

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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**The Scottish and UK Parliaments are in recess until 20 April 2009.
The next MEMO will be issued on 20 April 2009.**

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Shirley-Anne Somerville (S3M-3825): Edinburgh Polish Festival—That the Parliament welcomes the Polish Cultural Festival that will take place from 20 to 26 April 2009 in Edinburgh; notes that this week-long celebration aims to present the best of Polish culture in Scotland and is a chance to show Edinburgh residents a culture that is a vibrant part of today's Scotland; applauds the commitment of the hard-working team of volunteers from the Polish community who put together the varied programme of events, which ranges from traditional music and dance to film and visual arts; notes that the festival website and full programme details can be found at www.polishculturalfestival.org.uk, and wishes the organisers every success in their aim to bring Edinburgh's diverse cultural communities together.
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=16221>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Ministerial Statements

UK Border Agency

Phil Woolas (Minister for Borders and Immigration): The UK Border Agency, which was established as a shadow executive agency in April 2008, will today begin to operate as a full executive agency of the Home Office. I am also publishing the UK Border Agency's Framework Agreement, which describes how the agency will be governed, and its business plan, which sets out the agency's objectives for the next three years. Copies of these documents have been made available in the Libraries of both Houses. The documents are also available on the Home Office website.

The move to full executive agency status is an important milestone in the development of the agency. It establishes a clear accountability framework within which the chief executive will have greater operational freedom to focus on delivering the agency's services. At the same time, the framework agreement ensures that the agency will continue to work closely with the wider Home Office and its key delivery partners, including HM Revenue and Customs, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the police. Later this year we hope, subject to the passage of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill, to complete the formal transfer of customs functions and staff from HM Revenue and Customs to the agency.

The agency will secure our borders and control migration for the benefit of our country and play a vital role in the Government's work to protect the public from crime and terrorism and to protect the tax revenues which pay for public services.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090401/wmstext/90401m0002.htm#09040165000018>

Visa Regimes

Phil Woolas (Minister for Borders and Immigration): The Government are today announcing the dates of implementation of the visa regimes, announced in my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary's written statement to the House of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 51WS. These tough new visa requirements will further strengthen the UK Border, while ensuring the UK continues to welcome genuine visitors.

Visa regimes for Bolivian and Venezuelan nationals will begin on Monday 18 May 2009. Venezuelan nationals holding valid biometric, machine readable passports will be exempt from the visa requirement. At the same time we will clarify how the visa exemption for Taiwan passport holders works—that it only applies to those with full Taiwan passports.

The temporary visa exemption for South African visitors with a previous travel history to the UK which began on 3 March will cease at midnight on 30 June 2009. From Wednesday 1 July 2009 all South African visitors to the UK will require a visa, as will visitors from Lesotho and Swaziland.

The new visa requirements mean that nationals from these countries wishing to visit the UK for up to six months will need to obtain a visit visa, and provide their fingerprints, before they travel. 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.

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090401/wmstext/90401m0002.htm#09040165000019>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

Race Relations

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

This authorisation replaces the Race Relations (Immigration and Asylum) (Language Analysis) Authorisation 2008 (5 June to 4 April 2009), which will expire on the latter date. Language analysis carried out in 2008 for some Somali asylum applicants demonstrated that significant proportions of those tested had claimed to be of a nationality, or from a region or grouping, that was not their own in order to try to gain residence in this country. This authorisation will assist the Secretary of State to make decisions in individual cases, and to ascertain the extent of this abuse. It will also assist in deterring such asylum claims.

The Secretary of State may take a refusal to submit to testing into account when determining whether an applicant has assisted in establishing the facts of his case or her case.

The authorisation will remain in place for 12 months (until April 2010), at which point we will review whether it is still necessary and appropriate.

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090401/wmstext/90401m0002.htm#09040165000017>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2120]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average cost of deporting an illegal immigrant.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: It is not possible to provide a comprehensive figure for the average cost of a removal or deportation because there are many different factors which may or may not be involved in the cost of a case, such as detention costs, travel costs and the cost of escorting the individual in question. We are unable to disaggregate the specific costs, and any attempt to do so would incur disproportionate cost. However, the National Audit Office (NAO) gives a breakdown of the cost of typical asylum cases in 2007-08 in part four of its report The Home Office: Management of Asylum Applications by the UK Border Agency, which was published on 23 January 2009.

The table on page 36 of the report sets out 12 typical profiles and the lower- to upper-end estimate of costs either excluding or including accommodation and support costs. For example, profile four estimates the cost of a case resulting in the enforced removal of a single, undetained adult after he or she has exhausted their appeal rights as being between £7,900 and £17,000 excluding accommodation and support or £12,000 and £25,600 including accommodation and support. This report is available to view at the following website at

www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/management_of_asylum_appl.aspx However, the UK Border Agency aims to ensure removals are effected at the lowest available rate subject to operational needs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90330w0003.htm#09033032001041>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Hylton [HL2148]: To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to draw conclusions from the Solihull pilot project providing legal advice to asylum applicants from the first interview onwards; whether they will publish a report; and when this project may be extended to other places.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The Government are keen to look at the benefits of providing early legal advice to asylum applicants but need to be sure that those benefits do not affect our ability to conclude asylum decisions swiftly or have unwelcome costs implications for the system. The conclusions of the report on the pilot are incomplete and limited and make it difficult to draw any firm conclusions about nationwide implementation of the process. It is proposed to run an expanded version of the pilot later in the year to allow for fuller, accurate analysis from which we can draw conclusions.

The report has been released to a number of stakeholders, and I am arranging for a copy to be placed in the Library of both Houses.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90330w0001.htm#09033032001008>

Baroness Hanham [HL2328]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many illegal immigrants are detained in immigration detention centres in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: National statistics on persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. This information is published in tables 9 to 11 of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom bulletins, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's research, development and statistics website at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html. It is not possible to say, within these statistics, how many of the detainees are illegal immigrants.

Individuals may be detained in immigration removal centres in the following circumstances: initially, while identity and basis of claim are established; where there are reasonable grounds for believing that a person will fail to comply with the conditions of temporary admission or release; as part of a fast-track asylum process; or to effect removal from the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90330w0003.htm#09033032001042>

Greg Hands [242834]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many outstanding cases the UK Border Agency's Case Resolution Directorate had at the latest date for which figures are available.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The previous Home Secretary informed Parliament in July 2006 of

"the Immigration and Nationality Directorate's case load of around 400,000 to 450,000 electronic and paper records, which as honourable Members also know, are riddled with duplication and errors, and include cases of individuals who have since died or left the country, or are now EU citizens. We will tackle the case load in the IND with the aim of clearing it-not in 25 years, as has been suggested, but in five years or less."

In her update to the Home Affairs Select Committee, Lin Homer, the UK Border Agency chief executive has stated that 130,000 cases have now been concluded up to the end of October 2008. The number of conclusions has increased to 155,500 as at 9 January 2009. The Case Resolution Directorate is on track to complete all cases by summer 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090330/text/90330w0024.htm#09033035000034>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Greg Hands [242835]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases the UK Border Agency's Case Resolution Directorate has resolved in each month since it was established, broken down by (a) applicants granted leave, (b) applicants refused leave, (c) cases withdrawn by the applicant and (d) cases closed on administrative grounds.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Case Resolution Directorate in the period July to November 2007 had total conclusions of 52,000 cases and this is broken down as 19,000 were grants, 16,000 were removals and 17,000 were other conclusions such as errors and duplicates.

Between 1 December 2007 and 31 May 2008 the Case Resolution Directorate total conclusions were 90,000 and this is broken down as 39,000 were grants, 20,000 were removals and 32,000 were other conclusions where there were errors or duplicates found in the system.

Between 1 June 2008 and 31 October 2008 the Case Resolution Directorate total conclusions had reached 130,000 and this is broken down as 51,000 grants, 23,500 removals and 53,500 other conclusions such as errors and duplicates on the system.

To obtain the information on withdrawn claims as applicants often do withdraw their claim would involve a detailed examination of our case records and so this would involve a disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090330/text/90330w0024.htm#09033035000034>

Greg Hands [242837]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases the UK Border Agency's Case Resolution Directorate planned to resolve in each quarter of 2008.

Reply from Phil Woolas: We are prioritising cases likely to cause harm, cases facing removal and cases likely to be granted, and these cases take considerably more casework time than "others" such as errors or duplicates. The Case Resolution Directorate has ramped up performance in dealing with the asylum legacy cases and is now resolving several thousand every month. Up to 9 January 2009 they had concluded 155,500 cases, up from 130,000 case conclusions reported in December 2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090330/text/90330w0024.htm#09033035000034>

Mike Hancock [268225]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether an applicant from the UK applying for Tier 1 migrant status is required to demonstrate evidence of funds of £800 or more in each of the three months preceding the date of the application.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Overseas nationals wishing to apply under the Tier one (General), Tier one (Post-study Work) and the Tier one (Entrepreneur) categories from within the UK are required to demonstrate evidence of funds of £800 or more in each of the three months preceding the date of the application.

Overseas nationals wishing to apply under the Tier one (Investor) category are not required to demonstrate maintenance funds, due to the significant level of investment they are required to make in the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090402/text/90402w0007.htm#09040255000084>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Nicholas Soames [253506]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a resident labour market test will apply to the movement of workers to the UK under Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services.

Reply from Phil Woolas [holding answer 2 February 2009]: A resident labour market test will not apply to the movement of workers to the United Kingdom under Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090330/text/90330w0027.htm#09033035000056>

Damian Green [266385]: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the availability of sheep shearers from non-EU countries in summer 2009; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has received a limited number of inquiries regarding the availability of sheep shearers from non-EU countries for summer 2009.

I am aware that the visa requirements for bringing in sheep shearers from outside the EU have changed following the introduction of tier 2 of the points based system for economic migrants in 2008. As a result of the introduction of tier 2, sheep shearers who are not visa nationals now have to apply for entry clearance prior to travel, even where they are coming to the UK for less than six months. The industry has made representations concerning compliance with these requirements, but we are not aware that the new entry requirements are so far causing any problems in terms of a lack of shearers leading to animal health and welfare issues. However, we will continue to monitor the situation.

Immigration requirements do recognise the current need to employ workers for this purpose from overseas and to expedite procedures for their admission. On the advice of the Migration Advisory Committee, sheep shearers have been added to the UK Border Agency's list of occupations of which there is a shortage and, as a result, sponsors of such workers from overseas are not required to demonstrate that they have sought to fill such vacancies with a resident worker.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090330/text/90330w0002.htm#0903303000028>

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

Reply from Phil Woolas: There are no countries to which there is a blanket approach of not returning failed asylum seekers on humanitarian grounds. The Government believe that the right approach is to consider the protection needs of individuals on an individual basis.

Each asylum and human rights claim is considered on its individual merits in accordance with our international obligations and taking full account of conditions in the country concerned as they impact on the individual. Those found to be in need of international protection are provided with it. Failed asylum seekers of all nationalities who have been found by the Home Office and the appeals process not to be in need of international protection and have no legal basis of stay in the UK are expected to return to their country of origin and may have their removal enforced.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090330/text/90330w0024.htm#09033035000035>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Jenny Willott [264175]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers there are in the UK from (a) the Palestinian Territories and (b) the Gaza Strip who have not been granted leave to remain and for which the Government has no removal plans; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Since the phasing out of embarkation controls in 1994 no Government have been able to produce accurate figures for the number of failed asylum seekers who have remained in the United Kingdom after they have reached the Appeal Rights Exhausted stage, have not been granted leave to remain and no longer have any further claim to remain here. This applies irrespective of an individual's nationality or place of origin.

All asylum claims including those from individuals from the Palestinian territories (including the Gaza strip) are considered on their individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 refugee convention and the European convention on human rights. Those identified by the decision-making process and the independent appeals process not to be in need of international protection are expected to leave the UK voluntarily. Failed asylum seekers can and do voluntarily return to the Palestinian territories (including the Gaza strip). Those who do not leave voluntarily may have their return enforced.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090330/text/90330w0024.htm#09033035000037>

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers there are in the UK from (a) the Palestinian Territories and (b) the Gaza Strip awaiting a decision on a new claim for asylum and for which the Government has no removal plans; and if she will make a statement. [264176]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Information on the number of failed asylum seekers who have made further submissions on their case which are still awaiting consideration can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. This applies irrespective of an individual's nationality or place of origin. Further submissions will only be classed as a fresh claim retrospectively following their full consideration where the submissions meet the criteria set out in paragraph 353 of the Immigration Rules.

All asylum claims including those from individuals from the Palestinian territories (including the Gaza strip) are considered on their individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 refugee convention and the European convention on human rights. Those identified by the decision-making process and the independent appeals process as not being in need of international protection are expected to leave the UK voluntarily. Failed asylum seekers can and do voluntarily return to the Palestinian territories (including the Gaza strip). Those who do not leave voluntarily may have their return enforced.

However, the UK Border Agency will not enforce the return of a failed asylum seeker who has made further submissions in their case as long as those submissions, including any appeal if the submissions are accepted as a fresh claim, remain pending. Again, this applies irrespective of an individual's nationality or place or origin.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090330/text/90330w0024.htm#09033035000037>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Chris Huhne [264499]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people of each nationality held in immigration removal centres have been detained for more than a year in each year since 2001.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Information on all persons detained for more than one year is not held centrally and would be available only through the detailed examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the numbers of persons detained within the UK border agency detention estate solely under immigration act powers for more than one year on a snapshot basis as at the last Saturday of each year (i.e. of those detained on that particular day, the numbers of whom had been detained for over a year), from 2001 to 2008, broken down by country of nationality.

National statistics on persons detained solely under immigration act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. This information is published in Tables 9-11 of the control of immigration: Quarterly statistical summary, United Kingdom bulletins which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

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

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090330/text/90330w0026.htm#09033035000049>

Mark Oaten [267776]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department had with educational institutions in its preparation of the requirements placed upon higher and further education institutions under Tier 4 of the 2008 changes to immigration rules.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The phased implementation of Tier 4 of the Points Based System, which has been agreed with the education sector and DIUS, commenced on 28 July 2008, when the UK Border Agency started accepting sponsor licence applications from educational institutions that wish to bring students from outside the European Economic Area to the UK for study. The Statement of Changes to the Immigration Rules (HC 314) laid before the House on 9 March 2009 marks the start of the second phase: from 31 March 2009, only UK Border Agency licensed institutions will be able to bring students to the UK, and student applicants will need to meet the Tier 4 points test before being granted leave to enter or remain.

The Joint Education Taskforce (JET) is the UK Border Agency's principal mechanism for consultation with the education sector and has been running since 2005. The JET comprises senior figures and representative bodies from all parts of the education sector, including higher and further education, and it and its sub-groups meet on a regular basis.

The UK Border Agency has engaged intensively with the education sector, through sector-wide forums to meetings with individual educational institutions. In addition, the UK Border Agency ran a series of events across the UK, specific to the education sector, during November and December 2008 and will continue to run targeted communications and events throughout 2009.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090330/text/90330w0027.htm#09033035000057>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Berkeley [HL2375]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for an Anglo-French detention camp in the Calais area; what is the purpose of any such facility; whether they intend to imprison potential illegal immigrants there; what discussions they have had with French ministers about it; and what is the response of the Government of France to the proposal.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Phil Woolas met Eric Besson, the French Minister for Immigration Integration, Nationality Identity and Solidarity-based Development, on 11 February 2009.

Both Ministers reiterated their opposition to any sort of new Sangatte reception centre which might act as a magnet for illegal immigrants, traffickers and smugglers. At the same time, both Ministers are concerned for the humanitarian situation faced by individuals in the Calais region and will provide support to those in genuine need.

Alongside this we are discussing a secure replacement facility in the UK control zone to hold illegal immigrants until they can be handed over to the French border police and processed under French law. The details, including financing, are still under discussion between officials.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90331w0001.htm#09033128000250>

Paul Holmes [268035]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) Afghani, (b) Belarusian, (c) Burmese, (d) Chinese, (e) Colombian, (f) Cuban, (g) Democratic Republic of Congo, (h) Democratic People's Republic of Korea, (i) Iranian, (j) Iraqi, (k) Israeli, (l) Nepalese, (m) Pakistani, (n) Russian, (o) Saudi Arabian, (p) Syrian, (q) Turkmenistani, (r) Uzbekistani, (s) Vietnamese, (t) Sudanese and (u) Zimbabwean nationals (i) were refused asylum in the UK in each of the last 12 months and (ii) are awaiting a decision on an asylum application.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following tables show the number of principal applicants refused asylum in the UK over the last 12 months, for which figures have been published, on the requested nationalities. Information on asylum applicants awaiting an initial decision, by nationality, is unavailable and could be obtained only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost. Information on main asylum nationalities is published annually and quarterly. The latest quarterly statistics were published on 24 February 2009 and 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>

To read the lengthy tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090331/text/90331w0011.htm#09033172000023>

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

Reply from Jacqui Smith: We are committed to completing the backlog of asylum cases by the summer of 2011. This will of course include cases that are removed from the country. So far 23,500 removals have been effected as at 31 October 2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090331/text/90331w0011.htm#09033172000023>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Chris Huhne [255865]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of the estimated 450,000 older cases backlog in the Case Resolution Directorate are estimated to be refused asylum seekers.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Of the 450,000 older cases 155,500 cases were concluded at the last update. The backlog contains a huge variety of cases, including errors and duplicates, and the time taken to conclude a case varies greatly, depending on its case type. To obtain the information requested would involve disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090331/text/90331w0011.htm#09033172000023>

Tobias Ellwood [264365]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department had spent on seminars provided by the UK Border Agency for businesses on the recruitment of migrant workers on the latest date for which figures are available.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) has spent £37,065 during FY 2008-09 on events and seminars to raise organisations' awareness of the stringent new sponsorship and compliance requirements they must meet to become a registered sponsor under the new Points-Based Migration System.

These costs include seminars for both employers and for educational institutions wishing to sponsor overseas students under the new Points Based System. They also include UKBA holding consultative meetings with key stakeholder groups including our three "Taskforces" (Joint Education Taskforce; Employer Taskforce; and Arts and Entertainments Taskforce).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090401/text/90401w0018.htm#09040180000043>

Frank Field [262054]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it is her Department's policy to classify non-UK born UK nationals as non-immigrants when they are living within the UK.

Reply from Phil Woolas: There are six categories of British national: British citizens, British overseas territories citizens, British Overseas citizens, British National (Overseas), British subject and British protected person. British citizenship and British overseas territories citizenship derive from a personal or ancestral connection with the United Kingdom or one of the remaining British overseas territories. The other statuses derive, in the main, from similar connections with a former British colony, or a foreign territory which was formerly under British jurisdiction.

Only British citizens and certain British subjects have the right of abode in the United Kingdom. The others are subject to UK immigration control, although British overseas territories citizens who derive that status from a Gibraltar connection enjoy certain rights of free movement and establishment under the EC Treaty. As regards entry to the United Kingdom, other types of British national are not treated any differently to those of any other nationality when it comes to settlement. They have to qualify under the immigration rules in the same way as any other applicant.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090401/text/90401w0018.htm#09040180000047>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Laird [HL2602]: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answers by Lord Bach on 19 March (WA 76—78) regarding the consideration of immigration appeals, what is the policy which permits the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal to destroy files, and thereby make it unable to provide data on its decisions from 2005 and 2006; why the Administrative Court was able to provide statistics for the same period; and whether they have considered the figures for reconsideration in favour of the Secretary of State and orders in favour of appellants.

Reply from Lord Bach: The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) policy on record retention and destruction is agreed between the tribunal, the departmental records officer and a national archive. All tribunal policies accord with the requirements of the Public Records Act 1958, which does not require the AIT to retain any files which are not selected for permanent preservation on the basis of having exceptional legal or procedural importance. All files created pre-2006 that were not selected for permanent preservation will now have been destroyed, or be in the process of being destroyed, in accordance with the retention and destruction policies for that period. Immigration judge decision(s) on file are transferred to Ministry of Justice archives. The AIT policy on file destruction at present is to retain files not marked for permanent preservation for 18 months only.

The Administrative Court was able to provide statistics for the period 2005-2006 regarding applications for reconsideration from its own electronic database. These statistics provide only for applications to the Administrative Court directly for reconsideration of an AIT decision under the opt-in provision established by the 2004 Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act. The AIT's electronic database incurred a problem with approximately 2,000 cases in 2005-06 which resulted in the data for the outcomes of reconsideration applications not being recorded correctly. This was because the outcome of the reconsideration applications was overwritten erroneously with the outcome of the reconsideration hearing. The incorrect data inputs could not be identified or corrected following this and the monthly reports for that period did not break down the outcomes into appellant and respondent. It has therefore not been possible to provide the statistical data for outcome of reconsideration applications for 2005-06.

The Government keep the operation of their polices in relation to reconsideration under regular review.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90402w0003.htm#09040246000584>

Damian Green [267447]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on establishing the identity of (a) illegal immigrants and (b) foreign national prisoners in 2008.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Efforts to establish the identity of a foreign national typically form a part of overall enforcement activities. As such it is not possible to disaggregate the funding and other resources in place to establish the identity of a foreign national from the overall budget and resources attributed to enforcement activities.

Appendix A of the UK Border Agency Business Plan for April 2008 to March 2011 contains a table which shows the overall budget allocation and staffing plans for the agency for the current financial year. This document is available to view in the Library of the House and at the following website:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/businessplan

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090331/text/90331w0013.htm#09033172000034>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Clement-Jones: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of entry clearance procedures for Iraqi nationals.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, the UK Border Agency offers a limited visa application service in Baghdad for certain designated categories of application which was extended to Erbil on a trial basis earlier this year. In addition, Iraqi nationals can lodge all categories of visa applications at designated posts in Damascus, Amman, and Beirut.

Lord Clement-Jones: My Lords, Iraq, particularly Iraqi Kurdistan, wants to do business with Britain and yet Iraqi business people may have to go as far afield as Amman to obtain a business visa. A Schengen visa is more easily available in Baghdad. Is it not high time that the Home Office and UKBA joined up with UKTI and the business department to make sure that Britain can do business with these business people?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, the noble Lord makes a pertinent point. One of the senior directors of UKBA visited Baghdad in early March and it is clear that there is a need for more links and connections as we move from a military relationship with Iraq to a very different one on a civil basis. As a first step we are allowing in certain groups of students whom the Iraqis want to send around the world. At the moment they number only 200 to 300 but that figure will rise to 500 and then to 10,000. We are also looking at the possibility of allowing a visa section to be set up. However, there are still significant problems in terms of overall cost, security and where such a section would be accommodated. This is being looked at and it is appropriate that we should make these moves, but we have to be sure that it is done safely, in the correct way and at the right sort of cost.

To continue reading the extended question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90401-0001.htm#09040160000481>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Bob Spink (1216) Ghurka servicemen and residency rights – That this House welcomes the Government's decision to reconsider the rules governing the right of Gurkhas to settle in Britain; regretfully notes the anguish caused to thousands who have served in the British Army as Gurkhas by denial of residency rights; and praises the commitment of Gurkhas to protecting the interests of Great Britain.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=38337&SESSION=899>

European Parliament Text Adopted

Educating the children of migrants

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2009-0202+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

Press Releases

New immigration rules and Tier 1 application forms published today

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/immigrationrulesrevisedtier1form>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

New rules for sponsors under the points-based system

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

Tough new rules target bogus colleges and education cheats

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

UK Border Agency reaches full agency status and publishes framework agreement and business plan

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

Work permit application forms and guidance notes for Bulgarian and Romanian nationals published today

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

Implementation dates of new visa regimes for nationals of Bolivia, Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland and Venezuela

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

New procedure for confirming non-acquisition of British citizenship

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

Children of immigrants: Yes to new language, No to segregation

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/038-52825-089-03-14-906-20090326STO52723-2009-30-03-2009/default_en.htm

Helping the victims of human trafficking

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/helping-victims-human-traffic>

New publications

Human Trafficking in Scotland 2007/08

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/266520/0079757.pdf>

UK Border Agency Framework Agreement

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/ourorganisation/frameworkagreement.pdf>

UK Border Agency Business Plan April 2009- March 2012

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/businessplan/april2009march2012/ukborderagencybusinessplan.pdf?view=Binary>

Failed asylum seekers and ordinary/lawful residence; and when to provide treatment for those who are chargeable

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_097384?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=189934&Rendition=Web

Immigration and Asylum New Publications (continued)

Migration and mobility: challenges and opportunities for European education systems

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/038-53230-091-04-14-906-20090401IPR53229-01-04-2009-2009-false/default_en.htm

Migrant Worker Availability in the East of England: An economic risk assessment

http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=/ecomm/files/migrant_worker_availability.pdf&a=skip

European Council on Refugees and Exiles: European Elections 2009:: Time for a welcoming Europe

http://www.ecre.org/files/ECRE_European_Elections_manifesto.pdf

Sanctuary- Mosaics of Meaning: Exploring Asylum Seekers and Refugees Views on the Stigma Associated with Mental Health Problems

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/pub/Sanctuary_report

News

Foreign police may be called in to fight people traffickers in Scotland

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2499228.0.Foreign_police_may_be_called_in_to_fight_people_traffickers_in_Scotland.php

'Clear links' found between human trafficking and organised crime

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2499247.0.Clear_links_found_between_human_trafficking_and_organised_crime.php

Foreign police may operate in Scotland to help catch people traffickers

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/04/01/foreign-police-may-operate-in-scotland-to-help-catch-people-traffickers-86908-21245332/>

Refugee engineer in papers wrangle

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1156035>

School where English is the second language for all 520 children

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/92669/School-where-English-is-the-second-language-for-ALL-520-children>

Important legal ruling for refused asylum seekers

<http://www.irr.org.uk/2009/april/ha000008.html>

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Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Parmjit Dhanda [267486]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department has provided for the Government's interfaith strategy.

Reply from Sadiq Khan: We are committed to a three year programme of investment and support worth over £7.5 million, as announced in our interfaith framework "Face to Face and Side by Side". This will be invested with a focus on delivering increased opportunities for dialogue and social action within local communities.

Part of this funding will be specifically allocated to the "Faiths in Action" fund, which aims to support local activities and initiatives that have a direct link to one or more of the four building blocks described in "Face to Face and Side by Side": confidence and skills to bridge and link; shared spaces for interaction; structures and processes; and opportunities for learning. All types of organisations at national, regional or local level in England may apply for this funding.

The other funding is allocated to a programme of investment over three years in Regional Faith Forums to support and build their capacity, in particular their interaction with local inter faith activity.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090401/text/90401w0010.htm#09040174000003>

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Equality

Westminster Debate

Royal Marriages and Succession to the Crown (Prevention of Discrimination) Bill

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090327/debtext/90327-0001.htm#09032758000002>

Ministerial Speech

Sadiq Khan: Yorkshire and Humber Black and Ethnic Minority Voluntary Community Sector conference

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/bmevcsconference>

Press Releases

Listening to views on race equality - Hazel Blears kicks off regional tour

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1194919>

MEPs split over widening anti-discrimination laws

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/017-52823-089-03-14-902-20090326STO52719-2009-30-03-2009/default_en.htm

Equality (continued) New publication

Equal Opportunities Committee Report: Review of equal opportunities in the work of committees <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/stanproc/reports-09/stpr09-04.htm>

News

Trevor Phillips accused of police whitewash
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6036354.ece>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Anne McLaughlin (S3M-3861): Worrying Rise in Racist Incidents in Glasgow—That the Parliament expresses its concern that while racist incidents in Scotland fell by 1% overall the figure for Glasgow increased by 7%; is further concerned that people of Pakistani origin make up a third of those who are racially abused; calls for a wide range of measures to be put in place to combat this surge of racism within the city including a more targeted focus on identified incident hotspots, increasing funding to organisations promoting community cohesion and better reporting mechanisms for victims of racist attacks; is also concerned that racial tension can increase during times of economic difficulty, and therefore calls on all levels of government to work with the appropriate authorities, to be cautious of the increase and to put in place suitable measures to combat any further rise in racist attacks.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=16264>

Press Releases

Racist incidents in Scotland
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/03/31100731>

Justice Secretary comments on racism statistics
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/03/31101521>

New publication

Statistics on racist incidents recorded by the police in Scotland, 2004/05 to 2007/08
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/266385/0079737.pdf>

News

Scots 'well on way' to winning racism battle – but still 18 hate crimes a day
<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Scots-39well-on-way39-to.5127629.jp>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Racist incidents recorded by Scottish police fall for first time in four years

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2498970.0.racist_incidents_recorded_by_scottish_police_fall_for_first_time_in_four_years.php

Minister calls for renewed effort to tackle racist crime

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2499007.0.Minister_calls_for_renewed_effort_to_tackle_racist_crime.php

Racist attacks up by 7%

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2499120.0.racist_attacks_up_by_7.php

Four racist incidents reported to Lothians police every day

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Four-racist-incidents-reported-to.5128232.jp>

NHS must do more to eradicate racial discrimination, say watchdogs

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/mar/31/nhs-racial-discrimination-equality>

Muslim mother banned from parents' evening

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article6035022.ece>

Muslim mother excluded from school parents' evening for wearing veil

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/religion/5100693/Muslim-mother-excluded-from-school-parents-evening-for-wearing-veil.html>

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Other Holyrood

New publications

Pupils in Scotland census 2008

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/266539/0079763.pdf>

Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland: The Twice Yearly Count - No. 14: July 2008

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/266283/0079697.pdf>

News

Discussing Scotland's Future

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/03/27160220>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Question

Lord Lester of Herne Hill [HL2268]: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 25 February (WA 91) regarding faith denominations whose places of meeting for religious worship have been certified by the Registrar General, which faith denominations are referred to as "other".

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The Places of Worship Registration Act 1855 provides for a place of meeting for religious worship to be certified to the Registrar-General. The form for certification in Schedule A to the Act is to be signed as certifier by a minister, proprietor, trustee, occupier, attendant or such other words as will clearly show his or her connection with the place of meeting. On that form, the certifier inserts the religious denomination of, or religious appellation adopted by, the persons on whose behalf the building is certified. If those persons decline to describe themselves by any distinctive appellation, the certifier inserts "who object to be designated by any distinctive religious appellation".

When considering the registration of a building which has been certified as a place of religious worship, the Registrar-General applies the judgment by the Court of Appeal in the Segerdal case. The main finding in the judgment is that the words "place of meeting for religious worship" in the Act connote a place of which the principal use is for people to come together as a congregation to worship God or do reverence to a deity. The 1855 Act does not apply to the Church of England and the Church in Wales but the building of any other faith or denomination which meets these criteria would be capable of registration, regardless of what the congregation call themselves.

In the Answer to WA 91, the Registrar-General categorised as "other" any denomination where there were less than 150 places of worship certified at that time which included the following:

Hindus, Undenominational, Buddhists of the New Adampa Traditional, Baha'is, Subud Britain, Valmiks, Followers of Guru Das, Nirankaries, Ravidasia, Aetherius Society, Devotees of Krishna, Friends of western Buddhist Order, Antiochian Orthodox, Congregation of Yahweh, Das Dharam, Gujarati, Shree Swaminarayan Siddhant Sajivan Mandal, Shri Guru Ravidasia Community, Theosophists, Ukraine Autocephalic, Universal Order of Thios, Unsectarian, Valmiks, Who Object To Be Designated By Any Distinctive Appellation, Zen Buddhists, Buddhists, Zoroastrians, Brahma Kumaris, Jains, Universal Confluence of Yoga and Vedanta Luminar, Manjushri, Nirankaries, Raman, Ramgarhia, Radhan Soami Sagsang Beas-British Isles, Sant Mat, Sathya Sai Baha Devottes, Sufis, Sukyo Mahikari, Swaminarayans, Zen, Anoopam, Kshatryna Sabna London Bhagat Namdev Mission, Maktar Tarighat Ovesyi Shamagh Soudi, Navnat Vanit, Anjuman-E-Mohibban-E-Ahlal bait, Antiochian Orthodox Church, Byelorussion Autocephalic Orthodox, Disciples of Baba Gobind Daa Ji, Eikoko Iesu No Mitama Kyokai, Ekniwas

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90330w0005.htm#09033032001054>

Other Westminster (continued)

Early Day Motion

Julie Morgan (1264) Simple solutions for living together: report on gypsy and traveller site provision – That this House welcomes the Gypsies and Travellers: Simple Solutions for Living Together report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission; recognises that investment in adequate site provision can generate income for local authorities and significantly reduce eviction costs, improve community relations and provide safe and decent accommodation for Gypsy and Traveller communities; notes that as little as one square mile of land across all of England would be enough to provide all Gypsy and Traveller families with sufficient authorised sites; further notes that local authorities need to double their rate of progress in order to meet the Government's 2011 target to provide sufficient accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers; and calls on the Government to encourage local authorities to work with Gypsies and Travellers and local residents to find fair and sensible ways to deliver the modest number of authorised sites required for Gypsies and Travellers.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=38388&SESSION=899>

Press Release

Government support for Black voluntary and community organisations

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1190471>

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New Publications

Learning and Teaching Scotland:

Religious and Moral Education curriculum in non-denominational schools

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/rme/nondenominational/index.asp>

Religious Education curriculum in RC schools

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/rme/merc/index.asp>

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Other News

Muslim 'unsung heroes' honoured

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7972892.stm>

Cartoon strip depicts Christian boys as Islamaphobe thug

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/religion/5107593/Cartoon-strip-depicts-Christian-boys-as-Islamaphobe-thug.html>

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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>

Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee: Stage 2 consideration of amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/ellc/or-09/ed09-1002.htm#Col2151>

Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/24-CrimJustLc/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>

Local Government and Communities Committee: Stage 1 evidence from the Scottish Government

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/lgc/or-09/lg09-1002.htm#Col1889>

**** Sexual Offences Bill**

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

Bill as amended at Stage 2

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/11-sexualOffences/b11as3-stage2-amend.pdf>

Bills in Progress Westminster

**** Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill**

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldbills/029/amend/ml029-ii.htm>

House of Lords consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90401-0003.htm#09040160000488>

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Consultations

(closing date)

** new or updated this week

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

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

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator Corporate Plan 2009-11 (20 May 2009)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=a98d0e42-1f22-456f-94f9-2478749f650e>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

Equality and Diversity

23 April 2009 in Inverness (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.

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>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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/>

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

Useful Links (continued)

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/>