakeholders to develop a toolkit to help front line staff recognise the potential indicators of trafficking as part of a new National Referral Mechanism (NRM) being set up under the convention to protect all victims of trafficking.

In addition to this the DCSF has provided substantial funding for ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) to deliver training on child trafficking to front line practitioners dealing with children who may have been trafficked.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090115/text/90115w0012.htm#090115121000057>

Neil Gerrard [241133]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what protocol is used by the police for dealing with people who are identified as having been trafficked.

Reply from Alan Campbell: We have in place existing collaborative ways of identifying, referring and supporting victims whereby the police can seek advice from the specialist United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre in the identification of victims. Forces are also advised as to the appropriate support services available for those who are identified as victims.

On 17 December 2008 we ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. By April 2009 at the latest we will introduce a reflection period of 45 days and a renewable one year residence permit for identified victims of human trafficking. Additionally, we are introducing formal identification measures under a National Referral Mechanism by which victims are systematically identified by a Competent Authority and referred to appropriate support.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090115/text/90115w0027.htm#0901162000079>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

John Barrett [244772]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has commissioned on the links between migration and human trafficking.

Reply from Alan Campbell: The links between migration and human trafficking form a central part of the work undertaken by the Serious Organised Crime Agency as part of its work to produce the annual UK Threat Assessment. This work is underpinned through two SOCA programmes of activity that focus on organised immigration crime.

Within this framework SOCA works closely with both international and domestic partners including the UK Human Trafficking Centre.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090115/text/90115w0027.htm#0901162000079>

Anthony Steen [243824]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will hold discussions with her counterparts in other EU member states to seek to establish systems to provide safety, support and advice for trafficking victims discovered in the UK and returned to other EU member states.

Reply from Alan Campbell: We are in regular dialogue with international partners and we have played an active role in the G6 initiative to assist in enhancing international co-operation, increase knowledge of human trafficking and develop victim care capabilities.

This work has built on the EU plan on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings (EU action plan on trafficking) which was introduced under our presidency of the European Union and will be further taken forward under the Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings which we ratified on 17 December 2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090115/text/90115w0027.htm#0901162000081>

Dominic Grieve [241543]: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the eligibility requirements are for victims of human trafficking to be granted access to safe accommodation funded by the Government.

Maria Eagle: To qualify for safe accommodation under the Government-funded Poppy project individuals must be over 18-years-old, trafficked into the United Kingdom and sexual exploited in England and Wales. Priority for accommodation is given to individuals that have experienced exploitation in the immediate three months prior to referral. This year we also piloted support provisions for victims of trafficking for forced labour and domestic servitude.

We ratified the Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings on 17 December 2008. This will require us to have minimum levels of support for all identified victims of human trafficking by spring 2009. We are currently tendering for a national support model for victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation and domestic servitude, as they share similar high-level support needs. We are also working with the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre to develop support services for victims trafficked into forced labour.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090113/text/90113w0029.htm#0901151000030>

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

Government's new bill shakes up the route to citizenship

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/Border-citizen-immigration-bill>

Committee tells government there must be no 'gap' in monitoring the UK border agency

http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/home_affairs_committee/hacpn090112no09.cfm

New policy on judicial reviews that challenge removals

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

UK Border Agency response to BNP links among a private contractor's staff

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

New publications

Monitoring of the UK border Agency

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmhaff/77/77.pdf>

European Council for Refugees and Exiles Information Note on the Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third country nationals

http://www.ecre.org/files/ECRE_Information_Note>Returns_Directive_January_2009.pdf

Migrant Rights News

<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/enews/2009/january.htm#A2migrants>

News

UK border staff were members of BNP

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/UK-border-staff-were-members.4872641.jp>

Migrant rules may hit economic recovery

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2481640.0.migrant_rules_may_hit_economic_recovery.php

Citizenship test plans published

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7829265.stm

A new way to earn UK citizenship

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7254926.stm

Library books for Polish readers

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside_and_central/7833435.stm

Borders and Migration Bill threatens the UK's economic recovery

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/pressreleases/?id=3346>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Moira murder case 'hampered by shortage of translators'

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2482572.0.moira_murder_case_hampered_by_shortage_of_translators.php

Immigration rules to be tightened

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Immigration-rules-to-be-tightened.4888002.jp>

MPs fight to stop deportation of activist

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2009/jan/18/luka-phiri-deportation-zimbabwe>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Ken Macintosh (S3M-3213): Upholding Good Inter-Faith Relations at Times of Tension—That the Parliament recognises that events elsewhere in the world often have repercussions for communities in Scotland; emphasises that it is particularly important at times of tension to uphold and deepen good inter-faith relations, and therefore endorses the recent statement from the Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom calling for communities to talk together in ways that increase understanding rather than lead to suspicion and distrust, and, while praying for peace and working for justice at the present time of crisis in Gaza, also holds firmly to the principle of maintaining bonds of trust between our communities.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=15514>

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Paul Goodman: The Minister with responsibility for the middle east will be acutely aware that what happens abroad can have consequences at home. Given the rise in anti-Semitic incidents in Britain since 27 December, including an attempt to burn down a synagogue, and given the attacks on Muslims and mosques that have taken place since 9/11, will he tell the House what discussions he has had with domestic Ministers to ensure that they at least try to get Jewish, Muslim and other organisations to talk to each other at this difficult time? Also, does he agree that, while it is entirely right for people to march, protest and demonstrate if they feel so moved, violence and intimidation must be left outside the door of our common British home?

Reply from Bill Rammell: I strongly agree with the hon. Gentleman. The Government and I deplore anti-Semitic attacks and anti-Muslim attacks. I also agree with the underlying thrust of his question. Inter-faith and inter-community dialogue is desperately important. Last week, Ministers from elsewhere in Whitehall and I met a number of Israeli and Muslim groups from within this country to ensure that they were aware of our views and of what the British Government are doing to try to achieve the ceasefire in the middle east that is so desperately needed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090113/debtext/90113-0003.htm#09011355000018>

Race Relations (continued)

New publication

Letter from Communities Secretary Hazel Blears to all communities regarding the current situation in Gaza.

I am writing to you as the Communities Secretary about community cohesion in the UK during the current situation in Gaza. We know and understand that this issue deeply concerns many in our communities. I am aware that there has been an increase in community tensions and it is important that we work together to manage and resolve tensions where they arise at this difficult time.

I am sure that you would want to join me in condemning all religious and racially motivated attacks. We will not tolerate racists and trouble makers disrupting our local communities. You will also agree that international events, however distressing, provide no justification for violence and we need your support as members of the local community to work with all communities, local authorities and the police to address, and manage, community concerns.

As the Foreign Secretary has outlined, in response to the current cycle of violence in Gaza, the British Government has secured a UN Security Council Resolution, which, amongst other things, calls for an immediate ceasefire, and for distribution of humanitarian supplies.

The British Government is at the forefront of tackling all forms of hate crime and we are keen to reassure communities that we take all forms of hate crime seriously.

At times like this it is important to recognise, and to build on, the excellent inter faith work and dialogue that members of all faith communities have developed in recent years, at local, regional and national level. Through our support for the Inter Faith Network and through the undertakings we made in the Government's inter faith framework published last year, we are committed to the further development of inter faith relations – bringing people of good will together from all our communities.

I understand that many of you will be concerned about these difficult times. However, I would urge you to continue to work with community representatives to protect and strengthen your communities. I also know how important it is for your concerns to be heard and for your views to be respected at both a local and a national level. This is why both I and my ministerial colleagues have met with representatives across communities and we will continue to do this over the coming weeks.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1121325.pdf>

News

Hands up who hates the Jews

<http://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/scotsol/homepage/news/article2128933.ece>

Race row at top Scots private school after Muslim kids are asked about Jews

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/01/14/race-row-at-top-scots-private-school-after-muslim-kids-are-asked-about-jews-86908-21039465/>

One in 10 children in Britain now live in mixed race family, says report

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/4283322/One-in-10-children-in-Britain-now-live-in-mixed-race-family-says-report.html>

Christians are becoming social pariahs in Britain, claims Jeremy Vine

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/religion/4277439/Christians-are-becoming-social-pariahs-in-Britain-claims-Jeremy-Vine.html>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Lord Ouseley: [HL362] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Equality and Human Rights Commission has established a race committee; and, if not, what steps it will take to prioritise race equality.

Reply from Baroness Royall of Blaisdon: Under the Equality Act 2006, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is required to have three statutory advisory committees, for Scotland, Wales and Disability. As the EHRC covers seven protected areas of equality and also human rights, it would not be practical to have additional non-statutory advisory committees to cover its other remit areas.

However, as part of its developing stakeholder engagement strategy, the EHRC is looking at establishing core networks of stakeholders from the different equality areas to meet, on an advisory basis, at regular intervals throughout the year. This will include a network looking at race issues. More details on this proposal will be published in the spring.

Specific work the EHRC is doing to prioritise race equality includes working with the Prison Service to tackle race inequality in prisons, investigating the impact of social housing allocation on community cohesion and good relations between people from different racial groups, a major assessment of the state of policing and race equality in England, Scotland and Wales, including the differential use of stop and search powers, and the Young Brits at Art competition, designed to help schools and youth centres deal with difference and diversity in an entertaining and accessible way.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90114w0002.htm#09011439000290>

Lord Stoddart of Swindon: [HL419] To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 26 November (WA 330), why grant-in-aid is paid to the British Association for Women in Policing and the National Association of Muslim Police.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The Government's vision is to have a police service that has the trust and confidence of all communities and that reflects the communities it serves.

Grant-in-Aid is paid by the Home Office to the British Association of Women in Policing (BAWP) and the National Association of Muslim Police (NAMP), to support the work they do towards delivering this vision.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90112w0006.htm#09011227000792>

Press Release

Dragon to breath fire for Ethnic Minority Task Force

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=389744&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=True>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Asked by Lord Ouseley [HL123]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they propose to give to the magistracy following the decisions of magistrates' courts in recent cases not to impose banning orders on persons found guilty of racial abuse at football matches.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The recent decision by a magistrates' court not to impose a banning order against an individual who pleaded guilty to the offence of racist chanting during the match between Middlesbrough and Newcastle United on 29 November 2008 is both disappointing and surprising.

The local race harassment case group, which is chaired by the Crown Prosecution Service and includes police, BME and Safer Community representatives from the local authorities, the North East Refugee Service and others, will review this case and take further action if appropriate.

The Crown Prosecution Service and the Football Banning Orders Authority have advised that there is no national pattern of courts refusing to impose banning orders following conviction for racist chanting. Convictions for offences of racist (or indecent) chanting committed during the 2006-07 and 2007-08 football seasons resulted in the imposition of 14 banning orders.

The law is clear that a banning order should be imposed against a person convicted of a football-related offence in connection with a regulated football match, including racist chanting, if there are reasonable grounds to believe that making an order would help to prevent violence or disorder in connection with regulated matches.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090115/debtext/90115-0002.htm#09011510200027>

Westminster Early Day Motion

John Mann (461) Current State of Anti-Semitism in the UK – That this House notes that in recent days a wave of anti-Semitic incidents have affected the Jewish community; further notes that one synagogue has suffered an arson attack and many others have been defaced; further notes that Jewish community organisations have faced a barrage of threatening and abusive emails and telephone calls; further notes that while there have been thankfully few physical attacks on Jewish people many Jews report having been verbally abused and threatened; further notes in addition extremist demands for terrorist attacks against Jews and Jewish children around the world; calls on the Government and civil society to assiduously assure every community that will not tolerate attacks, abuse or hostility aimed towards Jews, Muslims or anyone else on the pretext of the ongoing situation in Gaza; and calls on all democrats to join together to ensure that the United Kingdom is a place where debate and protest are peaceful, and lawful and communities are free to live, practice and worship without fear or intimidation.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=37484&SESSION=899>

New publications

Police and racism: What has been achieved 10 years after the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry report?

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Documents/Race/Policeandracism.pdf>

Racism and Religious Hatred

New publications (continued)

Racism and its impact on young people

http://www.youthforum.org/Downloads/Press_publications/reports/racism.pdf

News

Army to look into racist remark by prince

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2480931.0.Army_to_look_into_racist_remark_by_prince.php

Army to examine prince's comments

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7823404.stm>

Brown: Harry's racist comment 'unacceptable'

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2481195.0.brown_harrys_racist_comment_unacceptable.php

Why Harry's gaffe is anything but harmless or affectionate

http://www.sundayherald.com/oped/opinion/display.var.2482510.0.why_harrys_gaffe_is_anything_but_harmless_or_affectionate.php

Minister to take legal action after radio show cancelled

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2480853.0.minister_to_take_legal_action_after_radio_show_cancelled.php

A shattered cheek, severed nerves, two black eyes, stitches – all because Lucy speaks with an English accent

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/A-shattered-cheek-severed-nerves.4872071.jp>

'Anti-English' punch hurts woman

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/north_east/7826264.stm

Woman injured in 'anti-English' street attack

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2481498.0.woman_injured_in_antienglish_street_attack.php

The English are the first among unequal minorities

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/featuresopinion/display.var.2481771.0.The_English_are_the_first_among_unequal_minorities.php

Agencies 'will act with ethnic bias'

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2481639.0.agencies_will_act_with_ethnic_bias.php

A black and white issue

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/opinion/Dani-Garavelli-A-black-and.4887770.jp>

Metropolitan Police's ethnic recruitment processes under scrutiny

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article5536683.ece>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Muslims urge end to anti-Semitism

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7831897.stm>

Worst wave of hate for quarter of a century

<http://www.thejc.com/articles/worst-wave-hate-quarter-a-century>

Faith leaders speak out against hate attacks

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article5525164.ece>

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Lord Lester of Herne Hill [HL371]: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will make representations to the Governments of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh about introducing legislation which complements the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: We continue to work with the Governments of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh to tackle forced marriage and encourage them to take steps to prevent forced marriages taking place. These discussions cover a range of options, from awareness-raising and outreach work to possible legal remedies. We continue to work closely with these governments to provide effective consular assistance to British nationals affected by forced marriage.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90112w0004.htm#09011227000765>

Paul Goodman [245536]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many mosque schools the Islam and Citizenship Education programme is being piloted; in which cities these schools are located; how the pilot will be evaluated; and when he expects the programme to be rolled out nationally.

Reply from Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Islam and Citizenship Education Project is being piloted in 30 mosque schools in London, Bristol, Leicester, Bradford/Kirklees and Oldham/Rochdale. The Institute of Community Cohesion has been commissioned to evaluate the project. The draft lessons are freely available online to all mosque schools and will be updated in April 2009 following the end of piloting.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090112/text/90112w0003.htm#09011220000017>

Robert Neill [246370]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of unauthorised traveller sites in England.

Reply from Iain Wright: In July 2008 local authorities recorded 981 unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller sites in England.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090113/text/90113w0019.htm#09011492000039>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in respect of which areas reviews of Green Belt and the provision of traveller sites are recommended in draft regional spatial strategies. [246371]

Reply from Iain Wright: There are currently four draft regional spatial strategies (RSS) undergoing revisions.

East Midlands :

The Government are currently considering representations made on the Proposed Changes and are working towards the final issue of the RSS in 2009.

Review of Green Belts recommended

The draft RSS recommends a review of the most sustainable locations for growth within the Nottingham Core Housing Market Area over the next 25 years, which may include considering locations within the Green Belt.

This review needs to be done as part of the evidence base underpinning the next RSS review.

Provision of traveller pitches recommended

The Draft East Midlands RSS sets out the number of traveller pitches required in the region and it is up to local authorities to identify specific locations in local plans.

West Midlands Phase 2 and Phase 3 :

The West Midlands is taking a phased approach to the revision of its RSS.

Consultation on Phase 2 is completed and it will be submitted to an Examination in Public in Spring 2009.

Review of Green Belts recommended

The draft Phase 2 West Midlands regional spatial strategy identifies the need for review of Green Belt round Coventry and Redditch.

Provision of traveller pitches recommended

The provision of traveller pitches will be addressed in Phase 3 of the RSS review. The West Midlands Regional Assembly are currently developing option papers for Phase 3 and have yet to commence consultation.

South East :

The Government are currently considering representations made on the Proposed Changes and are working towards the final issue of the RSS in 2009.

Review of Green Belts recommended

The Government's Proposed Changes included proposals for selective Green Belt review at Oxford and Guildford, and possibly south of Woking, plus small scale reviews at Chertsey and Redhill/Reigate.

Provision of traveller pitches recommended

The Draft South East RSS sets out the number of traveller pitches required across the region, however it is up to the local authorities to identify the specific location of traveller sites in local plans.

South West :

The Government are currently considering representations made on the Proposed Changes and are working towards the final issue of the RSS in 2009.

Review of Green Belts recommended

The Proposed Changes included proposals to revise the Bristol and Bath, Gloucester and Cheltenham and South East Dorset Green Belts.

Provision of traveller pitches recommended

The Draft South West RSS sets out the number of traveller pitches for each local authority area, however it is up to the local authorities to identify the specific location of traveller sites in local plans.

Four RSSs have already been issued by the Secretary of State and the West Midlands (Phase 1) RSS:

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

15 January 2008—West Midlands (Phase 1) Black Country sub-regional plan

12 May 2008—East of England

21 May 2008—Yorkshire and Humber

15 July 2008—North East

30 September 2008—North West

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090113/text/90113w0019.htm#09011492000039>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090113/text/90113w0020.htm>

Eric Pickles [245993]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has issued guidance to local authorities on using semi-rural and rural land to provide Traveller sites.

Reply from Iain Wright: Guidance to local authorities on the use of semi-rural or rural land for Gypsy and Traveller Sites is contained in ODPM Circular 01/2006 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites'.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090113/text/90113w0020.htm#09011492000040>

Eric Pickles [246039]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1903W, on Travelling people: council tax, what guidance has been given to local authorities on whether unauthorised Traveller sites should receive rubbish collection services.

Reply from Iain Wright: Local authorities are responsible for the collection and disposal of waste in their local area. Communities and Local Government has not produced guidance on whether unauthorised developments and encampments should receive waste collection services. However, 'Guidance on Managing Unauthorised Camping', published in 2004, gives guidance on dealing with waste and fly-tipping when managing an unauthorised encampment, including the use of Codes of Expected Behaviour.

Local authorities may want to consider whether the provision of means to enable Gypsies and Travellers on unauthorised encampments to dispose of their rubbish and waste, for an appropriate fee, is appropriate in individual circumstances. Such action was recommended by the Independent Task Group on Site Provision and Enforcement and could help to minimise costs to the authority.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090115/text/90115w0017.htm#090115122000020>

[TOP](#)

New Publications

Human Rights Watch World Report 2009

http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/wr2009_web.pdf

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights: Annual Work Programme 2009

http://fra.europa.eu/fra/material/pub/WP/wp09_en.pdf

[TOP](#)

Other News

Hope for temporary sites for gypsy travellers

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/01/15/newsstory12500960t0.asp>

Commission launches Power List to celebrate achievements of professional Muslim women

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/newsandcomment/Pages/EHRChonourProfessionalMuslimwomen.aspx>

Call for papers:

Muslim Youth: Challenges, Opportunities & Expectations

Abstracts for this conference, organised by the Association of Muslim Social Scientists, and the University of Chester, should be submitted no later than 5 February 2009. For more information see

<http://www.amssuk.com/docs/pdf/YOUTH%20CONFERENCE%202009%20CALL%20FOR%20PAPERS.pdf>

[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>

Stage 1 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor0115-02.htm#Col13999>

**** Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill**

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

Justice Committee: Stage 1 evidence from the Equality Network, Scottish Transgender Alliance, Stonewall Scotland, Enable Scotland, Capability Scotland, and the Scottish Association for Mental Health.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/or-09/ju09-0202.htm#Col1484>

**** Sexual Offences Bill**

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

Justice Committee: Stage 1 report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/reports-09/jur09-01.htm>

Bills in Progress (continued) **Westminster**

Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/borderscitizenshipandimmigration.html>

** First Reading House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90114-0002.htm#09011435000442>

[TOP](#)

Consultations (closing date)

** New or updated this week

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

Consultation guides

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/policyresearch/consultations/pages/consultationnov08.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>

Consultations (continued)

**** Regulations to implement the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Act 2008**
(30 March 2009)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_092465?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=180685&Rendition=Web

Scottish Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan (31 March 2009)

http://scottishhumanrights.com/documents/SHRC_StrategicPlan.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**

**** this week!**

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

Make a difference in your community

13 February 2009 in Glasgow (10.00 – 1.00)

Government Equalities Office event to encourage more women, especially those from ethnic minority backgrounds to consider standing as a local councillor. For information see http://www.equalities.gov.uk/women_councillors_taskforce/events.aspx

Equality and Diversity

23 April 2009 in Aberdeen (9.30 – 4.30)

SCVO seminar exploring the myths and facts surrounding the six equality strands - race, gender, disability, religion and belief, sexual orientation and age. For information contact Jane Baillie jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 8019.

[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 (SCoJeC)** 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 (the Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland) 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/>