

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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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motions

S3M-5021 Christina McKelvie: End Detention of Children in the UK—That the Parliament is disturbed to note the findings of a team of paediatricians and psychologists published in *Child Abuse and Neglect: The International Journal*, which found that 73% of the children held in Yarl's Wood immigration detention centre whom they examined had developed clinically significant emotional, mental and physical health problems since being detained, including weight loss, sleep problems, bedwetting and speech regression; believes that these findings vindicate the Scottish Government's insistence on pursuing alternatives to detention for asylum-seeker families with children; hopes that the community-based pilot launched jointly by the Scottish Government, Glasgow City Council and the UK Border Agency in May 2009 means that no more asylum-seeking children will be detained in Scotland; further notes, however, that, according to Home Office figures, 470 children have been detained this year in England and Wales, and calls on the UK Government to follow the Scottish Government's example in introducing community-based alternatives to detention throughout the UK and end the practice of detaining children as soon as possible.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=17533>

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Motions (continued)

S3M-5024 Sandra White: Concern over Asylum Process Changes—That the Parliament expresses concern over the UK Government's announced changes to the asylum process, which will see those making an initial asylum application in Scotland forced to travel over 400 miles to the UK Border Agency Asylum Screening Unit in Croydon; considers that this will result in delays in vital support for asylum seekers; expresses further concern that these changes have been introduced without prior consultation with groups such as the Scottish Refugee Council, which believes that the changes will lead to further stress, trauma and worsened poverty for those seeking asylum, and urges the UK Government to reconsider the introduction of these changes.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=17536>

Westminster Debate

UK Border Agency

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091022/debtext/91022-0017.htm#09102229000003>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Entry Clearances

David Lidington [293115]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken by the UK Border Agency was from the receipt of an application from a European national for permanent residence to the determination of a case in the latest period for which figures are available.

Reply from Phil Woolas [293116]: In the current operational year to date the average time taken to determine an application for permanent residence submitted by a European National is 7.3 months from the date of receipt.

David Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what target his Department has set for the average length of time for the UK Border Agency to determine applications for leave to remain under the seven years child concession.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency considers each case on its own individual merits and as such the length of time taken to consider an application under the seven years child concession will vary. Therefore we are unable to provide a specific time frame for considering these applications. However, all remaining applications made under the seven year child concession will be considered by the UK Border Agency by spring 2010.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091020/text/91020w0008.htm#09102047000078>

Entry Clearances: Appeals

Fiona Mactaggart [291871]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average it took for a visa to be issued following a successful appeal against a visa refusal in the last three months.

Reply from Phil Woolas: It takes approximately six weeks for the decision of the AIT to be notified to visa sections overseas, including time taken for the UK Border Agency to decide whether to appeal against the decision. The visa section will then contact the appellant within three weeks, to request return of the passport. Once this is obtained, further checks may be carried out to ensure there has not been a change of circumstances since the decision. The visa is then issued. The visa section aims to complete the further processing as soon as possible but this

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

will depend on the speed with which the passport is returned and the number of checks that need to be carried out. It is too early to give details on the last three months.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091020/text/91020w0008.htm#09102047000079>

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Nicholas Soames [291205]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what response his Department has made to the report by Chris Taylor of the UK Border Agency on travel permits from Pakistan; what the principal conclusions of the report were; and if he will place a copy of the report in the Library.

Reply from Phil Woolas: A member of staff in the Islamabad visa section was asked in 2006 to conduct an internal review of a number of visa cases for the purpose of maintaining and improving processes and decision-making. This was part of routine procedure to monitor and continuously improve performance. As such, the observations made in the review were one of many contributions to the continuous business improvement process within UKBA International Group, previously UK Visas.

As a result of this process, there have been significant improvements made to visa processing in Pakistan since 2006, for example:

- In 2007 we began recording biometrics of all Pakistani visa applicants, which are cross-checked against UK Police and immigration databases.
- We have increased verification checks on key documentation. For example, all education certificates are verified with the Pakistan Higher Education Commission.
- We have improved our risk profiling of Pakistani visa applications, meaning that extra checks are made on applications considered higher risk.
- We have introduced the Points Based System, which has consolidated about 80 immigration routes into a five tier system and introduced still tougher standards on UK employers and colleges seeking to bring migrants into the UK.
- Since the beginning of 2007, we have provided counter-terrorism and forgery training to all entrance clearance and intelligence staff being posted overseas.
- We have run specific counter-terrorism training sessions in high risk posts, including Islamabad.
- In 2008 we introduced paragraph 320 7a and 7b into the immigration rules which allows entrance clearance staff to ban those who use forged or fraudulent documents in visa applications from entering the UK for up to 10 years.

As a result of these and other actions, refusal rates for visa applications for Pakistani nationals have risen 14 per cent. since 2006 (32 per cent. in 2006 to 46 per cent. in 2008-09).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091016/text/91016w0020.htm#0910169000148>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Visas: Dependent Relatives

Viscount Montgomery of Alamein: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the visa status of people over 18 years old who are dependent relatives of Latin American residents in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, the Immigration Rules contain provision for an applicant to be granted settlement in the United Kingdom as the dependent relative of a person present and settled in the United Kingdom. The term "dependent relative" includes a son, daughter, sister, brother, uncle or aunt, all over the age of 18, if living alone outside the UK in the most exceptional compassionate circumstances and mainly dependent financially on relatives settled in the UK.

Viscount Montgomery of Alamein: My Lords, that is very interesting, but is the noble Lord aware that the dependent children of Latin American diplomats whose student visas expire while their parents are still accredited have to return to their country of origin and reapply for a visa at considerable expense and inconvenience? Is that really a sensible way to proceed?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, the noble Viscount, Lord Montgomery, was kind enough to let me know of this issue beforehand and I have looked into it in some detail. Within the rules, we are able to make sure that that does not happen and I shall be talking to the noble Viscount about this specific case to see how it came to happen. If a diplomatic family is sent here with a child under 18 who is studying, they are allowed to remain until the diplomat goes back with his family.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/91022-0001.htm#09102234000963>
and <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/91022-0002.htm>

Asylum

Jim Cousins [293168]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases have been (a) dealt with and (b) concluded under the legacy casework programme.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The total conclusions now stand at over 197,500 cases concluded to end of May 2009 and Lin Homer, chief executive of the UK Border Agency, will update the Home Affairs Select Committee on performance to date this month.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091020/text/91020w0007.htm#09102047000069>

Immigration: Children

Chris Huhne [289401]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were detained for immigration purposes for (a) less than one week, (b) between one week and one month, (c) between one month and six months, (d) between six months and one year and (e) more than one year in each of the last five years.

Reply from Alan Johnson: The information is not held centrally recorded and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. The information is published in Tables 9-11 of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom bulletins which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091021/text/91021w0024.htm#09102144000017>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum: Children

Chris Huhne [289400]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have sought asylum in the UK in each of the last five years; how many such children have been the subject of an age dispute; and how many such age dispute cases were resolved in favour of the asylum claimant.

Reply from Alan Johnson: The following table shows the number of asylum applications by unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASCs) made between 2004 and 2008 and the number of applications which were the subject of an age dispute. Figures on the number of asylum applications by unaccompanied asylum seeking children involving an age dispute which were subsequently resolved in favour of the applicant are not collated by the UK Border Agency and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. The "Quarterly Control of Immigration Q2 2009" and the annual "Control of Immigration 2008" was published on 27 August 2009 and is available in the House Library and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

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

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children applications received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, on applications and age disputed applications, 2004-08⁽¹⁾

Principal applicants

	Applications ^(2, 3)			Age disputed applications ^(4, 5)		
	Total	Port	In country	Total	Port	In country
2004	2,990	540	2,455	2,345	265	2,080
2005	2,965	445	2,520	2,425	215	2,215
2006	3,450	395	3,055	2,270	215	2,055
2007 ⁽⁶⁾	3,525	460	3,065	1,915	225	1,690
2008 ⁽⁶⁾	3,970	350	3,620	1,390	135	1,255

⁽¹⁾ Figures rounded to nearest 5, with '*' = 1 or 2 and '-' = 0 and may not sum due to independent rounding.

⁽²⁾ An Unaccompanied asylum seeking child (UASC) is a person under 18, or who, in the absence of documentary evidence establishing age, appears to be under that age; is applying for asylum in his or her own right and; is separated from both parents and is not being cared for by an adult who by law or custom has responsibility to do so.

⁽³⁾ Figures exclude age dispute cases.

⁽⁴⁾ An age dispute case refers to an applicant who claims to be a child, but whose appearance and/or demeanour strongly suggests that they are 18 or over, and whose age is disputed by the UK Border Agency unless there is credible documentary or other persuasive evidence to demonstrate the age claimed.

⁽⁵⁾ Includes cases for which age disputed at time of application.

⁽⁶⁾ Provisional figures.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091021/text/91021w0020.htm#09102144000005>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Detainees

Lord Avebury [HL5515]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many persons have been detained under the Immigration Acts 1971 and 1988 for over a year on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of those were being held due to problems with the redocumentation process, because there was no viable route of return or because there was a policy of no compulsory returns to their countries of origin.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons in detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers by length of detention on a quarterly basis. The latest published information as at 30 June 2009 can be found in table 11 of the quarterly *Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom Q2 2009* (<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immig2009.pdf>).

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate web site at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>.

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

Information on the number of individuals requiring redocumentation is not held centrally and could be obtained only by examining each individual record at disproportionate cost.

There is no country to which the UK Border Agency does not as a matter of policy return individuals to. We may, however, suspend enforced removals to a country.

There are two countries to which we currently have a policy not to enforce returns: Zimbabwe and non-Arab Darfuris from Sudan. However, voluntary returns to these countries continue to be made.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/91019w0003.htm#09101910000434>

Asylum: Housing

Robert Neill [289358]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) in which local authority areas the UK Border Agency has housed asylum seekers who are eligible for temporary accommodation in housing owned by social landlords;

(2) [289359] in which local authority areas the UK Border Agency has rented empty social housing to accommodate asylum seekers.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency has 30 contracts with 18 suppliers on a national basis for the provision of accommodation for eligible asylum seekers.

To continue reading the lengthy answer see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091021/text/91021w0020.htm#09102144000006>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what services will be available for trafficked women under the POPPY project in the City of Newcastle upon Tyne in (a) 2009-10 and (b) 2010-11. [292800]

Reply from Claire Ward: The Council of Europe Convention on Trafficking which the Government ratified in December last year commits the UK to provision of sheltered accommodation for all those trafficked women who need it.

The Government have consequently invested £4million into specialist support services for victims of human trafficking over the next two years. This includes an investment of £3.7 million into the Poppy project to expand and improve the services that are available to victims that have been trafficked into the sex-industry and domestic servitude. The additional investment will see an expansion of supported accommodation, with refuge places for victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and domestic servitude in London, Sheffield and Cardiff. The investment will also fund a new national co-ordinator who will help set best practice standards and work with areas to raise awareness with local agencies and funding commissioners. There will also be an increase in advocacy workers to help provide one-to-one tailored support and the community outreach team will also be extended with two link workers based within the UK Human Trafficking Centre to work in partnership with the police, UK Border Agency and other partners to help with victim identification and onward referral into support.

Additionally, £300,000 is being invested into the UK Human Trafficking Centre to develop flexible support services for victims of labour trafficking.

Trafficked women in the City of Newcastle upon Tyne can therefore access the full range of support provided by the Poppy project; including tailored support from the community outreach team and if needed, be relocated to supported accommodation in the identified locations, safety permitting.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091016/text/91016w0022.htm#0910169000161>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Peter Bone (2074) Missing trafficked children and foster care – That this House welcomes the Government's recent efforts to highlight and combat the urgent issue of children being trafficked to the UK; is deeply concerned by the high numbers of these children who once identified go missing from local authority care; notes that child victims of trafficking who are not being appropriately supported or protected are vulnerable to further exploitation from their traffickers who, in the Home Affairs Committee's words, use the 'care home system for vulnerable children as holding pens for their victims until they are ready to pick them up'; and calls on the Government to meet its commitment to all children in the UK by urgently launching an inquiry into the number of suspected trafficked children going missing and ensuring local authorities have the resources and expertise to provide foster care to all child victims of trafficking.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=39305&SESSION=899>

Press Releases

Latest recommended shortage occupation lists published

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/latest-recommended-shortage>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

Success for new anti-trafficking tactics

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/success-anti-trafficking>

Media coverage of operations to prevent human trafficking - UK Border Agency response

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/october/human-trafficking-response?area=allNews>

A single and fairer asylum procedure for a uniform status in the EU: putting in place the final building blocks for international protection

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1552&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

OSCE Special Representative, ODIHR Director stress importance of EU role in combating human trafficking

http://www.osce.org/odihr/item_1_40815.html

New publications

Migrants Rights News

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/downloads/newsletters/MRN_Newsletter_Oct09.pdf

The impact of the global economic crisis on illegal migration to the EU

http://www.frontex.europa.eu/gfx/frontex/files/justyna/frontex_raport.pdf

News

Polish food shop for Arbroath

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/10/19/newsstory13969845t0.asp>

Two million immigrants have arrived in UK since 2001

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/two-million-immigrants-have-arrived-in-uk-since-2001-1.927091>

US bride told she can't wed in city

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/topstories/US-bride-told-she-can39t.5747962.jp>

Thousands of immigrants “missing” in UK

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/thousands-of-immigrants-missing-in-uk-1.927412>

Training need for migrant pupils

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/8315512.stm>

Polish Brides in Glasgow Marriage Scam

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2532995.0.polish_brides_in_glasgow_marriage_scam.php

Polish women in Scottish bogus marriage scam

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/polish-women-in-scottish-bogus-marriage-scam-1.927787>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Calls for a fairer asylum system

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/8321362.stm>

Pipe band refused entry to UK had 'track record' of absconding

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/pipe-band-refused-entry-to-uk-had-track-record-of-absconding-1.928198>

Mass immigration "for political gain", says adviser

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/mass-immigration-for-political-gain-says-adviser-1.928086>

'Dishonest' Blair and Straw accused over secret plan for multicultural UK

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1222769/Dishonest-Blair-Straw-accused-secret-plan-multicultural-UK.html>

The truth about immigration: Citizenships granted fall by 35,000 in a year

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/the-truth-about-immigration-citizenships-granted-fall-by-35000-in-a-year-1809143.html>

Immigration judges: 'Afghanistan is not in a state of war'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/immigration-judges-afghanistan-is-not-in-a-state-of-war-1807637.html>

Border Agency to be quizzed over failed deportations

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/border-agency-to-be-quizzed-over-failed-deportations-1805221.html>

Citizenship ceremonies: A Brit of a do

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6886179.ece>

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Race Relations

Department for Communities and Local Government

Speech about interfaith relations by John Denholm to Churches together in Britain and Ireland

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

News

For a multicultural Scotland, all Scots' voices must be heard

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/muriel-gray/for-a-multicultural-scotland-all-scots-voices-must-be-heard-1.928231>

Diwali wars: As Election fight looms, politicians and the Palace vie to host parties for Hindu festival of lights

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1222820/Diwali-wars-As-Election-fight-looms-politicians-Palace-vie-host-parties-Hindu-festival-lights.html>

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Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Equality and Human Rights Commission

John Howell [294822]: What recent discussions [The Minister of State, Government Equalities Office] has had with the chairman of the Equality and Human Rights Commission on the commission's co-ordination of its work on different strands of discrimination.

Gerald Howarth [294825]: What recent discussions she has had with the chairman of the Equality and Human Rights Commission on the commission's co-ordination of its work on different strands of discrimination.

Reply from Maria Eagle: My right hon. and learned Friend the Minister for Women and Equality wrote to the chairman of the Equality and Human Rights Commission on 5 August, setting out the need for the commission to strengthen its relations with stakeholders and to set out clearly what is being done on each equality strand. A follow-up meeting was held on 22 September to discuss the matter. Such meetings will continue.

John Howell: Given that the Minister for Women and Equality talked on the "Andrew Marr Show" about the need to be able to see the different strands of discrimination, rather than about having an amorphous, overarching human rights concept, will the Minister of State admit that the Government got it wrong in how they set up the Equality and Human Rights Commission?

Reply from Maria Eagle: No, I do not admit that we got it wrong. It was completely correct to bring together the Disability Rights Commission, the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality, in order to ensure, in addition to the new three strands, that employers and those regulated by the commission know where to go and have only one body to go to. That is completely the correct decision. However, it is also correct to ensure that the underlying causes of discrimination, which can be different for disabled people from those for black and minority ethnic people, for example, are visible and have different solutions, for which the commission can account to its stakeholders. ...

Meg Munn: Are not human rights one of the important aspects of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, and do they not underpin the whole approach to discrimination? Having that strand running through the commission is another reason why those organisations needed to come together.

Reply from Maria Eagle: I agree with my hon. Friend. That is an important underlying strand of the work of the commission. As the commission moves forward, it will be important for it to make its work on all the strands much more visible than it has perhaps been in the past, and it has undertaken to do that. ...

Mark Harper: In the interview that my hon. Friend the Member for Henley (John Howell) cited between the Minister for Women and Equality and Stephanie Flanders on the "Andrew Marr Show" on 2 August, the Minister said that she did not favour the Equality and Human Rights Commission using the overarching human rights concept. How does the Minister of State think that it should instead deal with recognising the different strands and with making the commission more effective in combating discrimination?

Reply from Maria Eagle: My right hon. and learned Friend did not say quite what the hon. Gentleman is suggesting. However, it is important for the commission to be much more visible in setting out its work on each of the strands for which it has responsibility, as well as its work on promoting human rights. It will be held accountable for that by my Department, the Government Equalities Office, as well as by the wider stakeholder community and others in this House.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091022/debtext/91022-0003.htm#09102229000035>

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Race Inequality (NHS Staff)

Keith Vaz [294827]: What discussions [the Parliamentary Secretary, Government Equalities Office] has had with the Secretary of State for Health on levels of race inequality among NHS staff.

Reply from Michael Jabez Foster: My right hon. and learned Friend the Minister for Women and Equality has no direct discussions with the Secretary of State for Health on levels of race inequality, as responsibility for race inequality lies with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. His Department, however, works with key delivery Departments, including the Department of Health, to support them and challenge them to promote race equality. The Government Equalities Office tackles discrimination in a series of different ways, improving advice and promoting awareness of their rights among employees.

Keith Vaz: May I ask the Under-Secretary or the Minister for Women and Equality to have those discussions? May I also declare my interest as a diabetes sufferer? The south Asian community is six times more likely than the mainstream community to suffer from diabetes. The discussions are important, because they are the only way in which we shall be able to deal with racial inequality in our health service.

Reply from Michael Jabez Foster: My right hon. and learned Friend is well known to be a champion of equalities in this context. The right hon. Gentleman will be aware that the national health service constitution, published this year, puts equality at the heart of the NHS. However, he has raised an important issue, and I know that my colleagues in the Government Equalities Office will wish to continue to discuss it with the Department of Health.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091022/debtext/91022-0004.htm#09102229000039>

New publication

Two years making changes

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

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Anti-Semitism

David Amess [R] [293290]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate he has made of the number of anti-Semitic attacks during Jewish high holy days in (a) 2008 and (b) 2009; and if he will make a statement; (2) what steps the Government is taking to protect the Jewish community from anti-Semitic attacks; and if he will make a statement. [R] [293291]

Reply from Alan Campbell: The Government abhor all forms of hate crime. It is not possible to make estimates of the number of anti-Semitic attacks during Jewish high holy days. However, the Association of Chief Police Officers National Community Tension Team (NCTT) collects intelligence data on hate crime which informs police deployment decisions and acts as an indicator of community tension. As such, NCTT data can inform responses to fluctuations in anti-Semitic attacks connected to particular events on an operational basis for the police.

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Question (continued)

The Home Office has identified £5 million from the 2009-10 budget of the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) to reduce the vulnerability of crowded places to terrorist attack. This funding will be allocated to priorities identified by local partnerships and risk assessments carried out by Counter Terrorism Security Advisers (CTSAs). The funding will be directed at local authorities to improve the protection of crowded places locations and third sector organisations, such as the Community Security Trust, should work with local authorities to explore how they may make use of this funding.

The All-Party Inquiry into Anti-Semitism: Government Response One year on Progress Report published in May 2008 set out our current programme of work to combat anti-Semitism. A command paper will be published by May 2010 setting out further progress. We have also recently published a Cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan to tackle all forms of hate crime, including anti-Semitism.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091020/text/91020w0007.htm#09102047000066>

Westminster Early Day Motions

Virendra Sharma (2128) British National Party appearance on Question Time – That this House believes that the BBC is wrong to allow the racist and fascist British National Party (BNP) to appear on its political flagship programme Question Time as it will convey a spurious legitimacy to the BNP that it does not deserve and risks normalising this poisonous, abnormal political party; further believes that Question Time is not the forum to scrutinise the odious racist views of the BNP and regards other television formats such as the forensic interview as more suitable for exposing their false and divisive views and signalling their place outside the political mainstream; calls on the BBC to drop the BNP from its programme; and urges all those who believe in equality and who campaign against racism and fascism to unite against the BNP in all communities throughout the United Kingdom.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=39362&SESSION=899>

Mike Gapes (2145) BBC and the British National Party – That this House believes that the BBC are profoundly wrong to argue that just because the modern heirs of Hitler, the holocaust-denying racists of the BNP, have the support of six per cent. of the UK population they should be treated as a normal party and invited onto the main television political programme Question Time; notes that no previous BBC Director General made such a judgement and that neither Martin Webster, who polled 16 per cent. in a by election in 1973, John Tyndall, Colin Jordan or Oswald Mosley were treated in the same way; and further believes that this significant change of policy by Mark Thompson, Director General of the publicly-funded, poll tax-financed BBC further calls into question the judgement of BBC management and the role of the pusillanimous BBC Trust.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=39379&SESSION=899>

Press Releases

The BNP are Scotland's problem too says Murphy

<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/12863.html>

Fight against Racism and Violence through Diversity in Sport

http://www.coe.int/t/dc/press/news/20091021_sport_en.asp

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) **New publication**

A test for racial discrimination in recruitment practice in British cities
<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep607.pdf>

News

Scottish firms caught out in racism sting
<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/scottish-firms-caught-out-in-racism-sting-1.926981>

What's in a name?
<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-view/what-s-in-a-name-1.926953>

Employers less likely to interview 'non-white' applicants
<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Employers-less-likely-to-interview.5747310.jp>

Scottish civil society comes together to tackle far-right
<http://scottishislamic.org/index.php?go=news&id=461>

I was racially abused by fans, says Rangers' star
<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2532880.0.i-was-racially-abused-by-fans-says-rangers-star.php>

Rangers player reveals racial abuse from club's own 'fans'
<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Rangers-player-reveals-racial-abuse.5755710.jp>

Student in discrimination claim
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/north_east/8322066.stm

University accused of awarding marks based on skin colour
<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/University-accused--of-awarding.5763067.jp>

English Nazis plot to bring terror to streets of Scotland
<http://www.sundaymail.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/10/25/revealed-english-nazis-plot-to-bring-terror-to-streets-of-scotland-78057-21772012/>

Murphy warning on rise of BNP in Scotland
<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Murphy-warning-on-rise-.5755677.jp>

'If it came down to it I would take up arms and fight against fascism'
<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/if-it-came-down-to-it-i-would-take-up-arms-and-fight-against-fascism-1.928287>

Our standing up for minorities is nothing if it's merely special pleading
<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/howard-jacobson/howard-jacobson-our-standing-up-for-minorities-is-nothing--if-its-merely-special-pleading-1808427.html>

Muslim student barred from college for refusing to remove burka
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/religion/6418945/Muslim-student-barred-from-college-for-refusing-to-remove-burka.html>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

BNP

The tartan racists

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/opinion/The-tartan-racists.5764151.jp>

New list of BNP members appears on internet as storm grows over leader Nick Griffin's appearance on Question Time

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/2009/10/20/new-list-of-bnp-members-appears-on-internet-as-storm-grows-over-leader-nick-griffin-s-appearance-on-question-time-86908-21760800/>

Generals blast BNP for using military images

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2532742.0.generals_blast_bnp_for_using_military_images.php

'Extremists hijack' military name

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8315616.stm

BNP hits back at generals' attack

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8317353.stm

BNP's Griffin compares British generals to Nazi war criminals

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/bnp-s-griffin-compares-british-generals-to-nazi-war-criminals-1.927524>

'Generals are like Nazis and Churchill would have joined BNP' rants Griffin

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/39Generals-are-like-Nazis-and.5751006.jp>

BBC stands by Griffin Question Time decision

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/bbc-stands-by-griffin-question-time-decision-1.927633>

Griffin attacks Islam on BBC show

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8321683.stm

Angry scenes face Griffin at BBC

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8321157.stm

TV test for BNP leader

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8321585.stm

Griffin attacks Islam on BBC show

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8321683.stm

BNP leader laps up the publicity but wilts in Question Time heat

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/bnp-leader-laps-up-the-publicity-but-wilts-in-question-time-heat-1.927964>

Griffin given rough ride by TV audience

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Griffin-given-rough-ride-by.5760133.jp>

Protests around the UK accuse BBC of accepting 'Nazi principles'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Protests-around-the-UK-accuse.5760181.jp>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Bigoted, creepy and vile

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2533052.0.bigoted_creepy_and_vile.php

Griffin shot himself in foot, claim Question Time audience members

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1451839>

BNP support in poll sparks anger

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8323638.stm

Crass and idiotic, but Griffin not much of a monster

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/crass-and-idiotic-but-griffin-not-much-of-a-monster-1.928119>

Carey rejects BNP Christian claim

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8324455.stm

'If it came down to it I would take up arms and fight against fascism'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/if-it-came-down-to-it-i-would-take-up-arms-and-fight-against-fascism-1.928287>

Fanning the BNP flames

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/fanning-the-bnp-flames-1.928282>

BNP man's racist vow

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/BNP-man39s-racist-vow.5764141.jp>

We must tackle BNP

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/opinion/We-must-tackle-BNP.5764147.jp>

United across the divide: The nation answers Griffin

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/united-across-the-divide-the-nation-answers-griffin-1809144.html>

Britain is good at dealing with diversity

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/kanishk-tharoor-britain-is-good-at-dealing-with-diversity-1808960.html>

The Holocaust, Ku Klux Klan, and other claims put to the test

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/the-holocaust-ku-klux-klan-and-other-claims-put-to-the-test-1808396.html>

BNP leader Nick Griffin could appear on Question Time again, says BBC boss

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/tvandradio/6429912/BNP-leader-Nick-Griffin-could-appear-on-Question-Time-again-says-BBC-boss.html>

The BNP can be dismissed - but their constituency can not

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/6425004/The-BNP-can-be-dismissed---but-their-constituency-can-not.html>

The BBC lynch mob proved BNP leader Nick Griffin's best recruiters

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/minette_marrin/article6888961.ece

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Griffin seeks part in leaders' TV debate

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6888953.ece>

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Other Holyrood

New publications

The Evidence Base for Third Sector Policy in Scotland: A Review of Selected Recent Literature

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/288502/0088238.pdf>

The Evidence Base for Third Sector Policy in Scotland: A Review of Selected Recent Literature - Research Findings

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/288498/0088237.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Ministerial Statement

Independent Faith Schools

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): On 9 March 2009, I informed the House that I had asked Ofsted to carry out a survey of independent faith schools' work to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. The purpose of the survey was to gather evidence on current practice with a view to considering whether the independent school regulations on SMSC are fit for purpose. The survey focused on practice in faith schools in view of the particular context a faith ethos provides.

Ofsted has today published the results of the survey. It found that practice in all of the 51 schools visited was at least good with pupils demonstrating a strong sense of identity and belonging to their faith, their school and to Britain; and with a clear commitment to promoting the values of good citizenship. Ofsted has concluded that the current regulations are fit for purpose but recommends various ways in which we can work with the sector to improve pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development further and support consistently high standards across the sector.

I very much welcome the report. I asked Ofsted to carry out this survey because some concerns had been expressed about whether all independent faith schools were effectively preparing pupils for life in British society. While we will always take any specific allegations very seriously, this survey shows that the regulatory regime for independent schools is fit for purpose and that provision across the sector is good.

I would like to thank the schools and the representatives of different faith organisations who took part in Ofsted's survey. I look forward to working with them and with other practitioners from across the sector to take forward Ofsted's recommendations and promote excellent opportunities for all pupils.

Ofsted has made recommendations in three areas:

1) *Provide greater clarity in the meaning of the five strands of the SMSC regulations.*

The independent school regulations are designed to offer flexibility to allow schools to

Other Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

provide a distinctive education in line with their faith ethos while at the same time preparing pupils to lead successful lives as responsible citizens in wider British society. While schools want to retain this flexibility, Ofsted has found that they would welcome greater clarity about what is meant by aspects of the regulations.

I will be setting up a new independent schools practitioners group to work with us on revised guidance to promote consistently high standards right across the sector. This will include encouraging schools to provide pupils with opportunities to learn about the different cultures and faiths practised in the UK, alongside developing a deep understanding and sense of belonging to their own community.

2) Encourage more interfaith and partnership working between independent schools and with the maintained sector.

Ofsted has found that some of the best practice occurs where schools work in partnership with local communities and with other schools to support the professional development of staff and build mutual respect and understanding.

There are lots of excellent examples of good partnership working already taking place. I have asked Pat Langham, Chair of the Independent-State School Partnership Group (ISSP) for that group to consider how the sector could encourage this further. Around 70 faith schools from the maintained and independent sectors are already embarking on linking projects through the DCSF funded national Schools' Linking Network (SLN). Last week I announced an additional £50,000 support for the national Schools' Linking Network to work in partnership with the Three Faiths Forum to provide high quality advice and training for Local Authorities and schools to encourage successful interfaith linking projects and links between maintained and independent schools.

3) Ensure teaching resources are accurate and unbiased.

Religious Education (RE) has a very important role to play in promoting cohesion through developing understanding of different faiths and cultures and exploring the role faith plays in society, and it is important that teachers have access to high quality and accurate resources. In a minority of the schools visited, Ofsted found that while the pupils' understanding was good, there were examples of inaccurate or biased materials being used to teach about religions.

We know that the availability of high quality resources for RE is an issue in both maintained and independent sectors and I would urge all schools to review the resources they are using. As part of a drive to improve RE provision in all schools, we have commissioned Warwick University to carry out research to look at the RE materials that are currently being used. This work will help to inform work with the RE council, local RE curriculum advisors, teachers and schools to make sure that all pupils have access to high quality learning materials. We will publish this research in the New Year.

Note that the information in this statement applies only to England and Wales

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091022/wmstext/91022m0001.htm#09102219000013>

Parliamentary Questions

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Sally Keeble [293490]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what level of grant aid was provided to each local authority for improving Gypsy and Traveller sites in each of the last five years; and what the relevant outturn expenditure was by each authority in each year.

Reply from Shahid Malik: Grant for refurbishing existing and building new Gypsy and Traveller sites was paid through the Gypsy Site Refurbishment Grant up to and including financial year 2005-06 and since 2006-07 has been paid through the Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant.

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The level of grant paid to each local authority by the Department for Communities and Local Government in financial years 2005-06 to 2008-09 has been placed in the Library of the House. The Department does not hold records of the outturn expenditure by local authorities following these grant awards in financial years 2005-06 to 2008-09.

The Homes and Communities Agency is responsible for paying the Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant in the current financial year 2009-10. The agency has received bids for grant funding, but no payments have yet been made to local authorities.

Sally Keeble [293491]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the spending of grants provided to local authorities to improve Gypsy and Traveller sites in the last three years.

Reply from Shahid Malik: The Department has not carried out any formal review of effectiveness of the Gypsy and Traveller site grant in the last three years. From 2006-07 the process through which successful schemes were recommended was changed. Gypsy and Traveller site grant from this point formed part of the regional housing pot, with recommendations for successful schemes being made by Regional Assemblies. This helped to ensure that local knowledge about the ability of authorities to deliver schemes of this nature was better taken into account.

Bids were assessed, in a competitive process, against published bidding guidance centrally and analysed by independent consultants to assist Regional Assemblies in assessing schemes. The evaluation assessed bids against the following key criteria:

Does the scheme meet a clearly assessed need

Does the scheme offer value for money

Is the site sustainable

Can the scheme be delivered to time and to budget

Since April 2009, administration of the Gypsy and Traveller site grant has transferred to the Homes and Communities Agency who will be paying grant under their own new powers and monitoring regime.

Humfrey Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has received any (a) letters and (b) other communication requesting anonymity of representation in planning application cases for Gypsy and Traveller pitches or sites in the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [294369]

Reply from Shahid Malik: The Department has not received any letters or other communications in the last six months requesting anonymity of representations in planning application cases for Gypsy and Traveller pitches or sites.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091020/text/91020w0018.htm#09102066000043>

Forced Marriage

Margaret Moran [292426]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations in England and Wales in receipt of Government funding undertake work relating to forced marriage; and how much each has received from the Government in each of the last three years.

Reply from Alan Campbell: The following table contains information on organisations dealing with issues concerning forced marriage who received Government funding over the past three years.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091016/text/91016w0020.htm#0910169000149>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Food: Halal Meat

Lord Patten: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effects on consumers of halal meat of legislation in Norway, Sweden and Switzerland forbidding the slaughter of animals by throat-cutting. [HL5497]

Reply from Lord Davies of Oldham: No assessment has been made of the effects of the legislation in Norway, Sweden and Switzerland forbidding the slaughter of animals by throat cutting on UK consumers of halal meat.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/91019w0002.htm#09101910000427>

Ministerial speech

**Speech by Douglas Alexander, Secretary of State for International Development :
Health and education – where faith fits**

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/Speeches-and-articles/2009/Health-and-Education--Where-Faith-Fits/>

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New Publication

Independent Faith Schools

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10230/117400/file/Independent%20faith%20schools.pdf>

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Other News

Ethnic liver cells help drug race

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/8316374.stm

Faith schools warned on RE texts

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8318765.stm>

Faith schools prepare pupils to be good citizens

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/Faith-schools-prepare-pupils-to-be-good-citizens>

Travellers given 48 hours to leave camp at park-and-ride

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Travellers-given-48-hours-to.5763669.jp>

Senior Anglican bishop reveals he is ready to convert to Roman Catholicism

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/religion/6424562/Senior-Anglican-bishop-reveals-he-is-ready-to-convert-to-Roman-Catholicism.html>

Lord Carey: Pope should not woo disaffected Anglicans

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/religion/6421907/Lord-Carey-Pope-should-not-woo-disaffected-Anglicans.html>

Other News (continued)

Former archbishop attacks Pope for Anglican overtures

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/former-archbishop-attacks-pope-for-anglican-overtures-1808993.html>

Ending the silence on 'honour killing'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/oct/25/honour-killings-victims-domestic-violence>

Cultural diversity provides window of opportunity for business world

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32638&Cr=unesco&Cr1>

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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>

Public Services Reform Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/26-PubSerRef/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>

amendment paper

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/131/amend/pbc1311310a.1295.html>

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Consultations (closing date)

** new or updated this week

** *closes this week!*

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>

Consultations (continued)

**** closes this week!**

Review of the Twice Yearly Count of Gypsies/Travellers (30 October 2009)

http://www.craigforth.co.uk/TYC_Scotstat/

Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland survey about the experiences of BME older people (online survey, no closing date given)

<http://tcp3.com/bmesurvey>

Scottish Refugee Council Strategic Plan (online survey, no closing date given)

https://eazymultimedia.net/EazySurvey/Questionnaire/EazyQuestionnaire3_home.aspx?proj=5EE31727-0F6C-4EDD-9E7E-E7A75DDCFF9A

Charging for immigration and visa applications (1 December 2009)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/charging09/>

Integrated Reporting (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, 29 December 2009)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=ae8a56f1-3abd-4d53-b0c1-0ee5708f4c39>

A Road Less Travelled - A Draft Gypsy Traveller Strategy (Welsh Assembly Government, 5 January 2010)

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/housingcommunity/gypsytravellers/?lang=en>

Consultation on Public Sector Equality Duty Specific Duties (15 January 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/286361/0087195.pdf>

UK Border Agency Equality Scheme (15 January 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/Stakeholder-questionnaire.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!**

Are you looking for new Board members?

26 October 2009 in Dundee

28 October 2009 in Aberdeen

29 October 2009 in Inverness

The SCVO Business on Board programme is a free brokerage service that can put organisations in touch with experienced business people interested in joining their Board. For more information contact Shamin Akhtar businessonboard@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 6154

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

Religion in Scottish Schools

28 October 2009 in Glasgow (1.00 – 4.00)

Govan Law Centre seminar to outline the law relating to religion in Scottish schools, discuss how laws banning discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief affect schools in Scotland, and debate the issue of denominational education and faith schools. For information contact see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09x_govan_law_centre.pdf

**** this week!**

Equalities: from vertical to horizontal

29 October 2009 in 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 / 01383 620780.

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator consultation on Integrated Reporting

3 November 2009 in Aberdeen (1.30)

5 November 2009 in Inverness (1.30)

17 November 2009 in Glasgow (6.00pm)

18 November 2009 in Glasgow (9.30 and 1.30)

24 November 2009 in Edinburgh (6.00pm)

25 November 2009 in Edinburgh (9.30 and 1.30)

1 December 2009 in Dumfries (1.30)

OSCR is looking for comments on our consultation 'Integrated Reporting - The future of reporting and the register' which aims to streamline reporting procedures and to enhance the information about charities made available to the public. For information see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/Events.aspx>

Judge a Book by its Cover? Not me!

4 November 2009 in Inverness (10.00 – 12.00)

11 March 2010 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 12.00)

SCVO seminar to discover more about the process of stereotyping, and how misinformed judgements may lead to prejudice and discrimination. For information contact Jane Baillie jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 8019

Religious and Moral Education and Multi-Culturalism: Scotland in the Wider European Context

5 November 2009 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 5.00)

Edinburgh University conference to discuss the experiences of majority and minority groups in relation to Religious and Moral Education in Scottish schools, and how Scotland compares with other European countries in its approach to the teaching of Religious and Moral Education. For information contact Helen Christie helen.christie@ed.ac.uk / 0131 651 6459 or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09xi_remc.doc

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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

Participation and Influence with New Communities

18 November 2009 in 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

The Next 20 Years: The Challenge for Social Welfare, Debt, Housing and Asylum Law

18 November 2009 in Glasgow (11.30 – 5.30)

Legal Services Agency conference including presentations on mental health, landlord and tenant, mortgage arrears, asylum and trafficking, debt, health and safety at work, poverty, climate change, human rights and management issues. For information see <http://www.lsa.org.uk/thenext20yearsthechallenge.aspx>

**** Building our Futures: The voluntary sector's vision for equalities and human rights in Scotland**

25 November 2009 in Glasgow (10.15 – 2.30)

SCVO conference to provide space for the voluntary sector to articulate its own vision for building equalities in our society over the next 5 years, and to identify priority actions to deliver this. For information contact Helen Swatton 0141 225 8019 / helen.swatton@scvo.org.uk or see <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/SCVOEvents/ViewSCVOEvents.aspx?al=t&EID=1157&from=EventHome>

**** Making Human Rights Matter**

25 November 2009 in Glasgow (5.30 – 7.00)

SCVO lecture by Professor Alan Miller, Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission. For information contact Helen Swatton 0141 225 8019 / helen.swatton@scvo.org.uk

Young Scot: Sounds Right!

26 November 2009 in Edinburgh (7.00pm – 10.00)

For 11 to 17 year olds coming as part of a recognised group

Young Scot: Sounds Right is designed to champion key articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the right to get, and to share, information and the right to relax, play and join in a wide range of activities. For information see <http://www.youngscotsoundsright.org/> or contact Graeme Park graemep@youngscot.org / 0131 313 2488 Ext – 2223.

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Glasgow, a city of sanctuary?**

30 November 2009 in Glasgow (3.00 – 4.30)

The City of Sanctuary movement is active in 15 towns and cities throughout the UK. It aims to build city-wide support for people seeking sanctuary in the UK. It does this by working with local groups and organisations so that people seeking sanctuary can participate fully in the life of their communities. For information contact craig@cityofsanctuary.org

Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

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>

Introduction to Professional Practice in Race Equality

Course starting 3 February 2010 in Paisley (Wed evenings 6.15 – 9.00pm)

Course jointly organised by the University of the West of Scotland, and West of Scotland Race Equality Council to develop a critical understanding of the concepts 'race', racism and ethnicity, develop a working knowledge of the content and impact of the 1976 Race Relations Act and Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, identify key elements of best practice towards race equality in employment and service delivery, and analyse and evaluate current progress and challenges in managing change towards race equality in his/her own workplace. For information see

<http://www.wsrec.co.uk/newsite/images/PaisleyUni/new%20ippire%20leaflet%20print%202009-10.pdf> or contact Duncan Sim duncan.sim@uws.ac.uk, or WSREC 0141 337 6626

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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/>