

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with **BEMIS - empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities**. It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.*

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Christine Grahame (South of Scotland) (SNP): To ask the First Minister how many referrals the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration has received regarding children held at the Dungavel immigration removal centre in the last 12 months. (S3F-1991)

Reply from the First Minister (Alex Salmond): The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration has advised that it has received no referrals in the past year in respect of children held at Dungavel immigration removal centre. The Scottish Government remains fundamentally opposed to the detention of children in Dungavel.

Christine Grahame: Will the First Minister clarify whether any discussions have taken place with the Home Office specifically to ensure that any child who will be or has been referred under the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003—broadly speaking, children at risk—will not be deported until investigations by the children's reporter have been concluded? Such children were deported under the previous Liberal-Labour coalition. Will he also convey the widespread revulsion of most Scots to the imprisonment of children in detention camps in Scotland—a practice that has no place in a modern, progressive, compassionate society?

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from the First Minister: Although there have been no referrals to the SCRA in the past year, 103 children have been detained at Dungavel. That statistic is in the public domain. We have repeatedly made clear to the United Kingdom Government our opposition to the policy of the detention of children in Dungavel. On Tuesday this week, my officials were in contact with the UK Government specifically about that, and they will continue the dialogue.

We are also in regular contact with the Home Office about how we can best improve the position of the children of asylum seekers and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Scotland. We have made it absolutely clear on every occasion that this Government is fully opposed to the detention of children in Dungavel. We will continue to fight that battle.

Mike Pringle (Edinburgh South) (LD): The Liberal Democrats share the view of the Government and many people throughout Scotland that it is deeply offensive that children are locked up because their parents are failed asylum seekers. Will the First Minister tell me how many families have benefited from the pilot project in Glasgow? A similar scheme in Kent dealt with only a tiny fraction of the families that it intended to help. Is the First Minister satisfied that the Glasgow project is not facing the same problems? How can we have any hope that the UK and Scottish Governments will put an end to Scotland's shame at Dungavel when similar efforts have fallen so far short of their modest targets?

Reply from the First Minister: It is early days for the family return project, which was established in May and which I know has general support and approval throughout the Parliament. It can provide a range of support to five families at any time. Its aim is to reduce the number of children who are held at Dungavel and to encourage and assist voluntary return in a proper and humane manner. I fully accept that the family return project, well-intentioned and important though it undoubtedly is, is only a small part of the answer to the overall question. Mike Pringle is correct to point to the number of children who are being detained at Dungavel and the inevitably small number of people who can be assisted in the project.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor1105-02.htm#Col20930>

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-5109 Sandra White: Detention of Children at Dungavel—That the Parliament expresses serious concern over figures obtained from the UK Border Agency that show that, between October 2008 and September 2009, 103 children were detained at Dungavel in Scotland; notes that, in the last five years, 889 children from 488 families throughout the United Kingdom have been held for over 28 days, thus requiring UK ministers to personally approve continued detention; considers that these figures show that, despite the welcome commitment and efforts of the previous administration and the current Scottish Government to end the practice of the detention of children at Dungavel, children and families from Glasgow and throughout Scotland are still being subjected to this unacceptable practice, and would welcome further efforts from all political parties in Scotland to ensure that this practice is ended.

Westminster Debate

Immigration: Detention and Deportation

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/91104-0010.htm#091104120000178>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) Westminster Ministerial Statements

UK Border Agency Guidance (Welfare of Children)

Phil Woolas (Minister for Borders and Immigration): Together with the Under-Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families, Baroness Delyth Morgan, I have today issued statutory guidance to the UK Border Agency under section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009.

Section 55 comes into force today. It places a duty on the Secretary of State to make arrangements for ensuring that immigration, asylum, nationality and customs functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. A similar duty is placed on the Director of Border Revenue in respect of the director's functions. Subsections 55(3) and (5) require any person exercising any of these functions to have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State for this purpose. Section 55 is intended to have the same effect as section 11 of the Children Act 2004 which places a similar duty on a range of key public bodies. This guidance is an important step in the process of bringing the UK Border Agency within the family of agencies who, together, have statutory responsibilities to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children when carrying out their duties. The guidance is supported by a programme of reform to improve the way in which children are treated in the immigration system, led by the agency's senior management, and which includes an extensive training programme for UK Border Agency staff. The UK Border Agency will be held to account by its new, independent Chief Inspector who will inspect and challenge us on our progress.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091102/wmstext/91102m0001.htm#09110212000006>

Migration (Bulgarian and Romanian Workers)

Phil Woolas (Minister for Borders and Immigration): I am today confirming that the restrictions on working in the United Kingdom currently applied to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals will continue until the end of 2011.

I announced on 18 December 2008 that these restrictions would remain in place subject to a review of the position by the end of 2009. I have re-examined the case for continuing those restrictions. The Government remain committed to the principle of free movement of workers within the European Union and acknowledge the benefits that intra-EU migration brings to the UK both as an exporter of British workers to other member states and as a result of the role of migration from other member states in meeting labour shortages in important sectors of the UK's economy.

However, the Government have chosen a gradual approach to Bulgarian and Romanian workers' access to the UK's labour market. Given the current labour market situation, it is important that we continue to give weight to the need to protect the interests of the resident workforce. In March of this year, we accordingly tightened resident labour market testing requirements for non-EEA workers seeking admission under tier 2, and the entry criteria for those coming under tier 1, of the points-based system. I have concluded that, in the light of these considerations, the current restrictions applied to Bulgarian and Romanian workers should continue.

The annual quota for the seasonal agricultural workers scheme (SAWS) will remain at 21,250 places for 2010 and 2011 and the annual quota for the sectors-based scheme (SBS) for the food processing sector will remain at an annual level of 3,500 places for 2010 and 2011. I will refer the question of the quota level for the SAWS to the Migration Advisory Committee if evidence emerges to suggest that it is inappropriate.

The current restrictions may be extended for a further two years beyond the end of 2011 on the basis of serious labour market disturbance. Any decision to extend the restrictions will be informed by a further evidence-based review of the position.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091103/wmstext/91103m0001.htm#091103111000010>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Migration Impact Fund

Robert Neill [295837]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 9 July 2009, Official Report, column 50WS, on the migration impacts fund, how much the levy charged on each individual migrant will be; whether it will apply to (a) EU nationals, (b) EEA nationals not in the EU, (c) A2 nationals, (d) A8 nationals and (e) asylum seekers; and in what circumstances in each case migrants will be (i) required to pay and (ii) exempted from paying.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Migrants pay a contribution to the migration impacts fund when making visa applications and in-country extensions of leave to remain on all routes under PBS Tiers 1, Tier 2, Tier 4, the Settlement Route, Leave to Remain, Indefinite Leave to Remain and Nationality. The fund contribution is £50 per applicant. For applicants making a Tier 4 visa application the contribution is £20.

EU nationals, EEA nationals not in the EU, A2 nationals, A8 nationals and asylum seekers do not pay a contribution towards the Migrant Impacts Fund when making an application for leave to remain or indefinite leave to remain.

All applicants, including EU nationals, EEA nationals not in the EU, A2 nationals, A8 nationals and asylum seekers, pay a £50 contribution towards the migration impacts fund when making an application for British nationality.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091103/text/91103w0012.htm#091103161000049>

Entry Clearances

Jim Dobbin [295957]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will review the clearance process for applications for entry to the UK in cases where the entry clearance officers are not based in the countries from which the application has been submitted; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency will deploy its resources where it is most efficient and effective to do so, also taking account of security considerations. Although the decision on a visa application may be made in another location, applicants continue to submit their applications to, and collect their visas from the visa application centre in their country of residence, or the visa application centre designated to handle applications from applicants of their nationality. The registration part of the process can, in many cases, be separated from the decision part, making full use of modern communications systems and our partnerships with VFS Global and CSC Wordbridge.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091102/text/91102w0016.htm#09110238000123>

Immigration

Tony Baldry [296406]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many applications the UK Border Agency has granted for indefinite leave to remain to individuals because they are dependants of EU nationals who are resident in the UK in the last three years;

(2) [296407] how many applications the UK Border Agency has granted for indefinite leave to remain to individuals because they are living with or related to EU nationals who are resident in the UK in the last three years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: This information is not available as the UK Border Agency's case information database records all family members of EEA nationals who apply for permanent residence in one category (EEA4).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091102/text/91102w0017.htm#09110238000128>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration

Lord Hylton [HL5772]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cases have been heard by the Special Immigration Appeals Commission in each year since it was established; and how many cases are now listed for consideration or pending a final decision.

Reply from Lord Bach: The number of cases heard and determined since SIAC is shown in the table below.

	No of cases heard and determined
1999-Oct 2003	2
Oct-Dec 2003	12
2004	5
2005	2
2006	9
2007	7
2008	2
2009	2
Total	41

Records showing in which years the cases prior to 2003 were heard and determined are not readily available following the fire at Field House. There are 14 pending cases that have yet to be heard and determined for 2009-10.

Lord Roberts of Conwy [HL5991]: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the reply by Lord West of Spithead on 22 October (Official Report, House of Lords, col. 809), what are the net migration figures in 2007 and 2008 that showed a 44 per cent reduction; and how those figures were calculated.

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

Letter from Jil Matheson, National Statistician, to Lord Roberts of Conwy, dated October 2009.

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your Parliamentary Question concerning the figures that showed a 44 per cent reduction in net migration from 2007 to 2008 and how they are calculated. (HL5991).

The figures relate to the provisional 2008 International Passenger Survey (IPS) data released on 27 August 2009.

The net migration estimate is the difference between the immigration and emigration estimates.

In 2008 net migration was 118,000. This was 92,000 or 44 per cent lower than the 2007 net migration figure of 209,000.

Care should be taken when interpreting changes in net migration since a small change in net migration may mask large changes in immigration and emigration flows. There is also not a unique set of circumstances that result in a particular change to net migration. In this case the reduction is mainly the result of an increase in emigration of over 77,000 with a smaller decrease in immigration of over 14,000.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/91103w0004.htm#091103121000831>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum: Young People

Andrew Smith [295254]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress his Department has made on its programme to reform support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UASC Reform Programme set out a number of reforms to the way unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are supported. We are continuing to work with local authorities and others in a number of areas including:

developing a model of grant arrangements that provides more clarity and certainty over funding;

exploring improvements to the method and process for assessment age; and

considering how UASC and former UASC might be returned to support arrangements in their countries of origin in a way that is safe and sustainable.

The range of reforms and policy improvements we are making are being progressed and implemented at different stages.

Andrew Smith [295255]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of its grant to local authorities to meet the costs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people over the age of 16.

Reply from Phil Woolas: We are satisfied the grant arrangements are adequate.

Local authority costs in supporting unaccompanied asylum seeking children for the period up until the end of the financial year 2007-08 have been reimbursed in full as part of an agreement between the UK Border Agency and the Local Government Association (LGA). Funding claims for the financial year 2008-09 are still being checked. The grant for the financial year 2009-10 is very similar to the arrangements agreed with the LGA, with the exception that from October cash ceilings have been placed on indirect costs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091103/text/91103w0014.htm#091103161000065>

Immigration

Keith Vaz [296211]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department takes at the border to handle migrants denied entry to the UK.

Reply from Phil Woolas: When an individual is refused entry to the United Kingdom, they are liable to be removed by the first available service to (a) the country from which they travelled, or (b) a country where they are admissible. After completion of satisfactory risk assessments, the individual will either be detained or granted conditional temporary admission until removal can be effected.

Individuals who are refused entry at our juxtaposed controls in northern France and Belgium are served with written notices explaining the reasons why they have been denied entry to the UK. Responsibility for the individual is then passed to the relevant host authority.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091103/text/91103w0019.htm#091103161000081>

Entry Clearances: Religious Persons

Chris Huhne [295823]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what vetting procedures his Department applies in respect of imams from abroad who are seeking employment in the UK.

Alan Johnson: Imams, like all Ministers of religion from other faiths, from outside the EEA who wish to preach in the UK must apply under our new Points-Based System. They can only do so if they have a job offer from an organisation that has been licensed by the UK Border Agency to act as a sponsor.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) category requires migrants to have a high standard of English language skills. This ensures that they are able to speak to and for the religious communities that they will represent, and in particular that they are able to communicate effectively with the younger generation. The level of English required is equivalent to level B2 on the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference.

In addition, imams, as with all migrants applying for leave to enter or remain in the UK, are subject to checks against their immigration history, criminal records, and any other factors that may mean their exclusion from the UK would be conducive to the public good.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091105/text/91105w0010.htm#09110570000045>

Immigration Controls: Ministers of Religion

Chris Grayling [294393]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licences have been granted to prospective sponsors of ministers of religion under tier 2 of the points-based immigration system in each of the last 24 months.

Reply from Alan Johnson: Sponsor licences for this category were first issued in September 2008. Information for the period September 2008 to September 2009 is as follows:

<i>Sponsor licence applications granted under tier 2 minister of religion category</i>	
	<i>Number</i>
September 2008	5
October 2008	5
November 2008	40
December 2008	70
January 2009	40
February 2009	25
March 2009	55
April 2009	30
May 2009	40
June 2009	50
July 2009	65
August 2009	45
September 2009	65

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
2. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091105/text/91105w0011.htm#09110570000052>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration Controls

Andrew Rosindell [293797]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with (a) his French counterpart and (b) his other EU counterparts on UK border security and migration policy.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK, French and other EU Governments maintain regular contact in the area of UK border security and migration. On 22-24 June 2009 the Home Secretary made introductory calls to his counterparts in Spain, Germany and Sweden. He discussed amongst other issues the UK position on the Stockholm Programme which encompasses border security and migration policy. On 21 September the Home Secretary attended the Justice and Home Affairs Council in Brussels, along with all of his European counterparts. European Ministers discussed a range of issues including European asylum policy and how to strengthen the management of migration flows in the Mediterranean. The Home Secretary had bilateral discussions with some of his counterparts in the margins of the Council, including with the French Minister for Immigration, Integration, National Identity and Solidarity-based Development, Eric Besson. I met with Eric Besson, the French Minister for Immigration, Integration, National Identity and Solidarity-based Development at the UK-France summit in Evian on 6 July 2009. where we both committed to further action to combat illegal immigration, including through strengthening security at the shared border and taking resolute action to reduce the pull factors for illegal immigrants and criminal networks.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091103/text/91103w0019.htm#091103161000082>

Immigration: Unpaid Fines

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) public bodies and (b) other organisations to which the UK Border Agency has issued notices of liability had not paid the associated fines on the latest date for which figures are available. [294387]

Reply from Alan Johnson: The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 has, since it came into force on 29 February 2008, allowed the UK Border Agency to issue civil penalties of up to £10,000 per worker to employers who are found to be liable for employing illegal migrant workers.

Internal management information shows that for the period 29 February 2008 to 19 October 2009, no civil penalties have been issued to public bodies. 3,164 penalties have been issued to employers and 1,301 have yet to be paid.

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091105/text/91105w0011.htm#09110570000053>

Immigration: Detainees

Lord Hylton [HL5897]: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether immigration detainees who are pregnant are provided with dietary supplements.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Pregnant women in detention have access to all appropriate services relating to pregnancy, confinement and the post-natal period, including the provision of adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation. These services are delivered in accordance with the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) Guidelines on Maternal and Child Nutrition and the Department of Health's Child Health Promotion strategy.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Pregnant women in detention are seen and reviewed by registered midwives from the community and are offered ante-natal classes and scans at the same stages as they would be offered in the community. All women who are intending to get pregnant or are less than 12 weeks gestation are offered folic acid supplements. All pregnant women at any stage of the pregnancy, or who are breast feeding, are routinely offered Vitamin D and also receive extra fruit and an additional fresh milk allowance.

Lord Hylton [HL5901]: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether prophylactic medicines are offered sufficiently in advance to detainees about to be deported to malarial countries.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: UK Border Agency guidance concerning the offer of prophylactic medicines to detainees about to be removed to malarial countries is in place and available to healthcare staff in removal centres.

The guidance, which is based on advice from the Health Protection Agency's Advisory Committee on Malarial Prevention and is currently under review in liaison with the Department of Health, requires prophylactic medicines to be offered to detainees, subject to medical advice, and time allowed for it to take effect before their removal from the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/91103w0004.htm#091103121000832>

Illegal Immigrants: EC Law

Diane Abbott [295628]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department (a) has taken to reduce the length of time immigrants spend in administrative detention and (b) plans to take to implement the EU Returns Directive.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The decision on whether to detain or not is made very carefully on a case by case basis. While the UK Border Agency always aims to detain immigration offenders for the shortest period of time possible, the likely duration of detention is dependent on a range of factors, such as the relative difficulty of obtaining the appropriate travel document with which a person's removal can be effected, or where there is reason to believe that the person will fail to comply with the conditions attached to a grant of temporary admission or release.

As an alternative to detention, the introduction of better contact management through the use of physical reporting at reporting centres and police stations together with the use of electronic monitoring (tagging and voice recognition) has allowed the UK Border Agency to maintain contact with individuals at all stages of the asylum process and with those who have breached immigration law.

The UK has not participated in and has no plans to implement the EU Returns Directive 2008/115/EC. We agree that a collective approach to removal can have advantages. However, we are not persuaded that this Directive delivers the strong returns regime that is required for dealing with irregular migration. Our current practices on the return of illegal third country nationals are broadly in line with the terms of the Directive, but we prefer to formulate our own policy, in line with our stated position on retaining control over conditions of entry and stay.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091102/text/91102w0017.htm#09110238000127>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum

Philip Hollobone[295465]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the average time taken to process an application for asylum.

Reply from Phil Woolas: In December we met our targets to conclude 60 per cent. of new asylum cases within six months. That means not only that decisions were taken early but that in a significant proportion of refusals, removal from the UK was affected within six months of application.

In 1997 it took on average 22 months merely to reach an initial decision. We can only speculate how much longer than that it was taking to remove those who were refused at that time.

Tony Baldry [296408]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of applications for refugee status made over (a) 10 and (b) five years ago are still waiting to be resolved by the UK Border Agency.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The information requested is not reported on by the case resolution directorate and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost through the examination of individual case files. However, the UK Border Agency has made good progress in concluding the estimated 400,000 to 450,000 electronic and paper records in the asylum backlog. The total conclusions now stand at over 220,000 cases concluded to end of September 2009 as reported by Lin Homer to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 19 October 2009.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091102/text/91102w0015.htm#09110238000112>

Asylum Seekers

Neil Gerrard [295060]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether enforced returns were suspended for any period of time for nationals or particular groups of nationals from (a) Iraq, (b) Somalia, (c) Eritrea, (d) Democratic Republic of Congo, (e) Afghanistan and (f) Iran between 2000 and 2009.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following information covers situations where there was a policy to suspend enforced returns and situations where there was a policy to grant Exceptional Leave to Remain (ELR) to all nationals of a particular country, or part of it, who did not qualify for asylum and which was an effective suspension of returns of failed asylum seekers.

There was an effective suspension of enforced returns to all of Iraq from before 2000 until October 2000. From October 2000 until February 2003 returns to central and southern Iraq were suspended. From February 2003 enforced returns to all of Iraq were again suspended. On 24 February 2004 the Home Secretary announced that enforced returns to Iraq were to resume.

There was an effective suspension of enforced returns to the whole of Somalia since before 2000 until July 2001. From July 2001 until October 2002 the policy was varied enabling return of those from the Somaliland and Puntland regions of Somalia. There has been no suspension of enforced returns to any part of Somalia since 7 October 2002.

Enforced returns to Eritrea have not been suspended in this period.

Enforced returns to the Democratic Republic of Congo were suspended from 23 August 2007 until 3 December 2008 pending the outcome of litigation.

There was an effective suspension of enforced returns to Afghanistan from before 2000 until 11 July 2002. There has been no suspension of enforced returns since that date.

Enforced returns to Iran have not been suspended in this period.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091103/text/91103w0014.htm#091103161000063>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of (a) asylum applications and (b) applications for leave to remain were successful in each of the last five years; what percentage of applications of each type which were refused were then granted following an appeal in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [293060]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Data on the number of applications for asylum and leave to remain and applications refused are available in the Home Office statistical bulletin "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom, 2008". This publication and future publications may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091103/text/91103w0013.htm#091103161000062>

Press Release

UK Border Agency is given statutory duty to safeguard and promote children's welfare

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/november/01-duty-welfare-children?area=allNews>

News

103 children held at Dungavel in the last year

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/103-children-held-at-dungavel-in-the-last-year-1.929952>

103 kids detained at Dungavel

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2533748.0.103_kids_detained_at_dungavel.php

Minister admits immigration mistakes

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Minister-admits-immigration-mistakes.5788306.jp>

Migration claims honest, says Reid

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2533850.0.migration_claims_honest_says_reid.php

Asylum seeker in knife drama at city offices

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2533979.0.asylum_seeker_in_knife_drama_at_city_offices.php

Era of increased mobility requires better protection of migrants' rights, says Ban

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32835&Cr=migration&Cr1=>

Migrants worse off than other workers during recession, warns UN official

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32839&Cr=migration&Cr1=>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

'Second-class' MSPs banned from immigration helpline

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/39Secondclass39-MSPs-banned-from-immigration.5797400.jp>

Visa woman's plight turns political

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/11/07/newsstory14071576t0.asp>

Home Office covered up immigration risk

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6907991.ece>

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Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Violent Extremism

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the Institute of Race Relations report Spooked: How not to prevent violent extremism, which suggests that the Prevent programme for tackling extremism fosters division, mistrust and alienation. [HL5793]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Prevent, which is our long-term strategy to stop people becoming or supporting violent extremists, is an essential element of our counter terrorist strategy, CONTEST. We do not accept that it fosters division, mistrust or alienation.

We are currently reviewing the report and will be providing a detailed response in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/91103w0005.htm#091103121000843>

New publication

Laying the roots for a multi-cultural Scotland

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/pub/Com Dev Rev Oct09>

News

The many gods of Ilford

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2009/nov/07/hinduism-religion-ilford-india>

[TOP](#)

Equality

New publications

'Them and Us': Race Equality Interventions in Predominantly White Schools

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

The Government's Response to the Ethnic Minority Business Task Force

(England and Wales only)

<http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file53440.pdf>

News

Police 'whiter than ever' as one in 100 recruits from ethnic minority

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/scotland/Police-39whiter-than-ever39-as.5801207.jp>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-5143 Marlyn Glen: Hate and Discrimination Have No Place in Scottish Society—That the Parliament expresses its disgust at the intolerant and discriminatory remarks expressed by BNP leader Nick Griffin on BBC's Question Time on 22 October 2009; reasserts its commitment to the key principle in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and, in the run up to International Human Rights Day on 10 December 2009, reaffirms its commitment to tackling all forms of racism and discrimination in Scottish society, including that still perpetrated against women, ethnic minorities, Gypsy/Travellers and LGBT communities, among others.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=17673>

News

ScoJeC condemns attempt to stir up racial tension

http://www.scojec.org/misc/2009/09xi_condeming_hatred.html

Fears grow over possible clash at Scotland's biggest mosque

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/11/08/exclusive-fears-grow-over-possible-clash-at-scotland-s-biggest-mosque-86908-21806518/>

Glasgow council's pledge to halt racist marches

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/11/02/glasgow-council-s-pledge-to-halt-racist-marches-86908-21791559/>

I saw my pal bleed to death in the street, race murder trial told

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/11/03/i-saw-my-pal-bleed-to-death-in-the-street-race-murder-trial-told-86908-21794110/>

Report hate crime without fear

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/8344141.stm>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Anti-racist community group changes name after 14 years

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Antiracist-community-group-changes-name.5788994.jp>

Man denies racially abusing BNP leader

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/man-denies-racially-abusing-bnp-leader-1.930299>

Man cleared of racially abusing BNP leader

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/man-cleared-of-racially-abusing-bnp-leader-1.930299>

Man cleared of Griffin racial abuse

<http://thescoatsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Man-cleared-of-Griffin-racial.5796468.jp>

Racism is endemic, say minority teachers

<http://thescoatsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Racism-is-endemic-say-minority.5804143.jp>

Fascism, not Islam, is our true enemy

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article6907845.ece>

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Other Holyrood

New publication

Annual report of Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland 2008-09

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/925/0089325.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Debate

BBC: Humanism

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/91104-gc0006.htm#091104107000127>

Parliamentary Questions

Olympic Games 2012: Religious Practice

Harry Cohen [293217]: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what provision has been made to respond to demand for facilities to practise faith and prayer arising from the number of people visiting London for the 2012 Olympics.

Reply from Tessa Jowell: We aspire for the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games to be inclusive to all. The wide diversity of London was one of the bid's greatest strengths and will no doubt help us achieve this aspiration.

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Every organisation involved in the Games has considered faith as part of their approach to diversity and inclusion. The Olympic Delivery Authority, the public body responsible for developing and building the venues and infrastructure for the Games, has already produced Inclusive Design Standards to guide construction contractors and sub-contractors. The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games has set up a faith reference group for LOCOG to engage with all faith communities to build awareness and advise how best to cater for athletes, spectators, media and other client groups attending the Games—including signposting visitors to existing facilities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091104/text/91104w0003.htm#09110493000026>

Gypsies and Travellers

Baroness Whitaker [HL5858]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what efforts the Black and Minority Ethnic Women Councillors' Taskforce has made to involve Gypsy and Traveller women; and with what success.

Reply from Baroness Royall of Blaisdon: One of the key objectives of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Women Councillors' Taskforce programme was to ensure that a diverse range of delegates from a wide range of backgrounds, experiences and communities were able to participate and attend the outreach awareness raising events. Overall 53 per cent of people who attended the BAME outreach events provided details about their ethnic background. Of those that responded, 4 per cent reported being from the "other ethnic group", and of these, two respondents (0.4 per cent) reported being from the Gypsy and Traveller community. We have no information on the ethnic background of the remainder of people who were at these events and did not complete a feedback form (47 per cent of attendees).

The outreach events were promoted widely and included engagement with the Department for Communities and Local Government as well as organisations and networks with links to the Gypsy and Traveller community such as Voice 4 Change and the Travellers Advocacy Service. Two women from the Gypsy and Traveller community who attended the Leicester outreach event were also invited to participate in the follow up evaluation which took place on Thursday 10 September 2009.

On two occasions the Government Equalities Office also approached a speaker from the Gypsy and Traveller community to speak at the outreach events, but she was unable to participate.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/91103w0002.htm#091103121000827>

Faith Schools: Islam

Gordon Prentice [297873]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether it is his policy to encourage the establishment of Muslim (a) day and (b) boarding schools; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Diana Johnson: The Government are committed to a diverse system of schools driven by, and responsive to, parental needs and aspirations but decisions on the establishment of individual maintained schools are taken locally under established decision making arrangements with no direct role for Ministers in individual cases. Similarly, local demand will dictate whether there is a need for an independent school and provided it can meet the regulatory standards required for entry on to the register of independent schools, an independent school can be established to meet parental needs.

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

We highly value the contribution that all maintained faith schools make to education in the maintained sector but do not distinguish between different faiths. The Government will accordingly continue to support the establishment of new schools including faith schools in the maintained sector where the local decision making process shows that is what parents and the local community want and where the school is willing and able to comply with the requirements on all maintained schools. However, we do not have any centrally driven targets for the establishment of new faith schools of any type.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091105/text/91105w0029.htm#09110573000080>

Press Releases

Local authorities and voluntary organisations newly equipped in the front-line fight against forced marriage

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease021109a.htm>

British Muslim leaders travel to Helmand Province

<http://foreignofficeviewsonnews.tumblr.com/post/234076838/5-nov-british-muslim-leaders-travel-to-helmand>

New publications

Government response to Equality and Human Rights Commission human rights inquiry report

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/docs/equality-human-rights-response-website.pdf>

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New Publication

Office of the Scottish charity Regulator: Policy on apparently Inactive Charities

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=816724d7-0c91-4e19-a62c-ee62d1736761>

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Other News

Plea for more Asian organ donors

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/8338489.stm>

Gypsy liaison officers 'in all schools'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/6516589/Gypsy-liaison-officers-in-all-schools.html>

Religious groups challenge new rules on pre-consent lessons

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6905554.ece>

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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>

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Consultations (closing date)

** new or updated this week

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>

1st year Implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (15 January 2010)

http://www.antislavery.org/includes/documents/cm_docs/2009/c/2_call_for_evidence_final.pdf

Consultations (continued)

UK Border Agency Equality Scheme (15 January 2010)

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

**** Consultation on Revising the OISC's Guidance on Competence** (29 January 2010)

<http://www.oisc.gov.uk/servefile.aspx?docid=82>

**** UNHCR, Canada, Denmark and the UK: A Joint Institutional Strategy Working Together for the World's Displaced Persons** (31 January 2010)

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/consultations/jt-org-stgy-unhcr-2007-2009.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!**

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

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator consultation on Integrated Reporting

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>

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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>

**** A public appointment – no way? Think again**

25 November 2009 in Edinburgh (9.15 – 4.45)

20 January 2010 in Edinburgh (9.15 – 4.45)

The Equalities and Human Rights Commission, the Commissioner for Public Appointments and Queen Margaret University are working together to increase the diversity of people like who apply for board positions with our public bodies. To attend a seminar contact Karen Elder karen.elder@publicappointments.org / 0131 718 6268 or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09xi_ocpas.pdf

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.scojec.org/memo/files/09xi_hr.doc and <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

**** Human Trafficking and the Criminal Process**

26 November 2009 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.30)

Legal Services Agency conference to include defence of victims of trafficking prosecuted for trafficking related offences, criminal prosecution of traffickers and trafficking related offences in Scotland, and police protection of victims of trafficking in Scotland. For information see <http://www.lsa.org.uk/humantraffickingandthecriminalprocess.aspx>

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.

**** Migrant Workers Rights**

27 November 2009 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.00)

Govanhill Law Centre conference about the housing, employment, welfare rights and education rights of A8 and A2 nationals. For information see http://www.govanhilllc.com/?page_id=194

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Migrant Welfare from an EC & Human Rights Law Perspective**

27 November 2009 in Glasgow (10.00 – 5.00)

Legal Services Agency seminar on how to use EC and human rights law to further migrants' interests with regards access to accommodation, community care support and social security and tax credits. For information see

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

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

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>

**** Supporting Identity, Diversity and Language in the Early Years**

15 December 2009 in Edinburgh

The first six years are crucial for young children in developing their first language and cultural identity. This Children in Scotland seminar explores theory and research in second language acquisition, particularly the relationship between children's identity and self-esteem and positive outcomes for learning. For information see

<http://www.childreninScotland.org.uk/html/trashow.php?ref=1354>

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Judge a Book by its Cover? Not me!

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

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/home.htm>

Scottish Government <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Home>

Westminster Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.eu.int/parliament/public.do?language=en>

One Scotland Many Cultures <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Scottish Inter Faith Council <http://www.scottishinterfaithcouncil.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>
Scotland Helpline 0845 604 5510

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

Social Economy Scotland <http://www.socialeconomyscotland.info/content/index.asp>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <http://www.oscr.org.uk/Index.stm>

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) <http://www.crbs.org.uk/>

Disclosure Scotland <http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/>

BBC News24 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/default.stm>

BBC Parliament online

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm

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The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charity SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS 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/>