

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.*

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MEMO will not be issued next week because both the Scottish and UK Parliaments are in recess.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Kenneth Gibson (Cunninghame North) (SNP): To ask the First Minister what impact new United Kingdom visa rules for international students will have on Scotland's universities. (S3F-1449)

Reply from Alex Salmond: International students make an important contribution to Scotland and they help to sustain and drive forward our economy, even in these difficult times. They also enhance the cultural diversity of our country. We are concerned about the possibility of fewer international students from outside the European Union coming to Scotland. The new system limits them to a four-year visa in the first instance and will introduce additional costs. We are also concerned about the additional administrative burden and expense for our universities and colleges in implementing the system. The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning has on several occasions written and spoken to UK ministers about our concerns. We will continue to press UK ministers on the issues.

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Specifically, we urge that dialogue between Home Office officials and stakeholders should continue through the joint education task force.

Kenneth Gibson: As the First Minister is aware, more than 58,000 overseas students study in Scotland. Based on the experience in the United States post-9/11, the Labour Government's plan to introduce new and incredibly complex visa rules could cost Scotland's universities up to £50 million a year, which is why Universities Scotland has expressed serious concerns. Does he agree with Universities Scotland that scaring away overseas students "with complex regulations would be madness for our economy and madness for our society", and that "With America opening its doors to students again, and many other countries stepping up recruitment strategies, this is the worst possible time to tie the hands of Scottish universities recruiting overseas"?

Reply from Alex Salmond: Yes, I agree. I saw a story on that in the *Sunday Herald* at the weekend, which I think contained that quotation from Universities Scotland. Some progress has been made in the past year, although not enough. The new system originally would have required students to have substantial funds—£800 a month—but, following representations, that was cut. We have lost the Scottish advantage through the fresh talent initiative's two years' leave to remain, as that now applies throughout the UK, but we successfully retained the higher national diploma qualification as a criterion for the scheme. As that pertains only in Scotland, that is therefore still an advantage. We successfully opposed the proposal in a consultation document to cut the leave to remain for academic visitors from 12 months to three months. After representations, that proposal was reversed.

However, those concessions are not enough. The attitude that seems to be displayed through the new system is fundamentally wrong-headed. We should encourage more overseas students into our universities because they strengthen our academic system, universities' finances and cultural diversity. I hope and believe that the entire chamber can unite on that point in getting the argument across to the UK Government.

Claire Baker: Does the First Minister recognise that the four-year visa covers the vast majority of Scottish degrees, that renewing the visa should be straightforward for genuine students and that the visa charges are not significant compared with international students' fees? Scottish colleges strongly welcomed the visa moves, believing that they will weed out bogus institutions and students. As he recognises, the previous Scottish Government showed, through the fresh talent initiative, that negotiation can secure more suitable terms for Scotland in relation to immigration and border control. Will he work with the whole Parliament on a cross-party basis so that we can all focus on delivering the improvements that Scottish universities want to see?

Reply from Alex Salmond: Yes, we will work with the whole Parliament, which is what I said in my first answer. However, Claire Baker should recognise that the universities and colleges have very serious concerns about the proposed system. I outlined some of the concessions that we have been able to win from, or agree with, the UK Government over the past year, which will mitigate some of the effects that people are concerned about. However, make no mistake—the colleges and universities are seriously concerned about the nature of the proposals. Although I welcome the opportunity to work with the whole Parliament, and Fiona Hyslop and others will of course make representations to UK ministers to try to persuade them to change their mind on these issues, I merely ask Labour and other members whether it would not be better if we could take decisions on these issues for ourselves as opposed to having to depend on lobbying people from elsewhere.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor0212-02.htm#Col15027>

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Richard Baker: To ask the First Minister, in light of reports that around 700 victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation are living in Scotland, whether the Scottish Government will ask the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency to set up an internal specialist unit to tackle this problem. (S3F-1464)

Reply from Alex Salmond: Human trafficking is a high priority for the Scottish Government and, indeed, for the Scottish police service. In Scotland, the pentameter 2 operation to target human trafficking in 2007-08 resulted in 56 premises being visited, 35 arrests, 59 potential adult victims being recovered and cash seizures of £17,500.

The Scottish Government has provided funding of £70,950 to the trafficking awareness-raising alliance, which provides support to women who have been trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation and aims to raise awareness among front-line staff in agencies that are likely to come into contact with victims of trafficking.

The SCDEA will continue to work with the eight Scottish forces and with United Kingdom law enforcement agencies to identify and address those responsible for human trafficking.

Richard Baker: Given those disturbing reports and Amnesty International UK's research showing that, within the UK, Scotland has a disproportionate number of victims of such offences, is it not time to establish a unit in the SCDEA to tackle trafficking? Will the First Minister not only continue constructive engagement with UK counterparts on trafficking but consider reform of the law, because the successful police operations in Scotland against these appalling crimes of exploitation, to which he referred, have not been followed by prosecutions?

Reply from Alex Salmond: We will listen to any constructive proposals to address what is a serious problem. The estimate that we provided was based on research that focused on data from the police, the statutory agencies, victims services and non-governmental organisations. It was a substantial piece of data. Richard Baker should acknowledge that Amnesty International UK said that it "welcomes the funding made available by the Scottish Government for local authorities to support victims of other forms of trafficking. Scotland is the only part of the UK with this provision."

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor0212-02.htm#Col15029>

Westminster Debate

Immigration Rules (Small Businesses)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090211/debtext/90211-0022.htm#09021180000002>

Westminster Ministerial Statements

Visa Waiver Test

Jacqui Smith (Secretary of State for the Home Department): Today my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I are announcing the final outcomes of the UK's first global review of its visa regimes.

Britain thrives as a society and economy that is open for business, education, culture and tourism to people from around the world, but we want to do that in a way that enables us to distinguish clearly and effectively legitimate from illegitimate travellers.

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

We are completing some of the biggest ever changes to strengthen Britain's border security by implementing a system of triple checks: stronger overseas checks including fingerprint visas and wider pre-arrival screening; tougher checks at the UK border itself; and strong new measures within the UK: against illegal immigration, organised crime and other threats.

The Visa Waiver Test process, announced in March 2007, further strengthens the UK border by ensuring that our visa regimes are properly targeted. A visa regime is a simple but very effective immigration, crime and security control measure.

The Visa Waiver Test measured travel from every country and region beyond the European economic area and Switzerland against a range of criteria including illegal immigration, crime and security concerns.

As part of the test we also considered whether any countries or regions posed a sufficiently low risk such as to warrant the lifting of an existing visitor visa requirement, so as to facilitate legitimate travel.

In the final stage of the test we worked closely with 11 countries whose nationals had been identified as posing a sufficiently high risk as to warrant, in principle, the introduction of a visa requirement for all travellers. We worked with the countries concerned over a six-month period to find ways to reduce the risks posed to the UK without the need for a visa requirement.

We have been able to make real progress with a number of countries through a combination of advice, training and improved working relations on migration matters. As a result some of the 11 countries have made concrete improvements to the immigration, border control and identity systems which would not have happened without the test. Even where a visa regime is the final outcome, we have improved co-operation on migration matters with the countries concerned. At the end of this process we assessed the overall progress made by each country, and whether or not it was sufficient to mitigate the risks to the UK.

We will not be introducing new visa requirements at this time for certain countries involved in the final stage of the test: Botswana, Brazil, Malaysia, Mauritius, Namibia and Trinidad and Tobago. We will continue to work with these countries on migration matters and assess the effectiveness of the actions taken. Should circumstances warrant it, we will re-examine the situation and take prompt action.

We have also concluded that Taiwan presents a low migration risk and we will be lifting the visitor visa requirement for Taiwan passport holders coming to the UK for less than six months, and who are not seeking to work. This will take effect from 3 March.

We have decided to introduce new visa requirements for Bolivia, Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland and Venezuela. This means that short-term visitors from these countries will need to apply for a six-month visa and provide their fingerprints, before travelling to the UK. Nationals of these countries seeking to travel via the UK en route to another country will also need a transit visa. This is in addition to the existing requirement for a visa in order to live, work, study or marry in the UK.

In the case of South Africa, we will introduce the visa requirement in two stages. The first stage, beginning on 3 March, will require only first time visitors to the UK from South Africa to obtain a visa. Those who can show a satisfactory previous travel history to the UK will initially be exempt from the visa requirement. This exemption must be evidenced by a UK entry stamp in their current passport. We will introduce the full visa regime by the middle of 2009.

In the case of Venezuela we will require visas from their nationals but we will waive this requirement for all those travelling on biometric, machine readable passports. This is because our main concern related to the ease with which old-style Venezuelan passports could be forged or fraudulently obtained. Our assessment is that their new-style passports are secure and that the new visa requirement is proportionate to the remaining risk posed by the old-style passports.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

We will announce implementation dates for the full visa regime for South Africa, and the visa regimes for Bolivia, Lesotho, Swaziland and Venezuela, in due course. Implementation for all these countries will be by the middle of 2009. We will announce the final dates at least 21 days before imposition.

All the new visa regimes will be implemented to the high standard of the UK's current visa operations.

Separately to the Visa Waiver Test, we have also decided to introduce a transit visa requirement for nationals of Jamaica. In January 2003 a visa requirement was introduced for Jamaican nationals visiting the United Kingdom. It did not include a requirement to obtain a transit visa when passing through the UK to another destination. We have been monitoring the situation and have found evidence that some Jamaican nationals have attempted to exploit the visa-free transit concession to enter and remain in the UK illegally. The requirement for a transit visa will take effect from 3 March.

The Visa Waiver Test is ongoing. We will conduct a full review in due course to ensure that benefits are fully realised and costs understood. In the meantime we will continue to work with all these countries and regions to build on the excellent working relationships we have developed during the Visa Waiver Test process to make sure we effectively secure the UK border.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090209/wmstext/90209m0001.htm#09020912000006>

Immigration and Nationality Services (Fees)

Phil Woolas (Minister for Borders and Immigration): I am today laying regulations on fees for immigration and nationality services. The Government review the fees on a regular basis and makes appropriate changes as necessary. We have continued with our strategic approach to charging; setting certain fees on the basis of the value of the service as well as cost recovery in a number of areas.

Some fees will continue to be set at or below levels that reflect the administrative costs of the service. These fees must be set out in regulations before both Houses of Parliament and are subject to the negative procedure. Other fees continue to be set at levels above the normal administrative costs of the service. This allows us to generate revenue which is used either to set certain fees below cost recovery or to deliver the Government's wider objectives such as the doubling of resource for enforcement announced in March 2007, and the fund to manage the transitional impacts of migration announced in July 2008. These fees must also be specified in regulations before both Houses, but are subject to the affirmative process.

Today I laid regulations setting the fees charged above cost recovery. I am announcing our proposals for all the immigration and nationality fees we intend to charge during 2009/10 in order that Parliament may consider these regulations in context. For transparency, I have included the estimated unit cost for each route, so that it is clear which fees are set at or below cost recovery and the degree to which certain other routes are not.

Finally, we have also proposed fees for several new processes and services we provided previously free of charge. These new services were specified in the Fees Order laid on the 21 January. The fees for these services will be set in negative regulations. Full details on how to apply for these services will be provided on our website, www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk.

To see the full table of fees for 2009-10 see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090212/wmstext/90212m0007.htm#09021291000011>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090212/wmstext/90212m0008.htm>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Hugh Bayley: What procedures are in place to deport illegal immigrants convicted of a criminal offence. [254638]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Last year, the UK Border Agency met the target that we set it to remove more than 5,000 foreign criminals. We now consider for deportation all non-European economic area foreign nationals sentenced to 12 months or more.

Hugh Bayley: Mr. Dun Lun Hu, a Chinese national who evaded deportation for five years after his asylum application was rejected, was convicted of selling counterfeit goods in a Yorkshire court in August but was then released on bail by magistrates. I am pleased to say that he has now been deported, but I would like to see the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice working more closely together on such cases. When a court knows or learns in the course of proceedings that a person is an illegal immigrant evading deportation, should it not hold the person until the Border Agency has had the opportunity to seek detention under the immigration rules?

Reply from Phil Woolas: I have looked into that case, about which my hon. Friend has rightly written extensively. I am pleased to confirm that the gentleman concerned was detained and subsequently removed from our country. Sometimes, of course, there are difficulties with court rulings, but my hon. Friend is right on the general principle.

Stewart Jackson: After several questions over a number of months, why is it still impossible to get a straight answer from the hon. Gentleman's Department about the number of residents in the Peterborough constituency who are applying for indefinite leave to remain and the number of those who have had their applications refused? Why is the Minister not in a position to tell me how many residents are in that situation? Is that any way to run an immigration system?

Reply from Phil Woolas: The hon. Gentleman should listen to the answer. He has asked lots of parliamentary questions that I have answered forthrightly, although not always to his satisfaction. The particular point that he has made is about constituency boundaries; we have, of course, been able to provide data by administrative boundaries, but it is not always possible to provide them by constituency boundaries. The figures that I have given him are robust.

Henry Bellingham: Is the Minister aware that a container lorry full of illegal immigrants from Afghanistan recently arrived in my constituency? It is hard not to admire the human courage of people who have risked their lives in travelling across two continents, but surely that is not a reason for granting asylum. Does he agree that at a time when a lot of British lives are being lost in Afghanistan, and when much of that country is under coalition control, one could argue that we should not be taking any asylum seekers from that country?

Reply from Phil Woolas: I am very aware of the incident to which the hon. Gentleman has referred. I congratulate the diligence and bravery of the UKBA staff; he also did so in the local papers, and I thank him for that.

On the general point about policy towards Afghanistan, I agree that our forces there are doing a heroic job. Under the Geneva convention, of course, asylum is looked at case by case. We do, of course, now deport people to Afghanistan.

Chris Grayling: In November 2007, the Government admitted that thousands of people cleared by officials to work in the security industry were working in Britain illegally; one of them was even guarding the Prime Minister's car. How many of those thousands of people have now been deported?

Reply from Phil Woolas: I am more than happy to engage in correspondence with the hon. Gentleman on the specific figures. However, I note from *The Sunday Times* that the hon. Gentleman, whom I welcome to his post, is now against our border controls that involve counting people in and counting them out.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

He has described that as being evidence of a “Big Brother” state. I ask him whether he is still in favour— *[Interruption.]* Mr. Speaker, he cannot have border controls and make statements such as those that he made on Sunday.

Chris Grayling: It is hardly surprising that the hon. Gentleman does not want to answer the question. Last week, Ministers were forced to come clean and admit that only 35 of those more than 3,000 people working illegally in the UK had been deported. That is despite the fact that, at the time, the Home Secretary said: “There was no fiasco or blunder; there was strengthened and improved action.”—[*Official Report*, 13 November 2007; Vol. 467, c. 538.] Why should anyone have confidence in the Government when they cannot even evict illegal migrant workers when they know who they are and where they are working?

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Government are removing illegal migrant workers—one every eight minutes. The hon. Gentleman can play politics with this issue, but does he mean that he will rewrite the Geneva convention? Does he mean that he will ignore the independent decisions of judges? Does he mean that, as he said in *The Sunday Times* yesterday, he opposes the e-border controls that allow this country to protect its borders? Which is it?

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090209/debtext/90209-0001.htm#0902097000018>

James Clappison [254538]: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will rank the UK among other EU member states in terms of net migration in (a) 1997 and (b) the most recent year for which figures are available.

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 February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your question concerning how the UK ranks among other EU member states in terms of net migration in (a) 1997 and (b) the most recent year for which figures are available. (254538)

Eurostat publish net migration figures for all EU member states. These may differ from the estimates produced by individual national statistics institutes as Eurostat make adjustments to improve comparability across member states. These show that the UK had the fourth highest levels of net migration in 1997 and third highest in 2007, the latest year for which complete data are available. However care should be taken when comparing net migration estimates as a small net migration figure may mask large immigration and emigration flows.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090209/text/90209w0018.htm#09020935000135>

Stewart Jackson [254649]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of measures to remove illegal immigrants from the UK.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The huge shake-up we have made to the immigration system is paying off. Our borders are tougher than ever before and we are removing record numbers of foreign law breakers.

In the three months to September 2008 around 17,500 people were removed. This included a 14 per cent. increase in non asylum removals—a group that includes foreign national prisoners.

Last year the UK Border Agency removed 5,000 foreign prisoners, a record performance that is nearly four times the number removed in 2005.
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090209/text/90209w0035.htm#09021017000003>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Peter Lilley [254655]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-UK nationals convicted of murder in their countries of origin have been granted leave to remain in the UK in the last three years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency works hand in hand with other Agencies, including the Serious and Organised Crime Agency, to ensure that the information required to prevent foreign criminals from entering or remaining in the UK is made available to those that need it.

We already have one of the toughest borders in the world and we are determined to ensure it stays that way.

We are expanding our watch-lists, working more closely with foreign Governments to share information, and speeding up the re-documentation of those being removed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090209/text/90209w0035.htm#09021017000008>

James Clappison [254172]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many general needs lettings were made by (a) local authorities and (b) registered social landlords to nationals of (i) EEA countries and (ii) non-EEA countries in the latest year for which figures are available.

Reply from Margaret Beckett: Information on the number of foreign national households allocated social housing is collected in the Continuous Recording of Letting form (CORE). A question on nationality was first introduced to the form for the 2006-07 data collection period. CORE is collected on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government by St. Andrew's University. Historically CORE has only collected information from registered social landlords. An increasing number of local authorities are now providing information through this process as well, but there are still some gaps in the data.

In 2007-08 for registered social landlords, there were 2,060 new general needs lettings made to foreign nationals from European Economic Area (EEA) countries and 2,020 from non-EEA countries.

The number of local authority general needs lettings is estimated using an adjustment for missing data. This is not yet available for 2007-08 and is expected to be completed by March 2009.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090209/text/90209w0042.htm#09021018000046>

Damian Green [254444]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have qualified for an integration loan from the UK Border Agency under (a) refugee status and (b) humanitarian protection criteria in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Between 11 June 2007 (when the integration loan scheme started) and the end of December 2008 a total of 1,137 loan applicants have been awarded a loan. 383 loans were awarded in 2007 and 754 in 2008.

The integration loan is available to those granted refugee status, humanitarian protection or those granted leave as a dependant of such individuals. Consideration of eligibility takes into account these factors and does not differentiate between whether an applicant has been granted refugee status or humanitarian protection. We therefore do not collect statistics on the immigration status of successful loan applicants.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090210/text/90210w0009.htm#09021038000085>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Mark Todd [253495]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review the application of the two-year rule to the right of a spouse to apply to remain in the UK.

Reply from Phil Woolas: In April 2003 the probationary period for those seeking settlement on the basis of marriage was increased from one to two years. The two year probationary period is intended to protect the system against abuse. This probationary period allows the UK Border Agency to assess that the relationship is subsisting and acts as a safeguard against those who might enter into a sham marriage solely for immigration purposes.

The UK Border Agency keeps its policies under continuous review to ensure that they operate effectively and meet the Government's wider immigration objectives.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090210/text/90210w0010.htm#09021038000104>

Hugh Bayley [253530]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of procedures for the deportation of illegal immigrants who are convicted of a criminal offence.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Select Committee advising of progress that the Agency has made in deporting such individuals and improvements to the system. Copies of these letters are available in the Library of the House. According to provisional internal management information, which is subject to change, the UK Border Agency deported or removed over 5,000 foreign national prisoners in 2008 meaning that it has again exceeded its Government set target and deported or removed record numbers of foreign criminals.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090210/text/90210w0011.htm#09021038000108>

James Clappison [253987]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 453-4W, on entry clearances: employment, how many work permit applications by non-EU workers were approved in each of the last three years for which figures are available, broken down by the 20 most frequent occupations.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The table shows the number of work permit applications for non-EU workers approved in each of the last three years broken down by the 20 most frequent occupations.

Figures are rounded to nearest five.

Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. The occupational categories used are not compatible with those in the Standard Occupational Classification.

Caveats:

The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

(see next page for table)

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

<i>Number of individual approved work permit applications from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2008</i>				
<i>Top 20 occupations</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>Total</i>
Other IT related occupation	15,275	17,065	17,485	49,830
Other manager related occupation	17,500	16,455	15,095	49,055
Nurse	13,615	8,515	8,770	30,900
Software engineer	9,535	10,610	7,410	27,555
Other financial occupation	7,480	8,705	7,450	23,635
Other engineering occupation	7,605	7,440	7,330	22,375
Chef	5,840	4,340	3,475	13,655
Researcher	4,570	4,515	4,160	13,250
Other health/medical occupation	6,495	3,305	3,135	12,935
Senior carer	5,690	2,180	3,475	11,340
Teacher (school/college)	4,040	3,800	3,445	11,285
Analyst programmer	2,925	3,790	3,465	10,180
System analyst	2,035	2,360	2,150	6,545
Project manager	1,475	1,665	1,845	4,985
Doctor	3,035	905	905	4,845
Other hotel catering occupation	2,090	1,445	1,205	4,740
Other education/cultural occupation	1,515	1,500	1,330	4,345
Accountant	1,380	1,185	1,090	3,655
Business analyst	785	1,335	1,425	3,550
Marketing/sales manager	1,135	1,240	1,105	3,485
Others	30,935	25,975	25,320	82,235
Total	144,950	128,325	121,080	94,355

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090210/text/90210w0011.htm#09021038000115>

Lord Marlesford: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many persons were granted full United Kingdom citizenship during 2008, broken down by country of origin. [HL1053]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The latest available data indicate that 90,555 persons were granted British citizenship in the period January to September 2008. This figure is provisional and rounded to the nearest five.

Summary statistics of persons granted British citizenship for October to December 2008 will be published on 24 February 2009.

Statistics on persons granted British citizenship by previous nationality are published in Home Office National Statistics statistical bulletins. Data for 2008 are scheduled for publication in May 2009. This annual publication will include details of previous nationality for persons granted British citizenship during 2008, after the necessary data quality assurance processes have been completed. Data for 2007 can be found in table 4 of Persons Granted British Citizenship United Kingdom, 2007. This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office research, development and statistics website at

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90211w0001.htm#09021177000361>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Ian Davidson [254676]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress is being made in clearing the backlog of undetermined immigration legacy cases; by what date she expects all such cases to have been determined; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas: As of 9 January the UK Border Agency concluded 155,500 legacy cases. The Agency is aiming to conclude these cases by summer 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090211/text/90211w0014.htm#09021110000012>

Kerry McCarthy [255610]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance the UK Border Agency has issued to the police on reporting requirements for unsuccessful asylum seekers and their dependent children.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Instructions to the police on reporting requirements for unsuccessful asylum claimants are the same as for asylum seekers whose claims are still being considered and for all of those who are liable to detention and who are subject to temporary admission.

For all individuals who are required to report to police stations, UKBA issues a form instructing the police that the individual will start reporting, and to inform the UKBA office commissioning the reporting events if the individual fails to report. UKBA also prescribes the frequency with which each individual should report.

Children under the age of 17 are not normally required to report on a regular basis, but may be required to attend on some occasions, as part of the strategy for keeping in touch.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090211/text/90211w0014.htm#09021110000012>

Robert Goodwill [255637]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether bonuses are paid to those employed to supervise the transportation of deportees to airports, on the removal of such deportees.

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).

The contractors employ detainee custody officers (DCOs) to carry out the duties of escorting those people being removed from the UK.

Under the contract, the UK Border Agency does not make any bonus payment to G4S for effecting removals or deportations. G4S have said that they do not pay bonuses to their staff that carry out these duties.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090211/text/90211w0015.htm#09021110000023>

David Drew [250960]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to reduce the time taken to determine applications for indefinite leave to remain; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas: In order to drive improvements throughout 2009-10 new processes are being introduced with initial focus on clearing older cases and improving overall throughput. A new performance monitoring mechanism to enable the agency to keep a tight grip on performance is due to be introduced in April.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090211/text/90211w0016.htm#09021110000031>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Chris Huhne [246241]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many undocumented immigrants have been (a) repatriated, (b) held in detention and (c) released after being arrested in raids by the UK Border Agency and its predecessors in each year since 2001.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: There are no circumstances where an undocumented individual can be removed. Where an individual has no valid travel document, the UK Border Agency will obtain an Emergency Travel Document (ETD) through the relevant embassy, high commission or consulate of the country in question or where possible arrange removal using a European Union Letter (EUL).

Information on how many undocumented migrants have been held in detention and released after being arrested following operational visits by the UK Border Agency could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

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 web site at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090211/text/90211w0016.htm#09021110000029>

Chris Huhne [246240]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what businesses the UK Border Agency and its predecessors has raided on suspicion that they were employing illegal immigrants in each of the last six years; and what businesses (a) were fined and (b) had a civil penalty imposed on them for employing such immigrants in each of those years;

(2) [246242] how many raids upon businesses the UK Border Agency and its predecessors undertook in each year since 2004; and how many undocumented immigrants were arrested in those raids.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The number of UK Border Agency enforcement visits to UK businesses suspected of employing illegal workers and the numbers arrested during these visits in each year since April 2005 is attached at Annex A. Details prior to 2005 are not available. Information on how many of the individuals arrested were undocumented and could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

All data are sourced from the National Operations Database (NOD) which was launched in April 2005. NOD is a management information tool and data from it are not quality assured under national statistics protocols. Figures provided from NOD do not constitute part of national statistics and should be treated as provisional.

Details of businesses prosecuted and fined for employing illegal migrant workers under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 are published in the Control of Immigration Statistics United Kingdom 2007 which is available in the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate web site at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html>

Details of Civil Penalties issued to employers under the Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 can be found on the UK Border Agency website at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/employersandsponsors/listemployerspenalties/>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Annex A

The number of UK Border Agency enforcement visits to UK businesses and numbers arrested

	<i>April 2005 to March 06</i>	<i>April 06 to March 07</i>	<i>April 07 to March 08</i>	<i>April 08 to November 08</i>
Illegal working (IW) visits	2,915	4,614	7,178	4,751
IW visits with arrests	1,575	2,044	2,855	2,058
Persons arrested	3,819	4,001	5,589	4,106

Source:

All data is sourced from the National Operations Database (NOD). NOD is a management information tool and data from it is not quality assured under National Statistics protocols. Figures provided from the NOD do not constitute part of National Statistics and should be treated as provisional.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090211/text/90211w0016.htm#09021110000030>

Chris Grayling [254416]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits have been issued to non-EU nationals in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The following table shows the number of work permit applications for non-EU workers approved in each of the last 10 years.

Individual approved work permit applications for the period 1 January 1999 to 31 December 2008

	<i>Number</i>
1999	56,190
2000	82,730
2001	113,460
2002	127,360
2003	133,170
2004	154,295
2005	136,900
2006	144,855
2007	128,210
2008	121,015

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
2. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090211/text/90211w0019.htm#09021110000044>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

James Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for a work permit on the basis of an intra company transfer in respect of non-UK nations were (a) made and (b) granted in each of the last (i) five years and (ii) four quarters. [254490]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table shows the number of work permit applications made and approved for Intra-Company Transfers in each of the last five years and each of the last four quarters.

<i>Number of individual work permit intra-company transfer applications made and approved for the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2008</i>						
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Applications Approved	32,770	33,745	43,050	48,735	48,010	206,305
Applications Made	33,645	34,680	43,950	50,230	49,710	212,215

<i>Number of individual work permit intra-company transfer applications made and approved for each quarter during the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008</i>					
	January to March	April to June	July to September	October to December	Total
Applications Approved	11,870	12,930	14,135	9,080	48,010
Applications Made	12,380	13,385	14,565	9,385	49,710

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.
3. *Caveats:*

The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

The figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090211/text/90211w0019.htm#09021110000044>

James Clappison [254491]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many companies obtained a grant for an intra company transfer in each of the last five years, broken down by industry sector.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table shows the number of companies who obtained an approval for an intra-company transfer in each of the last five years, broken down by industry sector.

Number of companies who obtained an approval for an intra-company transfer application for the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2008

To read the table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090211/text/90211w0019.htm#09021110000044>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Patel of Blackburn [HL1301]: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill [HL] will redress any racially discriminatory impacts of United Kingdom nationality law arising from the distinction between British citizens and other categories of British national with more limited rights of entry to the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: We are not proposing to make any changes in relation to the status of British nationals within the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill. We have already made provision for those holding other forms of British nationality to register as British citizens. If a person lives in the United Kingdom for a period of five years, and meets certain residence requirements, he or she can apply for registration under Section 4(2) of the British Nationality Act 1981. Since April 2003, British overseas citizens, British subjects and British protected persons have been able to apply for registration under Section 4B of that Act if they do not have any other nationality. The British Nationality Hong Kong Act 1997 also provides for the registration of those who would otherwise be stateless and are ordinarily resident in Hong Kong.

In his citizenship review Lord Goldsmith noted that there are particular legal reasons why we need to retain the category of British National (Overseas) with links to Hong Kong, because of our treaty commitments. He also acknowledged that the status of British overseas territories citizen needs to continue in order to recognise connections to a particular overseas territory as well as to Britain. He therefore proposed a change to end the separate statuses of British overseas citizen, British subject and British protected person.

We are of the view, however, that any changes to the status of those in these three groups at this time would still leave complications in the overall nationality framework, and that our earlier reforms and the passage of time will have the combined effect of reducing any current anomalies.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90212w0001.htm#09021280000828>

Lord Hylton [HL1178]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many persons are in immigration or asylum detention; and how many have been in detention for (a) under six months; (b) six months to one year; (c) one year to 18 months; (d) 18 months to two years; (e) two to three years; and (f) over three years.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: As at 27 September 2008, a total of 2,415 persons were recorded as being detained within the UK Border Agency detention estate solely under Immigration Act powers; of these, 1,690 had sought asylum at some stage. These figures are rounded to the nearest five. This is the latest date for which published statistics are available. Information on how long these individuals have been detained for is not held centrally and would be available only through the detailed examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost. Statistics on all persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers by length of detention are not available after September 2006. Information up to that date for each year is available from the Library of the House and in Table 9.4 of each year's Asylum Statistics: United Kingdom publication from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

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

A robust new method for calculating the length of time detainees are held solely under Immigration Act powers is currently being formulated. This is currently undergoing quality assurance before the statistics can be published on a regular basis.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90212w0004.htm#09021280000849>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Avebury [HL1168]: To ask Her Majesty's Government why removal directions do not routinely state the date, time and route of the proposed removal, and port to which the removal is proposed; and what proportion of current removal directions are open-ended.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Individuals to be removed from the UK must be served with a form known as an IS151D which routinely requires inclusion of the following information—name of individual being removed; flight/ship number; name of the country to where the individual is being removed; time of flight; and date of flight. It also requires the content of the form to be explained to the individual in English or a language they understand and that the service of the form is not an appealable decision. The UK Border Agency does not set “open-ended” removal directions.

The policy and guidance on removal directions is set out in chapters 48 and 60 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance Manual, which is available to view at the following website: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/enforcement/http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90212w0004.htm#09021280000850

Press Releases

Proposed fee levels for visas and sponsor licences in 2009/10

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/proposedfeesin200910>

Five new countries face tough visa rules

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/Countries-face-new-visa-rules>

New countries face tough visa rules

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

Identity cards for foreign nationals to extend to further immigration categories

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/idcardsnewcategories2>

Employers' sanctions directive: Migrant workers, not employers, will pay the price of their exploitation

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2009-02-04%20employer%20sanctions%20directive%20final.pdf>

New publications

Briefing on the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill 2009 (British Refugee Council, Scottish Refugee Council, and Welsh Refugee Council)

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/Joint_briefing

Migrants Rights News

<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/enews/2009/february.htm>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) News

Fresh protest over foreign labour

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7882767.stm>

Zimbabwe toddler fight taken to PM

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/02/13/newsstory12634897t0.asp>

Angus MP calls for debate on rules keeping mum from tot

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1076509>

No interpreter ... so police asked accused's girlfriend to translate his rights

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2489292.0.no_interpreter_so_police_asked_accuseds_girlfriend_to_translate_his_rights.php

Church of England General Synod calls asylum seeker amnesty

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/religion/4612102/Church-of-England-General-Synod-calls-asylum-seeker-amnesty.html>

Asylum detainees win record payout

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-detainees-win-record-payout-1608207.html>

Let asylum-seekers work

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/leading-articles/leading-article-let-asylumseekers-work-1609199.html>

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Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Mark Pritchard [253702]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding the Government has provided for research on the ways in which Muslims are perceived in the UK; which Departments have allocated funds for this purpose; and which of the Government's international counterparts have co-operated with the UK in funding the research.

Reply from Sadiq Khan: The Government have not commissioned any research solely for the purpose of investigating perceptions of Muslims within the UK. A number of pieces of Government research do provide evidence from which it would be possible to infer how Muslims 'may' be perceived. Examples of these include:

The Communities and Local Government Citizenship Survey; a large scale nationally representative survey intended to understand people's views on issues such as race equality, faith, feelings about community, volunteering and participation. It is possible to analyse responses by the faith of respondents. In addition, questions on perceptions of the subjects of discrimination include an option to select 'Muslim' as one of a number of responses.

The University of Kent 'Equality, Diversity and Prejudice in Britain' (commissioned by the Government Equalities Office, previously part of CLG); includes research on positive/negative perceptions of 11 social groups, one of which was Muslims.

Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The Department for Work and Pensions 'Barriers to employment for Pakistanis and Bangladeshis in Britain and Constraints'; looks at a number of issues, including perceptions towards two minority groups that are predominantly Muslim. All of the above research projects were funded solely by the UK Government. It is not possible to attribute costs to the specific elements or questions which relate to perceptions of Muslims in the UK, as one question or interview can be analysed from a number of standpoints.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090209/text/90209w0014.htm#09020935000085>

Lembit Öpik [252109]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on (a) peace education, (b) mediation, (c) conflict prevention, (d) conflict resolution, (e) interfaith dialogue and (f) other peace development initiatives since January 2002; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Gillian Merron: Most of this information is not held centrally in these specific categories, and obtaining it would incur disproportionate cost. However, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information on conflict-related programme activity funded through trilateral (FCO, Ministry of Defence and Department for International Development) funds since 2002.

From 2000 to 2007, the FCO funded its conflict-related programme activity through the tri-departmentally managed and owned Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP) and Africa Conflict Prevention Pool (ACPP). The Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP) was established in April 2008 to replace the GCPP and ACPP. The CPP funds a broad range of conflict prevention work including education and mediation initiatives, and currently supports work in a number of regions (the Balkans, the Americas, Africa, South Asia, Middle East and North Africa and Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States). A separate Stabilisation Aid Fund (SAF) was established in April 2008 to fund stabilisation and reconstruction activity in Afghanistan and Iraq.

From financial year 2001-02 to 2007-08, GCPP expenditure amounted to approximately £448 million, and ACPP expenditure amounted to approximately £341 million. For financial year 2008-09, £112 million has been allocated to the CPP, and £73 million has been allocated to the SAF.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090209/text/90209w0016.htm#09020935000101>

Press Release

Young Muslims Advisory Group holds their first meeting with Hazel Blears and Ed Balls

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1145037>

New publication

British Moroccans: Citizenship in Action

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/BritishMoroccans-2009.pdf>

Race Relations (continued)

News

Church to debate conversion rules

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7882655.stm>

Burning Satanic Verses lit the flame for better race relations

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest_contributors/article5720319.ece

Imams to help police in bid to keep young Muslims away from gang culture

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Imams-to-help-police-in.4982033.jp>

The priorities of a Christian country

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/4624577/The-priorities-of-a-Christian-country.html>

Anglicans called on to convert non-Christian believers

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article5711595.ece>

Christianity in schools: why we're losing our religion

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/religion/4623783/Christianity-in-schools-why-were-losing-our-religion.html>

Archbishop speaks in support of primary school receptionist facing sack

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/religion/4604205/Archbishop-speaks-in-support-of-primary-school-receptionist-facing-sack.html>

Christian school receptionist row: More bishops speak out in support of Jennie Cain

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/religion/4612527/Christian-school-receptionist-row-More-bishops-speak-out-in-support-of-Jennie-Cain.html>

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Equality

Press Release

Commission becomes first in Britain to gain UN accreditation as a National Human Rights Institution

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

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Racism and Religious Hatred

New publications

Antisemitic Incidents Report 2008

http://www.thecst.org.uk/docs/Incidents_Report_08.pdf

Attitudes Toward Jews in Seven European Countries

http://www.adl.org/Public%20ADL%20Anti-Semiteism%20Presentation%20February%202009%20_3_.pdf

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) **News**

Recession has sparked prejudice against Poles, claims consul general

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Recession-has-sparked-prejudice-against.4959142.jp>

'Rise in attacks' on British Jews

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7887511.stm>

Race-row sheriff's remarks to woman sparks demand for changes

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/-Racerow-sheriff39s-remarks-to.4959119.jp>

Synod to consider BNP clergy ban

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7880313.stm>

Racist vandals attack hall leased by Muslims

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2488278.0.racist_vandals_attack_hall_leased_by_muslims.php

Snowball fight led to race attack

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7879596.stm

Friendly snowball fight turns into racial attack

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2488144.0.Friendly_snowball_fight_turns_into_racial_attack.php

Four in hospital after snowball fight turns into racial attack

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Four---in-hospital.4962768.jp>

Four hurt in 'racial attack' after snowball fight

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2488288.0.four_hurt_in_racial_attack_after_snowball_fight.php

Four arrested over 'racist attack'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Four--arrested-over-39racist.4980716.jp>

Top referee is charged for 'racist remarks' over player

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Top-referee-is--charged.4966810.jp>

Referee charged over racist remark about ex-Rangers star Jean-Claude Darcheville

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/02/11/referee-charged-over-racist-remark-about-ex-rangers-star-jean-claude-darcheville-86908-21113760/>

Anti-gang move after race attack

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2488512.0.antigang_move_after_race_attack.php

High-ranking Foreign Office diplomat arrested over anti-Semitic gym tirade

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1139249/High-ranking-Foreign-Office-diplomat-arrested-anti-Semitic-gym-tirade.html>

Racism conference undermined before it starts

<http://www.humanrights-geneva.info/Racism-conference-undermined,4107>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

New report says racism still rife in police force

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2009/feb/15/police-racism>

Christians face discrimination in workplace, say church leaders

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/religion/4622858/Christians-face-discrimination-in-workplace-say-church-leaders.html>

Blue-blooded racism

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/feb/13/monarchy-race>

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Other Holyrood

Debate

Bashir Ahmad – Motion of Condolence

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor0211-02.htm#>

Parliamentary Motion

Alex Salmond (S3M-3419): Motion of Condolence—That the Parliament expresses its deep regret and sadness at the death of Bashir Ahmad MSP; offers its sympathy and condolences to Bashir's family and friends, and believes that as the first Scots-Asian Member of the Scottish Parliament, and a man of faith and dignity, his contribution to Scotland's democratic process and community relations over many years leaves a hugely positive legacy for all of Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=15755>

Press Release

Changes to Scottish Government

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/02/10103636>

New publication

Consultation on Modernisation of the Planning System with 'Seldom Heard' Groups

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/260184/0077441.pdf>

News

Ministers sacked in SNP reshuffle

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7880931.stm>

Other Holyrood News (continued)

Reshuffle - Who's in and who's out

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7881513.stm>

Three out, four promoted as Salmond shuffles ministerial pack

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2488451.0.Three_out_four_promoted_as_Salmond_shuffles_ministerial_pack.php

Salmond buries hatchet and brings old foes into the fold

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2488427.0.Salmond_buries_hatchet_and_brings_old_foes_into_the_fold.php

In from the cold ... Salmond's critics join the team

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/In-from-the-cold-.4966779.jp>

SNP names successor to Bashir Ahmad

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2488187.0.SNP_names_successor_to_Bashir_Ahmad.php

New SNP MSP pays tribute to Ahmad

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/New-SNP-MSP-pays-tribute.4962691.jp>

Obituary: Bashir Ahmad

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/obituaries/display.var.2488101.0.Bashir_Ahmad.php

Obituary: Bashir Ahmad

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/obituaries/Bashir-Ahmad.4962340.jp>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Martin Horwood [253756]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the merits of the observance in educational institutions of a day of remembrance for crimes against humanity.

Reply from Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It is for schools to decide whether to observe days of remembrance or celebration and how that might fit with the curriculum or the wider education of the students. However, there are some elements of history that we believe are of vital importance and will continue to ensure that they are covered by all schools—the study of the Holocaust is one of these. Holocaust Memorial Day aims to encourage greater awareness among young people of the relevance of the Holocaust and the need for mutual respect and understanding. It is supported by a Government funded education pack.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090209/text/90209w0043.htm#09021020000007>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Stoddart of Swindon [HL1209]: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 26 January (WA 19), why the National Association of Muslim Police is the only religious group to receive grant in aid; what is its purpose; what is the total amount of grant since its inception; and how often the need to continue any grant is reviewed.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Any of the national diversity staff associations in the police service can seek grant in aid funding from the Home Office. The only national faith-based staff association to apply for funding in 2008-09 was the National Association of Muslim Police (NAMP).

NAMP exists to increase the trust and confidence of police amongst Muslim communities and increase the recruitment, retention, and progression of Muslim officers and staff.

The total amount of grant in aid paid to NAMP since its inception is £33,750.

Grant in aid is reviewed annually and approval follows submission of a formal annual bid. Payments from the annual approved amount are reviewed each quarter.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90212w0004.htm#09021280000858>

Early Day Motion

Stewart Hosie (760) **Bashir Ahmad MSP** - That this House expresses sadness at the death of Bashir Ahmad, who made history on his election as the first Scots-Asian Member of the Scottish Parliament; extends its sympathy and condolences to Bashir Ahmad's family and friends; and believes that as the first Muslim Member of the Scottish Parliament, and a man of faith and dignity, his contribution to Scotland's democratic process and community relations over many years leaves a proud legacy for all of Scotland.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=37817&SESSION=899>

New publication

Faith Leaders and Workers Project: Evaluation Report

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1147399.pdf>

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Other News

Muslim assembly row head resigns

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/south_yorkshire/7880690.stm

Why these 'atheist adverts' are preaching to the converted

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/opinion/Why-these-39atheist-adverts39-are.4962596.jp>

Scottish Asians more likely to suffer diabetes complications

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/02/10/scottish-asians-more-likely-to-suffer-diabetes-complications-86908-21112640/>

Other News (continued)

South Asian Scots 'more likely to have Diabetes'

<http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2488329.0.south.asian.scots.more.likely.to.have.diabetes.php>

Emotions run high in travellers site row

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/02/12/newsstory12629633t0.asp>

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Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Arbitration Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/19-Arbitration/index.htm>

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>

Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill

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

Scottish Local Government (Elections) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/21-SLGelections/index.htm>

** Sexual Offences Bill

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

Stage 1 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor0212-02.htm#Col15048>

Bills in Progress Westminster

** Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill

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

Scottish Parliament Justice Committee evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/or-09/ju09-0502.htm#Col1588>

Scottish Parliament Subordinate Legislation Committee report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/subleg/reports-09/sur09-11.htm>

House of Lords, Second Reading

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90211-0003.htm#09021171000387>

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Consultations (closing date)

** New or updated this week

** ***closes next week!***

Proposed Palliative Care Bill (28 February 2009)

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

** ***closes next week!***

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>

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

** **Call for submissions of practices and initiatives in education that aim to combat intolerance against Muslims** (15 May 2009)

<http://tandis.odhr.pl/index.php?p=edu,mus,map>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

Young Scot: Access All Areas: Young People's Integration Project

"Young Scot: Access all Areas" is a new project aimed at empowering young people from ethnic minority, refugee, asylum seeking and faith groups to influence service provision in their local area, enhance access and promote inclusion. It was developed with a view to involving young people in democratic processes and promoting "informed participation" in local civic structures. Working in partnership with local agencies and using a Local Investigation Team model, groups of young volunteers will be supported to plan and deliver a research project on a topic of their choice in relation to service provision in their area. For information contact Lesley Anderson or Lauren Bruce 0131 313 2488 / accessallareas@youngscot.org or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09i_young_scot.pdf

Funding Opportunities (continued)

European Integration Fund (6 March 2009)

The European Integration Fund is aimed at legally newly arrived migrants (within the last five years) who are not asylum seekers or refugees, European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) nationals and who have not come to the United Kingdom under visa categories such as students. It can fund local authority, adult, further education and community colleges wishing to offer, or expand capacity, for English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses, that are intended to help legal migrants to become fully functional in United Kingdom society; innovative projects that support the efforts made by the United Kingdom in enabling third country nationals of different social, cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds to fulfil the conditions for permanent residence in the United Kingdom; and work to evaluate the effectiveness of existing and future programmes in bringing about effective integration.

Funding may be up to a maximum of three years and successful bids must also be able to demonstrate that matched funding, usually half is secured before funding will be released. For more information see

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

** *this week!*

Supporting Migrant Workers in Scotland

18 February 2009 in Glasgow (1.00 – 5.00)

Scottish Migrants Network Conference for migrant workers and support organisations in Scotland to share policy and practice five years after accession. For information contact Seonad Forbes 0141 353 2220 / migrantaction@paih.org

** *next week!*

Fit for Funding

23 February 2009 in Glasgow

Faith in Communities Scotland training for faith-based organisations working to tackle poverty and disadvantage who needs to raise funds for their work. The one day session covers: How to raise funds, ethical considerations when raising funds, and how to find the right funder for you. For information contact Eleanor Logan

0141 221 4576 / eleanor@transformationteam.org

** *next week!*

Equality and Human Rights Commission

24 February 2009 in Glasgow

Consultation event to provide views and comment on the draft strategic priorities that will guide the Commission's work and proposed programmes. For information contact Rebecca Thomas 020 3117 0306 / strategicplanconsultation@equalityhumanrights.com

** *next week!*

Equality and Human Rights Commission

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Discrimination Law Update**

9 March 2009 in Glasgow (10.00 – 1.00)

Legal Services Agency seminar to provide an update on key developments in discrimination law within the past 12 months. For information contact 0141 353 3354 or see http://www.lsa.org.uk/discriminationlawupdate_1.aspx

**** Receipts and Payments Accounting**

11 March 2009 in Nairn (10.30 – 12.30)

12 March 2009 in Wick (10.30 – 12.30)

Office of the Scottish charity Regulator video conference about the preparation of charity accounts in the receipts and payments format. For information contact Derek Galbraith 01382 346838 / communications@oscr.org.uk or see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=b834981a-ff9c-46ab-98f4-61a8429be739>

**** Capturing the Gains of the Public Sector Duties in Scotland**

13 March 2009 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 3.00)

Equalities and Human Rights Commission conference about their 'Capturing the Gains' Project which demonstrates how public bodies have improved their policies and services by taking the Public Sector Duties into account. For information contact scotlandcommunication@equalityhumanrights.com or see <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/forbusinessesandorganisation/events/Pages/CapturingtheGainsOfthePublicSectorDutiesinScotland.aspx>

**** Trustee Duties / Consents & Notifications**

17 March 2009 in Nairn (10.30 – 12.30)

19 March 2009 in Wick (2.00 – 4.00)

Office of the Scottish charity Regulator video conference about charity trustee duties, including when to seek consent from, or notify, OSCR of proposed changes to a charity. For information contact Derek Galbraith 01382 346838 / communications@oscr.org.uk or see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=b834981a-ff9c-46ab-98f4-61a8429be739>

Promoting Equality, Dignity and Respect in the Workplace

25 March 2009 in Glasgow (10.30 – 3.00)

BEMIS / STUC conference to promote a better understanding and deployment of employment rights within the race equality agenda. For information contact Adnan Miyasar 0141 548 8047 / Adnan.miyasar@bemis.org.uk

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

2 April 2009 in Glasgow

9 June 2009 in Glasgow

20 August 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council seminar for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=67>

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.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Working with interpreters

28 April 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work with non-English speaking service users, including asylum seekers and refugees, who need a comprehensive understanding of some of the key issues of working with interpreters. For information see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=72> or contact SRC 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Introduction to the Needs of Refugee Women

21 May 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting women seeking sanctuary in Scotland. For information contact SRC 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=65>

Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

9 June 2009 in Glasgow

20 August 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to identify the issues and concerns participants have in relation to working with asylum seekers and refugees, provide information on legal, political, economic and historical factors in relation to people seeking asylum, share ideas for developing good practice, and to identify strategies and resources for work with refugees. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=73>

UKBA (formerly NASS) Asylum Support - The Essentials

3 September 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course covering the asylum process and the legal framework, support arrangements available to asylum seekers from the beginning to the end of the asylum process, and entitlements for refugees and unaccompanied or separated asylum-seeking children. For information contact SRC 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=60>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Useful Links (continued)

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

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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/>