

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Damian Green [278542]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the colleges that withdrew of their own volition from the new UK Border Agency register process currently sponsor visas for foreign students.

Reply from Phil Woolas: A total of four foreign students are currently sponsored by colleges who have withdrawn of their own volition from the UK Border Agency register. The students have leave to remain which was granted to them prior to the introduction of new procedures on 31 March 2009. If, when their current leave lapses, these students wish to seek further leave to remain to continue studying here, they will need to qualify under the points-based system.

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/cm090625/text/90625w0001.htm#09062578000055>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mark Oaten [280660]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will require universities to report on student progress under the Tier 4 rules on immigration.

Reply from Phil Woolas: No. The requirement for universities to monitor attendance rather than student progress provides the UK Border Agency with certainty that a student is following the course of study for which they were admitted rather than engaging in other activities such as employment.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090623/text/90623w0018.htm#090623115000064>

Immigration

Baroness Warsi [HL4386]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the figures for (a) inward immigration, and (b) net immigration, in each of the past 12 years.

Reply from Baroness Crawley: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, National Statistician, to Baroness Warsi, dated June 2009.

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your question concerning the most recent estimate for a) inward immigration and b) net immigration, in each of the last 12 years. Official estimates of long-term immigration and net migration into the UK for 1996-2007 are given in Table 1 attached. The data are consistent with published figures.

Table 1: Long-term International Migration¹ time series, 1996 to 2007

		United Kingdom
	Immigration to the UK	Net Migration (Thousands)
1996	318	+ 55
1997	327	+ 48
1998	391	+ 140
1999	454	+ 163
2000	479	+ 158
2001	479	+ 173
2002	513	+ 154
2003	508	+ 147
2004	586	+ 244
2005	563	+ 204
2006	591	+ 191
2007	577	+ 237

1. Long-term International Migration (LTIM) is the most comprehensive measure of long-term international migration, and is based mainly on data from the IPS, supplemented with data on flows to and from the Republic of Ireland. Other data sources are used to make adjustments for asylum seekers and their dependants not counted by the IPS and for switchers (people who change their intentions and, therefore, their migratory status). LTIM was previously referred to as Total International Migration or TIM.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90625w0001.htm#09062538000208>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Gurkhas

Damian Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on public expenditure of the admission to the UK of 36,000 Gurkhas residents. [275904]

Reply from Liam Byrne: The Government's position on settlement rights for Gurkhas who served in the Brigade of Gurkhas before July 1997 was set out in the Home Secretary's statement to the House on 21 May 2009. On the basis that 36,000 Gurkhas plus their dependants settled in the United Kingdom, the Government estimated that the annual cost would be approximately £1.4 billion. On the basis that 10,000 to 15,000 applicants plus their dependants settle in the UK, the Government estimate that the costs are likely to be £300 million to £400 million a year. This does not take into account the potential revenue from national insurance contributions, income tax or indirect taxes.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090619/text/90619w0010.htm#09061950000107>

Asylum: Deportation

Pete Wishart [280811]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unsuccessful asylum seekers deported from the UK were refused entry on arrival at the country of their origin and subsequently returned to the UK in each of the last four years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: There are a variety of reasons why a person, during the removals process, may be refused entry to their country of destination. Due to this each case will be handled differently. Generally the person will be returned to the UK and re-enter the removals process.

The number of individuals refused entry to their destination country is not centrally recorded. The information requested could only be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed and departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis.

National Statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090623/text/90623w0018.htm#090623115000063>

Immigration: Oakington Removal Centre

The Earl of Sandwich [HL4202]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many reforms recommended by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons have been implemented at Oakington immigration removal centre since her last report on the centre; and whether they will be fully implemented by the time of the expansion of the centre.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The Chief Inspector of Prisons' report into Oakington immigration removal centre was published in December 2008 and contained 111 recommendations. Of these, 89 were fully accepted by the UK Border Agency, and a further 13 were accepted in principle or in part. Action has been completed to implement 60 of the recommendations and progress is being made against the outstanding 42. We expect the majority will be completed by the end of the calendar year.

There are no plans to expand Oakington prior to its closure.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90624w0003.htm#09062476000320>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre

Shailesh Vara [277123]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) children and (b) women over 18 years of age have been referred to the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre since the introduction of the national referral mechanism.

Reply from Alan Campbell: As at the end of April there have been a total of 35 referrals to the competent authorities based in UKHTC and UKBA. Of these 27 were female with nine referrals being of people under the age of 18.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090622/text/90622w0012.htm#0906228000108>

Human Trafficking

Shailesh Vara [277243]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1087-88W, on human trafficking, how many (a) arrests and (b) convictions there were for human trafficking offences in each police force area in England and Wales in each of the last five years.

Reply from Alan Campbell: It is not possible to break down the arrest and convictions for each of the last five years.

Figures from the UKHTC indicate that since the inception of the dedicated legislation, there have been a total of 568 arrests for human trafficking offences which have resulted in a total of 114 convictions. The figures for the number of arrests which are set out by force area below include 100 cases on which the outcome is not yet known.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090624/text/90624w0003.htm#090624125000033>

Females: Human Trafficking

Peter Bone [282208]: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what her estimate is of the number of women trafficked into the UK for the purpose of sexual exploitation in 2008.

Reply from Michael Jabez Foster: The latest estimate supplied by Home Office is that at any one time in 2003, there were up to 4,000 women had been trafficked into the UK.

The UK Human Trafficking Centre is undertaking an analysis of the outcomes of Operation Pentameter 2. This analysis, in conjunction with the work based within the regional intelligence units, will inform a more up to date assessment of the extent of trafficking in the UK, which is due by the end of the year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090625/text/90625w0001.htm#09062578000061>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Damian Green [276566]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prosecuted for human trafficking offences relating to labour exploitation under the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants EEC) Act 2004.

Reply from Alan Campbell: Figures provided by the UK Human Trafficking Centre indicate as of 24 May there have been 16 prosecutions and seven convictions for trafficking for the purposes of forced labour.

Damian Green [276567]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prosecuted for human trafficking offences relating to sexual exploitation under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Reply from Alan Campbell: Figures from the Crown Prosecution Service indicate a total of 267 people prosecuted under sections 57-59 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

In this total there have been 106 convictions plus three for conspiracy to traffick which have arisen from sexual exploitation cases.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090624/text/90624w0003.htm#090624125000034>

Westminster Petition

Immigration (Asylum Seekers)

The Petition of the Vincentian Millennium Partnership, Declares that to be an asylum seeker in 2009 in the United Kingdom can entail any or a variety of the following experiences—detention (often for years), poor housing, isolation, being moved at short notice from communities where the person has been integrated for several years with the resulting severance from their regular sources of spiritual, emotional and medical support, being denied a choice of shops through a poverty level voucher scheme which amounts to £35 per week and, most importantly, being prevented from working or from engaging in voluntary work which often leads to depression and a lack of self worth; further declares that refusal by the asylum seeker to comply with the “system” often leads to destitution and that the only alternative may be criminal activity or prostitution; notes that being an asylum seeker often means being made a scapegoat, especially by the tabloid press which often uses a case of wrong doing by one asylum seeker to demonise them all; further notes that stories about asylum seekers being given priority for high quality housing in preference to local people are blatantly untrue but become part of the myths surrounding them; and believes that to be an asylum seeker in the United Kingdom today is to live on the edge of starvation as a cruel warning to others not to come to the United Kingdom.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for the Home Department to ensure that those entering our country seeking asylum are treated in a just and compassionate manner which honours the long-standing British tradition of treating newcomers to these islands with welcome, respect and fairness; and further urges the Secretary of State to seek to enshrine in the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill the rights of asylum seekers to adequate housing, ESOL (English as a Secondary Language) Classes, Criminal Records Bureau checks, earn a wage and contribute to taxes, engage in voluntary work, integrate into local communities, and become valued citizens of the UK.

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department: The UK Border Agency proudly maintains the country’s tradition of providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with the UK’s international obligations. Our process for meeting those obligations is fair. All asylum and human rights claims are carefully considered on

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Petition (continued)

their individual merits in accordance with the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), against the background of the latest accurate, objective, sourced and up-to-date information on asylum seekers' countries of origin produced by the UK Border Agency Country of Origin Information Service.

If an individual claiming asylum demonstrates a need for international protection and they meet the definition of a refugee under the terms of the 1951 Convention, asylum is granted. If they are otherwise vulnerable they may engage our obligations under the ECHR in which case they will be granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave. If their application is refused, they have a right of appeal to the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) or an opportunity to seek judicial review through the higher courts. In this way we ensure that we provide protection to those asylum seekers who need it through a fair and transparent process.

To continue reading the lengthy response see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090623/petntext/90623p0001.htm#09062378000077>

Westminster Early Day Motions

Keith Vaz (1709) Human trafficking offences – That this House welcomes the recent sentencing of Abdul Hameed Sakhizada, Ahmed Shah Sakhizada and Abdul Wakil Niazi, the leaders of what was believed to be one of the most profitable people-smuggling networks uncovered in Europe; is extremely concerned that the global conviction rates for human trafficking remain very low at only 1.5 per 1,000 people and that out of 155 countries, 40 per cent. failed to record a single conviction for human trafficking offences; notes that human trafficking is second only to the drugs trade in terms of the amount of money made; and calls upon the Government to ensure that sufficient funding is provided to those working in the fight against human trafficking.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=38902&SESSION=899>

Angus MacNeil (1739) Fishermen from the Philippines working on The West Coast of Scotland – That this House strongly believes that the Government should quickly reconsider its policies regarding fishermen from the Philippines working in the waters around the Outer Hebrides and west coast of Scotland by establishing a six month moratorium on deportations; notes that these fishermen are not unskilled workers as they need several qualifications to engage in the fishing profession while filling a severe shortage of skilled fishing labour in the Western Isles; and further notes that deporting these fishermen will be yet another blow to the Isles as the Government is already planning to close the Hebrides Range which will result in the loss of almost 120 jobs.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=38937&SESSION=899>

Press Release

Children's Society report on the Alternatives to Detention pilot project - Government response

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/a2d-kent-response>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) News

City refugee story earns top awards

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2515968.0.city_refugee_story_earns_to_p_awards.php

£1m migrants project 'a scandal'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8115630.stm>

Asylum pilot's failures 'will not be echoed in Scotland'

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2516284.0.Asylum_pilots_failures_will_not_be_echoed_in_Scotland.php

Immigration red tape keeps widow in exile

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Immigration-red-tape-keeps-widow.5408370.jp>

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Race Relations

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Sandra White (S3M-04470): Glasgow Mela, One People One Nation — That the Parliament congratulates Glasgow's biggest multicultural festival, the Glasgow Mela, held on 21 June 2009 in Kelvingrove Park, Glasgow; notes that the festival, now in its 18th year, celebrates the coming together of people from differing backgrounds, promotes unity and welcomes diversity and this year hosted a fantastic array of acts such as Desi Bravehearts, Glasgow Hellenic Dancers, Ananda Group, ICCR Dance Troupe India, Scottish Traditions of Dance Trust, Tigerstyle, Tulloch Trust street dance group, Flamenco Dance Group, Irish Dance Group, G-Town Desi and many more; thanks all those who helped to make this year's Mela a great success, and looks forward to supporting this event for many years to come.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=16932>

Downing Street e-petition

Petition: "We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to close-down and demolish any mosques found to be promoting terrorism."

"We always read stories in the papers about how terrorism books are being sold or given away in mosques, and how hate-preachers are spreading their evil views to a crowd of eager listeners. But why does the government still give these crimes the opportunity to take place? The only way to ensure this doesn't happen is to close-down and demolish any mosque found committing these acts of treason. This will not only act as a deterrent, but will also guarantee the crime won't be committed in the same place again – because to allow such a repeat would be utter carelessness. Non-extremists who attend these mosques are also to blame, as they are happy to sit back and allow it happen. Also, any Muslims who report these criminal acts should be rewarded."

Government response: Thank you for your e-petition about any mosques found to be promoting terrorism. This Government is determined to build resilience to violent extremists and their messages of division. We believe that strong, well run Mosques that are positioned at the centre of the community are better equipped to

Race Relations

Downing Street e-petition (continued)

counter attempts by extremists to promote violent interpretations of Islam. These changes are important because they will be coming from within communities themselves. Our aim remains to create great places where people want to live, work and raise a family.

We are working closely with Muslim communities to build capacity and improve teaching and governance standards in Mosques, and to equip scholars and leaders with the skills, confidence and space to confront violent extremism.

We believe that by helping communities to strengthen their Mosques, we will enable them to become community hubs, which includes providing the highest standards of services, and safety, for children, the congregation and visitors. The Department is supporting community organisations to set, implement and regulate standards in mosques. This includes the independent Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB), and we are also supporting the Charity Commission in their work to encourage mosques to register as charities, whilst supporting mosques which are already registered with the Commission to improve their standards of governance.

Whilst we can support them, determining the way that mosques are run is not something that the Government can do from the outside. It has to come from within. Our effort here is not only to enable mosques to act as antidotes to violent extremism elements, but to strengthen them more generally as community centres promoting cohesive communities.

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19755>

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Equality

Press Releases

Scotland's Chief Police Officers launch a new strategic vision for celebrating and valuing difference

<http://www.acpos.police.uk/Documents/News%20Releases/ACPOSEqu&DivStrat220609.pdf>

Diversity is the key to delivering public services effectively in the 21st Century

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2009/090619_diversity.aspx

New publication

ACPOS Equality & Diversity Strategy 2009-2012

<http://www.acpos.police.uk/Documents/Policies/ACPOSEquDivStrategy2009.pdf>

News

Tackling extremism and terror key aims of police strategy

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1273823>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Anti-sectarianism Strategy

Bill Butler: To ask the First Minister when the Scottish Government will present a national anti-sectarianism strategy to the Parliament. (S3F-1808)

Reply from the First Minister (Alex Salmond): We will present our co-ordinated national approach to tackling sectarianism in Scotland to the Parliament in October, drawing together the different strands of existing activity that are already helping our communities to overcome this long-standing issue. For example, through sense over sectarianism we are already providing £412,500 over three years to people in the greater Glasgow area to develop and implement their own ideas for tackling sectarianism; through Nil by Mouth we are providing £118,000 this year and next to tackle sectarianism in the workplace; and through our support for YouthLink Scotland we are providing education resources to tackle sectarianism at all levels.

Bill Butler: I genuinely welcome the First Minister's answer, which, following the commitment in principle that he gave me in the chamber on 18 September 2008, sets out a specific timescale for introducing a national anti-sectarianism strategy.

Will the First Minister pledge today that the strategy will contain, among other things, a commitment to a national rehabilitation programme for those who are convicted of religiously aggravated offences, a pledge to address the decline in the number of twinning programmes in schools and an acceptance that an anti-sectarianism programme should be rolled out across the primary and secondary school curriculum?

Reply from the First Minister: All those matters are being actively considered. I am sure that Bill Butler will not be disappointed with the co-ordinated strategy when it emerges in October.

I am glad that Bill Butler has welcomed the strategy and the timescale for introducing it. I am sure that he will also recognise and welcome the strong efforts that have been made in the various community initiatives that have been taken forward in schools and communities throughout Scotland. The organisations that I have listed—and I could list more—are doing vital work on behalf of us all, and they, too, will be part of the national strategy that will be announced in October.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor0625-02.htm#Col18912>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Racially Aggravated Offences

Paul Holmes [280855]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many racially-motivated crimes were recorded in each police force area in (a) each year from 1997-98 to 2002-03 and (b) 2008-09.

Reply from Alan Campbell: The information on police recorded crime covers some categories of offence that are deemed to be racially or religiously aggravated. Racially aggravated offences were added to the recorded crime statistics series in April 1999 and religiously aggravated offences were added in April 2002. It is not possible to separately identify those offences of a racial nature from those of a religious nature.

Data for 1999-2000 to 2002-03 is given in the following table. Data for 2008-09 will be published on 16 July 2009.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090619/text/90619w0008.htm#09061950000085>

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Poland

Lord Ouseley [HL4232]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they give to black and Asian British citizens travelling to Poland in the light of recent experiences of persons reportedly subjected to racial abuse, harassment and threats of violence.

Reply from Lord Brett: There have been no reports in the Polish press of abuse, harassment or threatening behaviour being directed towards black or Asian British citizens in Poland. We see the risk of British citizens, irrespective of ethnic origin, being attacked in Poland as being negligible. We do not, therefore, have any plans to produce specific travel advice for black and Asian British citizens at this time. However, we constantly review our travel advice with our embassy in Poland and amend it when necessary.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90623w0002.htm#09062388000203>

Press Releases

BNP: Commission takes action over potential breach of race discrimination law

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/bnp-commission-takes-action-over-potential-breach-of-race-discrimination-law/>

EU Fundamental Rights Agency presents its Annual Report

<http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/PR%20ARjune09%20EN.pdf>

New publication

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights: Annual Report 2009

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/AR09_media_memo_EN.pdf

News

BNP dismisses legal action threat

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8114619.stm

Romanians leave NI after attacks

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/8114234.stm

Anti-sectarian bid is on song

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2515960.0.antisectionarian_bid_is_on_song.php

New strategy is planned to beat bigotry

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2516650.0.new_strategy_is_planned_to_beat_bigotry.php

Armed Forces Day celebration marred by sectarianism

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2516944.0.armed_forces_day_celebration_marred_by_sectarianism.php

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

UK 'criminalising minority groups'

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/UK-39criminalising-minority-groups39.5408355.jp>

Hindu priest moving after attack

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/8117538.stm

The Muslim Menace to Our British Nationality. For Real!

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/print/alexmassie/3719051/the-muslim-menace-to-our-british-nationality-for-real.thtml>

STUC Youth Conference to call for Boycott of the Scottish Youth Parliament in BNP challenge

<http://www.stuc.org.uk/news/656/stuc-youth-conference-to-call-for-boycott-of-the-scottish-youth-parliament-in-bnp-challenge>

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Other Holyrood

Press Release

Summer Cabinet programme

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/06/24094717>

New publication

Annual Report 2008-2009

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/corporate/anrep-accts/spar/ar-09/SPAnnualReport09English.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Question

NHS: Gypsies

Philip Hollobone [282088]: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are to ensure that Gypsies and Travellers have the same access as others to the NHS.

Reply from Phil Hope: The Department has embarked on a programme of work to improve the health status of Gypsies and Travellers. The programme, including Pacesetters, is aiming for better awareness of community needs among national health service professionals; more effective health promotion among Gypsy and Traveller communities; and better access to both primary and secondary care for community members. This work is based on engagement and partnership working with both the NHS and Gypsy and Traveller communities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090625/text/90625w0015.htm#0906265000044>

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New Publications

Cancer Incidence and Survival by Major Ethnic Group, England, 2002 – 2006

[http://www.ncin.org.uk/docs/090625-NCIN-Incidence and Survival by Ethnic Group-Report.pdf](http://www.ncin.org.uk/docs/090625-NCIN-Incidence%20and%20Survival%20by%20Ethnic%20Group-Report.pdf)

Benevolent Fundraising: A Guide to the Charities and Benevolent Fundraising (Scotland) Regulations 2009

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=5e0d8c96-d618-4868-b3d6-841ebd5c36fb>

Building a Strategic Plan: Scottish Human Rights Commission Consultation Report

<http://scottishhumanrights.com/content/resources/documents/SHRC%20consultation%20report%20FINAL.pdf>

Bike to Work scheme

http://www.bikeforall.net/content/cycle_to_work_scheme.php

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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>

Stage 1 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor0625-02.htm#Col18954>

Convention Rights Proceedings (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/28-ConRights/index.htm>

Bill passed

**** Education (Additional Support for Learning) Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/16-EdAddSup/index.htm>

Royal Assent received

Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill

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

Scottish Local Government (Elections) Bill

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

Bill passed

Sexual Offences Bill

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

Bill passed

Bills in Progress (continued)

Westminster

Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill

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

Crown Employment (Nationality) Bill

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

**** Equality Bill**

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

amendment paper

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/085/amend/pbc0852306m.237-243.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/085/amend/pbc0852506m.279-285.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/085/amend/pbc0852506a.305-311.html>

Public Bill Committee Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/085/pbc0850625p.43-45.html>

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Consultations

(closing date)

** new or updated this week

Working together to protect crowded places (10 July 2009)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-crowded-places/working-together-crowded-places?view=Binary>

and

Safer Places: a counter-terrorism supplement

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-crowded-places/safer-places?view=Binary>

UK Consultation on the European Commission Proposal for an Equal Treatment Directive (28 July 2009)

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/international/eu_directive.aspx

Oversight of the Immigration Advice Sector consultation (6 August 2009)

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/oversight_of_the_immigration_adv/oversight_immigration_advice/immigration_advice_consultation?view=Binary

**** Cycling Action Plan for Scotland** (20 August 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/273788/0081826.pdf>

Equality Bill: Policy Proposals for Specific Duties (30 September)

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/PDF/Specific%20Duties%20Consultation%20DocumentWEB.pdf>

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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

**** this week!**

Hate crime and community safety (event for Muslim Women)

1 July 2009 in Falkirk (10.00-1.30)

Event organised by AMINA women's resource centre, and Central Police with speakers from the Crown Office, Police, Victim Support, and AMINA, and including round table discussions on issues affecting Muslim Women in relation to policing. For information contact Samina or Gabrielle 0141 585 8026 / info@mwrc.org.uk or Fiach 01786826012 / fiach.obroin-molloy@centralscotland.pnn.police.uk

**** Working with Interpreters**

9 July 2009 in Glasgow

22 September in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to address practical, ethical and professional issues regarding working with interpreters, including briefing on legal obligations and entitlement to services. For information contact 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees**

17 July 2009 in Glasgow

20 August 2009 in Glasgow

8 October 2009 in Glasgow

8 December 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>

**** An Introduction to the Needs and Experiences of Refugee Women**

12 November 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 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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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/>
Scotland Helpline 0845 604 5510

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://scottishhumanrights.com/>

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/>