

## 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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**The UK Parliament is in recess until 12 October**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

#### Asylum Seekers

**Bill Butler** (S3W-26369): To ask the Scottish Executive what discussions ministers have held with the UK Government with regard to local authorities outwith Glasgow entering into contracts with the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) since 17 May 2007, broken down by date and minister.

**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). No discussions have taken place with Scottish ministers and the UK Government with regard to local authorities outwith Glasgow entering into contracts with UKBA.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-26369>

## Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Anne McLaughlin** (S3W-26460): To ask the Scottish Executive when it last met officials from Dungavel Detention Centre and what issues were discussed.

**Reply from Nicola Sturgeon:** The Scottish Government is opposed to the detention of children and continues to state this both publicly and with the UK Government at both ministerial and official level. Scottish Government officials last visited Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre in January 2009. This was a one off visit for three officials working in asylum policy areas to see the facility and to meet staff.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-26460>

### Human Trafficking

**Trish Godman** (S3W-26276): To ask the Scottish Executive what resources have been made available for services to support victims of human trafficking.

**Trish Godman** (S3W-26277): To ask the Scottish Executive what resources have been made available for services to support women who have suffered sexual exploitation as a result of human trafficking.

**Reply from Kenny MacAskill:** The Scottish Government has awarded grants of almost £75,900 in 2007-08 and £70,950 in 2008-09 to the Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance (TARA), to provide support to women trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation.

In 2008-09, the Scottish Government set aside £20,000 to recompense local authorities for any costs incurred by them in supporting adult victims of trafficking, apart from support for women trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation, who were covered by the grant awarded to TARA.

For 2009-10, the Scottish Government has entered into an agreement with Migrant Helpline, which will provide support to adult victims of human trafficking, other than women trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation; funding is called down on a case-by-case basis.

Information on resources provided by other organisations, such as the support of child victims of trafficking by local authorities, is not held centrally.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-26276>

## Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

**Anne McLaughlin** (S3M-04777): **Rights for Constituents to be Represented by Members of the Scottish Parliament**— That the Parliament expresses its concern at the apparent refusal of the UK Border Agency to work with members of the Scottish Parliament seeking to represent constituents in Glasgow; considers that constituents should have the right to be represented by any of their elected representatives, be they councillors, MSPs, MPs or MEPs; considers that the Scottish Parliament is a legitimate body of representation for the people of Scotland, as is recognised by other government agencies in Scotland and the UK, and believes that constituents, who are often vulnerable asylum seekers, have the right to choose who should represent them.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=17253>

## Immigration and Asylum (continued)

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions

#### Asylum

**Stephen Williams** [287779]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy asylum cases have been resolved since July 2006.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** In her update to the Home Affairs Select Committee, Lin Homer the UK Border Agency Chief Executive has stated that 197,500 older asylum cases have been resolved, up to 31 May 2009. The Case Resolution Directorate have made good progress and remain committed and on track to conclude these cases by summer 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090901/text/90901w0024.htm#0909013000087>

#### Asylum: Families

**Diane Abbott** [286941]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications made by those under the age of 18 years and resident in their country of origin to join their parents who (a) have been granted refugee status, (b) have been granted humanitarian protection, (c) have been granted discretionary leave to remain and (d) are awaiting a decision on their immigration application in the UK have been accepted in the last five years; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The number of visas issued to overseas nationals under the age of 18 in the Family Reunion category in each of the financial years 2004-05 to 2008-09 is shown in the following table. The Family Reunion category comprises dependents of (a) those granted refugee status before 2005 and (b) those granted refugee status and humanitarian protection after 2005, but such dependents are not recorded separately by the UK Border Agency.

<i>Financial year</i>	<i>Family reunion visa issue</i>
2004-05	5,663
2005-06	4,714
2006-07	3,521
2007-08	3,069
2008-09	2,552
Total	19,519

There is no provision in the Immigration Rules for entry clearance to dependents of (c) those granted discretionary leave to remain before they have obtained indefinite leave to remain, or (d) those awaiting a decision on their application for leave to remain on the basis of their claim for asylum.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090901/text/90901w0024.htm#0909013000089>

#### Illegal Immigrants: Housing

**Gregory Campbell** [287181]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost of providing accommodation for illegal migrants to the UK.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The UK Border Agency does not provide accommodation to migrants other than to:

- asylum seekers who are destitute, or likely to become destitute, whilst their claim (including any appeal) remains under consideration;
- failed asylum seekers with dependent children under the age of 18 years and those who are unable to leave the UK immediately for reasons beyond their control who would otherwise be destitute.

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Local authorities are responsible for providing assistance to migrants who are destitute and have care needs. This form of assistance may include the provision of accommodation under the National Assistance Act 1948. The Home Office does not collect data on the cost of this.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090901/text/90901w0027.htm#0909013000114>

## Press Releases

**Temporary concession for students attending state-maintained schools on exchange or educational visits**

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/august/concession-exchange-students?area=allNews>

**Immigration and asylum statistics released**

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/immigration-asylum-stats>

**Stop cuts to asylum support**

<http://e-activist.com/ea-campaign/clientcampaign.do?ea.client.id=121&ea.campaign.id=4220>

**EESC president, Mario Sepi, again condemns the forced return of migrants**

<http://eesc.europa.eu/activities/press/cp/docs/2009/communique-presse-eesc-105-2009-en.doc>

**Stepping up efforts on resettlement of refugees**

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1267&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**Migration and Population: Getting beyond rhetoric**

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/articles/?id=3705>

**Migrant Exodus: The impact on the UK**

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/articles/?id=3703>

## New publications

**Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom April – June 2009**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immig209.pdf>

**Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2008**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1409.pdf>

**An opportunity and a challenge: Migration in the European Union**

<http://ec.europa.eu/publications/booklets/move/81/en.doc>

## **Immigration and Asylum** (continued) **News**

### **Foreign teachers to remain in Dundee**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/08/26/newsstory13676665t0.asp>

### **Scots object to incentives for immigrants**

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article6815070.ece>

### **Tragedy triggers plans for new EU immigration policy**

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/social/europe/tragedy-triggers-plans-new-eu-immigration-policy/article-184752#>

### **Dramatic fall in migration figures exposes the scaremongering of anti-immigration groups**

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/pressreleases/?id=3694>

### **Immigration is falling because of the economy**

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/articles/?id=3697>

### **Government fighting yesterday's migration battles**

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/articles/?id=3696>

### **Artists refused visas for distillery posts**

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1373862>

### **Alan Johnson to unveil limits on UK jobs for foreign workers**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/sep/06/uk-jobs-foreign-workers-limit>

### **Asylum-seekers hit by huge rise in homelessness**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylumseekers-hit-by-huge-rise-in-homelessness-1782525.html>

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## **Race Relations**

### **News**

### **Dialogue can spur understanding, says UNESCO head on slavery anniversary**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31833&Cr=slavery&Cr1>

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## **Equality**

### **Press Release**

### **Ministry of Justice: Equality Schemes Annual Review 2008–2009**

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/equality-schemes-annual-review-2008-2009.pdf>

## Equality (continued) News

**Equality may come at a cost for both public and private sectors**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/politics/Equality-may-come-at-.5591698.jp>

**Race adviser threatens to resign**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/sep/06/government-race-adviser-quit-threat>

**Why will no one help the unemployed minorities?**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/sep/06/race-gender-ethnic-minorities>

**Yes, equality watchdog had 'serious' issues – Trevor Phillips**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/sep/04/equality-watchdog-problems-trevor-phillips>

**I was naive; we got distracted. But the real work carried on**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/sep/05/trevor-phillips-equality>

**Equality chief Trevor Phillips awarded friend £300,000 for '£30,000 contract'**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1211476/Equality-chief-Trevor-Phillips-awarded-friend-300-000--30-000-contract.html>

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## Racism and Religious Hatred

### Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

**Bill Kidd (S3M-04742): The PATH (Scotland) Leadership Programme**— That the Parliament welcomes the PATH (Scotland) Leadership Programme, which has been developed by PATH (Scotland) with funding from the Race, Religion and Refugee Integration Fund as a positive action measure to address the under-representation of black and minority ethnic (BME) communities in management roles; notes that this course is free to successful applicants and aims to examine power inequalities, the impact of racism on Scotland's culture and the implications for people from BME communities while allowing participants to recognise and further develop their own skills and abilities as managers and leaders, and commends the work of PATH (Scotland) in tackling existing disadvantage because of colour, race, nationality or ethnic origin and in further promoting equality of opportunity for a fairer Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=17212>

### Press Release

**Commission issues county court proceedings against the BNP**

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/commission-issues-county-court-proceedings-against-the-bnp/>

### News

**Legal action over BNP membership**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8218397.stm>



## Racism and Religious Hatred

### News (continued)

#### **Ex-BNP member is fined for leaking list**

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2528633.0.ExBNP\\_member\\_is\\_fined\\_for\\_leaking\\_list.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2528633.0.ExBNP_member_is_fined_for_leaking_list.php)

#### **Equality group takes BNP to court over ethnic exclusion**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Equality-group-takes-BNP-to.5583305.jp>

#### **Council staff face suspension over racist message**

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/edinburgh/Council-staff-face-suspension-over.5584245.jp>

#### **Travelling people tell of abuse suffered on daily basis**

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2527393.0.Travelling\\_people\\_tell\\_of\\_abuse\\_suffered\\_on\\_daily\\_basis.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2527393.0.Travelling_people_tell_of_abuse_suffered_on_daily_basis.php)

#### **Majority of travellers fallen victim to abuse and harassment**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Majority-of-travellers-fallen-victim.5586587.jp>

#### **Microsoft in web photo racism row**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/8221896.stm>

#### **ASA raps 'racist' poster for kids' charity**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2009/aug/26/asa-kids-company>

#### **Will the Equality Commission's prosecution of the BNP backfire by outlawing the Black Police Association?**

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/geraldwarner/100007381/will-the-equality-commissions-prosecution-of-the-bnp-backfire-by-outlawing-the-black-police-association/>

#### **Naomi Campbell attacks companies for 'dropping' black models in recession**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/fashion/fashionnews/6111554/Naomi-Campbell-attacks-companies-for-dropping-black-models-in-recession.html>

#### **Youth charged with race hate**

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Youth-charged-with-race-hate.5604808.jp>

#### **Man jailed for sectarian remarks**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow\\_and\\_west/8234135.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/8234135.stm)

#### **Yob jailed for hurling sectarian abuse at republican protesters**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/scotland/Yob-jailed-for-hurling-.5612956.jp>

#### **20 arrested as anti-fascists clash with right-wing protesters**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/20-arrested-as-anti-fascists-clash-with-right-wing-protesters-1.917836>

#### **Arrests made after city centre riots**

[http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2529362.0.arrests\\_made\\_after\\_city\\_centre\\_riots.php](http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2529362.0.arrests_made_after_city_centre_riots.php)

## Racism and Religious Hatred

### News (continued)

#### Riot police arrest 20 as right-wing protest in Birmingham ends in violence

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/politics/lawandorder/6143569/Riot-police-arrest-20-as-right-wing-protest-in-Birmingham-ends-in-violence.html>

#### Police arrest 30 after violent street clashes between anti-fascists and right-wing 'English Defence League' protesters in Birmingham

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1211414/Anti-fascists-clash-right-wing-protesters-Birmingham.html>

#### I was sacked for being a Christian

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article6823080.ece>

#### Northern Ireland at risk of a 'race war', anti-fascist campaigner warns police

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/sep/06/northern-ireland-racism-loyalists-neo-nazis>

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## Other Holyrood

### Scottish Government Legislative Programme

#### Programme for Scotland

...Mr Salmond said that action - both legislative and non-legislative - would build on the efforts of the past year in protecting and creating jobs, supporting communities and investing in the education, skills and industries for Scotland's recovery and future success. The 13 proposed bills include plans to tackle alcohol misuse, allow for the construction of a vital new Forth Crossing, end the right-to-buy for all new social housing, and pave the way for a referendum to allow the people of Scotland a free and fair choice on the country's constitutional future. Programme for Scotland. ...

#### **To read the full press release see**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/09/02151308>

#### First Minister's statement to Parliament

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/This-Week/Speeches/First-Minister/programme-for-scotland>

#### Towards a More Successful Scotland: The Government's Programme for Scotland 2009-2010

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/283548/0085938.pdf>

#### Summary of Bills

##### Budget Bill

To give statutory authority to the Scottish Government to spend money out of the Scottish Consolidated Fund in the financial year 2010-11.

##### Referendum Bill

To provide the framework for the conduct and mechanics of a fair and democratic referendum. Will include the possibility of multi-option referendums, and of the fiscal proposals in Calman being on the referendum ballot.



## Other Holyrood Scottish Government Legislative Programme (continued)

### [Alcohol Bill](#)

Proposals include minimum pricing, bans on irresponsible promotions, placing a duty on Licensing Boards to consider raising the purchase age of alcohol to 21 in all or part of their area, establishing the power to introduce a Social Responsibility Fee for some retailers.

### [Children's Hearings \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

To strengthen and streamline the Children's Hearing system.

### [Legal Services Bill](#)

To allow solicitors to secure external investment and combine with other professionals to offer legal services in new ways, remove restrictions on solicitors entering into business relationships with non-solicitors, and create a robust regulatory framework for the new business structures.

### [Patients' Rights Bill](#)

To institute a 12 week waiting time guarantee from agreement to treatment to the start of that treatment for day cases and inpatients, establish Patients Rights Officers for NHS Health Board areas, and reinforce existing rights to make a complaint.

### [Historic Environment \(Amendment\) Bill](#)

To update the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953, the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997.

### [Debt and Family Homes Bill](#)

To ensure that people who become bankrupt and who are in debt are not made homeless unnecessarily.

### [Debtor Protection Bill](#)

To enable the use of lay representation in repossessions cases, and improve access to debt relief by providing a new route into bankruptcy.

### [Housing Bill](#)

To reform Right to Buy and modernise housing regulation.

### [Wildlife and Natural Environment Bill](#)

To reduce regulatory burdens while helping to protect and enhance the natural environment.

### [Forth Crossing Bill](#)

To enable the construction of a new bridge over the Firth of Forth.

### [Crofting Reform Bill](#)

To reform crofting to deliver sustainable rural communities.

## Debate

### **Debate: Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed al-Megrahi (Decision)**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor0902-02.htm#Col19021>

## Other Holyrood (continued)

### New publication

Scotland's People Annual Report: Results from 2007/2008 Scottish Household Survey  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/282618/0085510.pdf>

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## Other Westminster

### Parliamentary Questions

#### Prison Service: Meat

**David Taylor** [287723]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department provides to HM Prison Service on the procurement of halal meat; and whether that guidance differentiates between stunned and pre-stunned meat.

**Reply from Maria Eagle:** All Halal denoted products provided via national NOMS supply contracts to prison establishments are accredited by a certifying Islamic body.

There is no agreed national or international standard for Halal products. Additionally differing views in regard to interpretations of Islamic Law, in particular to stunning and mechanical slaughter issues, further compound the difficulty of fully ensuring consumer confidence among all Muslim prisoners when providing meals.

The NOMS Muslim adviser, together with some Muslim chaplains, has consulted widely on the issue of Halal meat. The work culminated in the introduction of a NOMS Halal Standard which has been agreed by senior Muslim scholars from across all the different Muslim schools of thought. It has also been acknowledged by a senior official at the English Beef and Lamb Executive (EBLEX) as an example of best practice. The Halal Standard together with comprehensive commodity specifications helps ensure that all Muslim prisoners are provided with assured, quality products. Since 1 April 2009, all Halal raw poultry products have been accredited and supplied to this new standard.

If any prisoner has any doubt about the credibility of the Halal menu option offered, despite the introduction of these standards, there is always an option to choose a vegetarian or vegan option as an alternative.

All contracted suppliers are required to comply with Food Quality Standards provided by the authority. This includes the standard for Halal, a copy of which has been placed in the House Library.

The Halal Standard states: "the animal may be stunned, anaesthetised or otherwise rendered wholly or partially insensible before slaughter."

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090901/text/90901w0002.htm#0909012000030>

#### Travelling People

**Robert Neill** [288263]: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment has been made of the effect of the new duties on public authorities in the Equality Bill on Travellers' access to public services.

**Reply from Michael Jabez Foster:** Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are covered by the existing race duty as recognised ethnic groups, and will continue to be covered as part of that strand in the forthcoming Equality Duty. This should mean public bodies considering the needs of all groups, including Irish Travellers, when taking decisions and planning services.

## Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

When the Bill was published, Government Equalities Office officials assessed the potential impact of the provisions in the Equality Bill, including plans for the Equality Duty, upon stakeholders. The assessment and its conclusions were published. That assessment concluded that the introduction of the Equality Duty would not have any adverse impact on different racial groups.

The other public sector duty in the Equality Bill, covering socio-economic inequalities, should benefit travellers, many of whom suffer significant levels of socio-economic disadvantage.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090901/text/90901w0013.htm#0909012000111>

### Charities

**Francis Maude** [287264]: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance the Charity Commission has issued on whether registered charities may (a) register as third parties with the Electoral Commission and (b) engage in political campaigning during a regulated election period.

**Reply from Angela Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

*Letter from Andrew Hind, dated July 2009:*

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on what guidance the Charity Commission has issued on whether registered charities may (a) register as third parties with the Electoral Commission, and (b) engage in political campaigning during an election period.

Charity law on campaigning and political activity is set out in our published guidance 'Speaking Out—Guidance on Campaigning and Political Activity by Charities' (CC9) and 'Charities and Elections' which are available on our website at [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk). This guidance makes clear that a charity can carry out campaigning and political activity as a means of furthering or supporting its charitable purpose, but that under charity law a charity must never carry out party political activity.

On part (a) of your question regarding the issue of a charity's registration as a third party with the Electoral Commission, our guidance signposts charities to the Electoral Commission and to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. We do not provide detailed guidance ourselves. Charities must not support or oppose any party political campaign, candidate or manifesto. Therefore we do not envisage circumstances where it would be necessary for a charity to register with the Electoral Commission as a third party. We would be concerned about any charity that was recognised in this way, and would certainly want to explore this further with them.

As to part (b), the Commission's guidance on political campaigning during an election period makes clear that the principles for a charity engaging in any campaigning or political activity continue to apply. The key principle of charity law in terms of elections is that charities must be, and be seen to be, independent from party politics. We therefore urge charities to think carefully about what activities they engage in during this period, and how they might be perceived.

We are currently in the process of arranging to meet with the Electoral Commission to discuss further the issue of third party registration. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have other questions. I hope this is helpful.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090901/text/90901w0006.htm#0909012000047>

## Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

### Forced Marriage

**Margaret Moran** [288849]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases dealt with by (a) the Forced Marriage Unit and (b) police forces have involved persons who have been obliged to sign applications for leave to remain under duress from their spouses.

**Reply from Alan Campbell:** The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) does not routinely collect the information requested. However, of the 420 cases where the FMU provided direct support to victims in 2008, 207 involved reluctant sponsors (where a victim has already been forced into marriage and is now being forced to sponsor their spouse's visa) and 10 cases where the sponsor wished to withdraw their sponsorship of their spouse prior to them being granted indefinite leave to remain.

**Margaret Moran** [288881]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent investigations his Department has carried out in respect of allegations that persons have been obliged to sign recent applications for leave to remain under duress by their spouses.

**Reply from Phil Woolas:** The information is not held centrally at a sufficient level of detail to extract what is often one of several issues raised.

**Margaret Moran** [288882]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has (a) commissioned and (b) evaluated on any link between instances of forced marriage and cases where persons have been obliged to sign applications for leave to remain under duress by their spouses.

**Reply from Alan Campbell:** To date, there has been no specific research commissioned to evaluate the link between instances of forced marriage and cases where persons have been obliged to sign applications for leave to remain under duress by their spouses.

In 2008 the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) introduced a new system in order to capture more robust figures on forced marriage. During 2009 the FMU will continue to work with other Government Departments and the non-government organisations to build a co-ordinated approach to data collection. Within this we will consider how to better capture data on immigration matters.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090901/text/90901w0027.htm#0909013000109>

## Press Release

**A month of fasting and giving**

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/News-Stories/2009/Ramadan-2009/>

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## New Publication

**Who Pays to Access Cash? Ethnicity and Cash Machines**

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

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## Other News

**Black people pay more to get their own money out of the bank**

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/PressReleases/Press%20release%20Who%20Pays%20to%20Access%20FINAL.pdf>

**Millions of European children still denied an education – new global report**

<http://www.minorityrights.org/7967/press-releases/millions-of-european-children-still-denied-an-education-new-global-report.html>

**Government launches study into Female Genital Mutilation**

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/Recentstories/DH\\_104661](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/Recentstories/DH_104661)

**Asian charity faces closure over £40,000 funding cut**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2528309.0.asian\\_charity\\_faces\\_closure\\_over\\_40\\_000\\_funding\\_cut.php](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2528309.0.asian_charity_faces_closure_over_40_000_funding_cut.php)

**Travellers' controversial application is approved**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/09/03/newsstory13719986t0.asp>

**Anger as council closes road so travellers can hold wake for 'two weeks'**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1211363/Anger-council-closes-road-travellers-hold-wake-weeks.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>

**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](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

### **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>



## Funding Opportunities (continued)

### 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

### \*\* Child Tax Credit and Child Benefit for Refugees

18 September 2009 in Glasgow (1.00 - 4.00)

Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland course to awareness and knowledge of frontline workers to increase take-up and reduce child poverty. For information contact Betty Kelly 0141 552 3303 / [bkelly@cpagscotland.org.uk](mailto:bkelly@cpagscotland.org.uk)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk) / 0141 548 8047.

### \*\* Human Rights and Racial Discrimination: A way forward in Scotland

28 September 2009 in Edinburgh (12.30 – 4.30)

5 October 2009 in Glasgow (12.30 – 4.30)

13 October 2009 in Inverness (12.30 – 4.30)

Glasgow Anti-Racist Alliance seminars to discuss and reflect on recent human rights developments and to seize opportunities to influence the human rights agenda at the UN on race discrimination. For information contact Lyndsay Theobald 0141 418 6530 / [lyndsay@gara.org.uk](mailto:lyndsay@gara.org.uk)

### \*\* Developing Management and Leadership Skills: a positive action course for people from black and minority ethnic communities (November 2009 – June 2010)

Closing date for applications 28 September 2009

Personal development course developed by PATH (Scotland) with funding from the Race Equality and Religion Integration Fund as a positive action measure towards addressing the under-representation of people from black and minority ethnic communities in management roles. It aims to support BME workers currently in employment to fulfil their potential and access management opportunities within and outwith their own organisations. For information contact Najimee Parveen [najimee@pathscotland.org.uk](mailto:najimee@pathscotland.org.uk) / 0141 332 9477 / or see

[http://www.pathscotland.org.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=26&Itemid=57](http://www.pathscotland.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=26&Itemid=57)

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **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](mailto:sheila.coutts@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) /

0141 248 9799 or see

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/noticeboard/Professor\\_Hathaway](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](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=73>

### **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](mailto: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>

### **\*\* Equalities: from vertical to horizontal**

29 October 2009

Glasgow (9.45 – 3.30)

Voluntary Action Fund workshop for organisations striving to work across equality strands. For information contact Rhona Morris [rhona.morris@voluntaryactionfund.org.uk](mailto:rhona.morris@voluntaryactionfund.org.uk)

/ 01383 620780.

### **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](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **\*\* Participation and Influence with New Communities**

18 November 2009

Glasgow

Voluntary Action Fund workshop for organisations working with refugees, asylum seekers and/or migrant communities, and those who have an interest in community participation and partnerships. The workshop will explore what we know of the barriers to involvement in community planning and civic participation by people in Scotland's new communities. For information contact Rhona Morris 01383 620780 /

[rhona.morris@voluntaryactionfund.org.uk](mailto:rhona.morris@voluntaryactionfund.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](mailto: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](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](http://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](http://www.acas.org.uk)

**SCVO** <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Home/Home.aspx>

**Volunteer Development Scotland** [www.vds.org.uk](http://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/>

## Useful Links (continued)

**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](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/>