

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.

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

During the Scottish and UK Parliament summer recess MEMO will be issued fortnightly on 10 and 24 August, and 7 September. The Scottish Parliament returns on 31 August, and the UK Parliament on 12 October.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Asylum Seekers

Bill Butler (S3W-26370): To ask the Scottish Executive what discussions ministers have held with local authorities out with Glasgow to encourage them to enter into contracts with the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) since 17 May 2007, broken down by (a) date and (b) minister and local authority.

Reply from Nicola Sturgeon: Glasgow City Council are the only local authority in Scotland to take up a contract with the National Asylum Support Service (NASS). The contracts are between local authorities and UK Border Agency (UKBA). Therefore no discussions have taken place with local authorities out with Glasgow to encourage them to enter into contracts with UKBA.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pq=S3W-26370>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **Home Office Freedom of Information releases**

Information about the Ghurkhas settlement policy

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/released-information/foi-archive-immigration/11789_info_Ghurkhas_settlement?view=Html

and

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/released-information/foi-archive-immigration/11791_info_ghurkhas_set_policy?view=Binary

Press Releases

Lower age limit for partners of points-based system applicants

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/august/pbs-partner-age?area=allNews>

Student visas - provision for students with International Baccalaureate qualifications

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/august/baccalaureate?area=allNews>

Meeting the needs of British workers while maintaining the interests of the UK economy

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/press-release-aug-09.pdf>

New publications

Analysis of the Points Based System: Tier 2 and dependants

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/macreports/macreport0809/mac-august-09?view=Binary>

European Council on Refugees and Exiles: Complementary Protection in Europe

http://www.ecre.org/files/ECRE_Complementary_Protection_July_2009.pdf

News

Banks exploiting work permit system to hire foreign workers

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2524673.0.Banks_exploiting_work_permit_system_to_hire_foreign_workers.php

Immigrants not advised of knife law

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/08/11/newsstory13594157t0.asp>

Anger at Pakistani pipe band ban

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/8195284.stm

Anger after Pakistani pipe band is banned from travelling to Scotland

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/anger-after-pakistani-pipe-band-is-banned-from-travelling-to-scotland-1.822560>

Scots anger as UK bans Pakistani pipe band

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1348525>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Storm over Pakistani pipe band ban

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2525134.0.storm_over_pakistani_pipe_band_ban.php

Jim Murphy steps into row over Pakistani pipe band banned from Scotland

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/08/12/jim-murphy-steps-into-row-over-pakistani-pipe-band-banned-from-scotland-86908-21591568/>

Murphy fails to secure Scots visas for Pakistanis

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Murphy-fails-to-secure-Scots.5548938.jp>

Border Agency refuses to budge on visa row

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/westminster/display.var.2525213.0.Border_Agency_refuses_to_budge_on_visa_row.php

UK ban on Pakistani pipers 'is against Scotland's interests'

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2525742.0.uk_ban_on_pakistani_pipers_is_against_scotlands_interests.php

Minister writes to UKBA as visa row continues

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2525784.0.Minister_writes_to_UKBA_as_visa_row_continues.php

Discord at the border

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article6797640.ece>

Asylum staff 'are intimidating'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8198441.stm>

Deportees 'at risk of abuse'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/deportees-Isquotat-risk-of-abusersquo-1771197.html>

Swine flu: Refugee doctors to be drafted in

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Swine-flu--Refugee-doctors.5548884.jp>

UK 'unaware of child trafficking'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8199867.stm>

Call for a crackdown on cheap foreign workers

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2526419.0.Call_for_a_crackdown_on_cheap_foreign_workers.php

EU cities want bigger say in immigration debate

<http://euobserver.com/9/28551/?rk=1>

Child traffickers in benefits scam

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Child-traffickers-in-benefits-scam.5579805.jp>

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Race Relations

Westminster Ministerial Statements

10 Downing Street

The Prime Minister has sent his best wishes to Muslim communities in Britain and around the world as they begin to celebrate the month of Ramadan.

Gordon Brown said it would be a time for family and friends, and to remember those less fortunate. The PM said:

Today I wish you, your family, and all Muslim communities here in the United Kingdom and throughout the world, my sincerest best wishes for this the sacred month of Ramadan. Ramadan is a time for family and friends. A time when Muslims around the world focus more on others than themselves. As you come together everyday for the next month to break the fast, thoughts will be of faith, families and togetherness. It will also be a time for prayer, contemplation and reflection; a time to remember those who are less fortunate today. The message of compassion and justice is strong in the Islamic faith, not just in the holy month of Ramadan. It is a universal message that unites us all.

Britain is a country of around two million Muslims in a Europe of over 20 million. Britain today is a better place because of our diversity and openness. Our culture and society are stronger because of the contribution Muslims make everyday. As British Muslim communities across the United Kingdom prepare for Ramadan, may I take this opportunity to say: may your Ramadan be peaceful and blessed.

Once again Ramadan Mubarak to you all.

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page20376>

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

"Ramadan's focus on helping those in need is a good message for all of us, both Muslim and non Muslim". Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, has sent his warmest wishes to Muslim communities around the world at the start of Ramadan. Ramadan is a holy month for Muslims. This year, the first day of fasting will be 22 August and is expected to end around 19 September. David Miliband said:

"I would like to send my warmest wishes to Muslim communities around the world for the holy month of Ramadan. Ramadan marks an important time in the Islamic calendar. Wherever they are in the world, Muslims will be busy preparing for this month of fasting, prayer and contemplation. Ramadan also has a strong social aspect. It is a time for charity and giving – the outward expression of faith through acts of kindness and love, to complement the inner devotion and prayer. Ramadan's focus on helping those in need is a good message for all of us, both Muslim and non Muslim.

As we approach the holy month, let me wish you Ramadan Mubarak."

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=News&id=20740503>

News

Stop funding for faith schools

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article6797769.ece>

Christian pupils outnumbered by Muslims even in Roman Catholic schools

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/religion/6028500/Christian-pupils-outnumbered-by-Muslims-even-in-Roman-Catholic-schools.html>

Brave new world: The complicated side-effects of Britain's mixed-race households

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/this-britain/brave-new-world-the-complicated-sideeffects-of-britains-mixedrace-households-1774344.html>

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Equality

New publication

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Business Plan 2009-10

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/OurJob/businessplan0910.pdf

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Racism and Religious Hatred

News

Man left with slashed face after attack by racist gang

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Man-left-with-slashed-face.5537641.jp>

Asian man slashed in racist attack

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2524771.0.asian_man_slashed_in_racist_attack.php

Officer convicted of racist abuse

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/north_east/8214594.stm

What could these men have in common? Hmm

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/what-could-these-men-have-in-common-hmm-1776178.html>

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Other Holyrood

Lockerbie prisoner release

Scottish Government Press Release

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/08/20080736>

Cabinet Secretary for Justice Kenny MacAskill: Decisions on the applications for prisoner transfer and compassionate release in relation to Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed Al-Megrahi

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/This-Week/Speeches/Safer-and-stronger/lockerbidecision>

Reaction to the Lockerbie prisoner release

Strong words from the FBI

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8216466.stm>

Letter from FBI's Robert S. Mueller

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8216107.stm>

MacAskill was wrong

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/opinion/MacAskill-was-wrong.5579678.jp>

Other Holyrood

Reaction to the prisoner release (continued)

Anger at Lockerbie bomber welcome

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/8213352.stm>

Saltires waving in Tripoli branded 'sickening'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Saltires-waving-in-Tripoli-branded.5575788.jp>

Families brand release 'sickening' and call for boycott of Scotland

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2526839.0.Families_brand_release_sickening_and_call_for_boycott_of_Scotland.php

Lockerbie bomber: Blame Megrahi's release on London, not Edinburgh

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/alancochrane/6073739/Lockerbie-bomber-Blame-Megrahis-release-on-London-not-Edinburgh.html>

Megrahi release 'right decision'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8216589.stm>

Salmond on the defensive in face of American backlash

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2526838.0.Salmond_on_the_defensive_in_face_of_American_backlash.php

Alex Salmond hits back after FBI chief attacks Lockerbie bomber release

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article6806871.ece>

A question of human rights

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2526965.0.a_question_of_human_rights.php

Minister Ivan Lewis 'urged' Lockerbie release

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article6806466.ece>

Kenny MacAskill's decision to free Megrahi is a tribute to our decency

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/aug/23/kenny-macaskill-decision-megrahi-release>

Al-Megrahi is home. And he is innocent

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/christine-grahame-almegrahi-is-home-and-he-is-innocent-1776188.html>

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New Publication

Stronger Together: A new approach to preventing violent extremism

<http://www.nlgn.org.uk/public/wp-content/uploads/stronger-together.pdf>

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Other News

Arranged marriage 're-think' call

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/8195772.stm

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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>

Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill

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

Bills in Progress 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>

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Consultations (closing date)

** new or updated this week

Runnymede Trust: Online Survey on Financial Inclusion and Ethnicity (no closing date given)

<http://www.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?CEEA869BC7889C9C>

Preventing Violent Extremism (closes 17 September 2009)

http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/clg/clgpn090721pve.cfm

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

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

Freedom of Information: Improving Openness (30 September)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/278119/0083564.pdf>

Earning the right to stay: A new points test for citizenship (26 October)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/earning-the-right-to-stay/earning-the-right-to-stay/earned-citizenship-consultation?view=Binary>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** New or updated this week

**** Awards for Bridging Cultures**

Closing date for applications: 14 September 2009

This award celebrates organisations running specific projects or schemes that promote interculturality. In 2009 it will also celebrate individuals who have initiated or made a significant contribution to these projects.

There are four different categories of Awards for Bridging Cultures:

- Voluntary or community groups or organisations running projects/schemes to promote intercultural dialogue with gross annual financial income of over £500,000 (in the last two financial years)
- Voluntary or community groups or organisations running projects/schemes to promote intercultural dialogue with gross annual financial income of under £500,000 (in the last two financial years)
- Volunteers or founders who have made a significant contribution to initiating or running projects or schemes to promote intercultural dialogue
- Local authorities, public sector organisations and private companies who can demonstrate their support for voluntary sector projects or schemes which promote intercultural dialogue, either by helping to initiate projects/schemes or by providing ongoing financial and/or other support.

For information and application forms see <http://www.bridgingcultures.org.uk/About>

Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund

Closing date for applications: 30 September 2009

The fund works with local faith groups as they build hope and struggle against poverty by providing grants and support in Scotland's most fragile urban and rural communities. Applications of up to £15,000 will be considered. This may be spread over a maximum of three years, with no more than £7,500 being awarded in the first year. For information see <http://www.fiscaf.org/index.htm>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** this week!**

EveryOne IN: Working towards Equality for Minority Ethnic Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People in Scotland

28 August 2009 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.30)

BEMIS and Equality Network report launch and opportunity discuss issues including how faith and religion can impact on the lives of Minority Ethnic LGBT individuals, problems faced by Minority Ethnic LGBT asylum seekers, refugees & migrants, Minority Ethnic LGBT people's experiences of discrimination and harassment, and the importance of celebrating Minority Ethnic LGBT diversity and cultural heritage. For information contact timc@equality-network.org / 07020 933 952 or see <http://www.bemis.org.uk/Everyone%20IN%20report%20launch%20INVITE.doc>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** next week!**

The Evolving Face of Discrimination Legislation: The Equality Bill

31 August 2009 in Glasgow (10.00 – 1.00)

Legal Services Agency seminar to provide an insight into the key aspects of the Equality Bill and what this could mean for employers and employees. For information see

<http://www.lsa.org.uk/discriminationlegislationtheequalitybill.aspx>

**** next week!**

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>

**** next week!**

Postive Action in Housing AGM

4 September 2009 in Glasgow (11.00)

For information contact home@paih.org

Working with Interpreters

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

**** Get your voice heard by the Justice system**

23 September 2009 in Glasgow

BEMIS and Capability Scotland event to enable minority ethnic disabled people and/or people with a long term condition to tell the justice sector about issues in accessing justice. For information contact Tanveer Parnez tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

**** The Law of Refugee Status**

5 October 2009 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.30)

Glasgow Immigration Practitioners' Group seminar in association with the Scottish Refugee Council, the Murray Stable, and Glasgow University Law School. For information contact Sheila Coutts at sheila.coutts@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/noticeboard/Professor_Hathaway

Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

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>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** FARE Action Week against Racism and Discrimination in European Football**

15-27 October 2009

For the 10th successive season the Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) network is coordinating action in and around football stadiums across Europe, and large sections of the European football family in 40 countries will stand united against racism and discrimination. For information see

<http://www.farenet.org/default.asp?intPageID=7&intArticleID=1970>

Scottish Third Sector Research Conference

26 October 2009 in Edinburgh (9.45 – 5.00)

Conference organised by SCVO in conjunction with the Centre for Public Services Research, Edinburgh University Business School to connect researchers, policy-makers and practitioners to ensure Scotland's Voluntary Sector has the latest knowledge and research at its fingertips. For information contact Ian Lees ian.lees@scvo.org.uk

To find out how to submit a paper for the conference see

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Information/ViewInformation.aspx?al=t&page=&all=&from=DSR&Info=1946&TCID=30&PageName=Impact>

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

Scottish Charity Accounts and Reporting to OSCR

30 November 2009 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30)

SCVO seminar to look at what OSCR expects from charities in terms of compliance. For information contact Jane Baillie 0131 474 8019 / jane.baillie@scvo.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/>

Useful Links (continued)

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 is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting the development of the Ethnic Minority Third Sector and communities. **BEMIS** aims: To empower and build the capacity of minority formal and informal community organisations; As a strategic partner with Government, to be proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland; and To help develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK and European levels. <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/>