

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 Debate

Dungavel (Detention of Children)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor1202-02.htm#Col21772>

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-5301 Anne McLaughlin: Detention of Children at Eid Al Adha—That the Parliament condemns the deeply insensitive decision to take five Muslim children and their parents into Dungavel Detention Centre two days before Eid Al Adha; considers that it is an outrageous act to detain any asylum-seeker child in such centres; believes that it adds insult to injury to demonstrate such a lack of cultural sensitivity, and urges all political parties in Scotland to continue working together toward cultural harmony and to end the detention of children at Dungavel.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=17846>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Visas

Baroness Warsi [HL170]: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 16 July (WA 264-5), what happened to each international student who had their student visa revoked.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: In general terms a student whose visa is revoked has three options: they can appeal against the decision to revoke their visa to the independent Asylum and Immigration Tribunal; they can seek to regularise their stay in the United Kingdom by applying for leave to remain in another immigration category; or they can return home. Students who do not follow one of these courses of action will be considered for appropriate enforcement action. Action to enforce a person's departure is prioritised on those who pose the greatest risk to the UK public.

Lord Laird [HL311]: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 12 November (WA 239), in how many countries VFS Global is contracted to act as an outsourced visa service for United Kingdom visa applicants; and which other companies are contracted to supply visa services for United Kingdom visa applicants in which other countries.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The UK Border Agency has contracts in place with two suppliers to provide visa application support services throughout its global network. VFS Global operates in 34 countries, CSC (Computer Sciences Corporation) operates in 14.

To read the lengthy table of countries see weblink below

Lord Laird [HL312]: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 12 November (WA 239), how many visa applications were (a) accepted, and (b) turned down, by VFS Global in the last year in (1) India, and (2) Pakistan.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: All decisions on UK visa applications, including those lodged in India and Pakistan, are made by UK Border Agency (UKBA) entry clearance officers. VFS Global is contracted by the UKBA to provide visa application support services in India, Pakistan and various other countries and plays no part in decision making. VFS Global has no power to refuse to accept an application after due payment is made. It may inform an applicant if certain key documents appear to be missing, and that the application may be refused for that reason.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/91203w0003.htm#09120352000523>

Immigration Controls

Jim Cousins [302528]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the UK Border Agency does not accept premium bonds as relevant for assessment of the cash maintenance requirement for the points-based immigration system; and what other Government funds are treated in the same way.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The published policy guidance for each tier of the points based system makes clear that evidence to meet the maintenance requirement must be in the form of cash funds in a bank (including savings accounts and financial or government sponsorship).

Evidence in the form of shares, bonds, pension funds etc, regardless of notice period, is not acceptable because the value of these may change and do not show that a migrant can meet the level of funding required in order to support themselves.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091203/text/91203w0010.htm#09120371000016>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Migration

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL348]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what information is given to migrants from the European Union on their arrival in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: As all EEA nationals have a right to freedom of movement in the United Kingdom they are not subject to the same border controls as non-EEA nationals seeking to enter the United Kingdom.

As such no information is given to EEA nationals on their arrival.

The United Kingdom Border Agency offers relevant information on the Home Office website for EEA Nationals, and ukvisas.gov.uk offers information in the form of leaflet INF18, for EEA nationals intending to travel to the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/91203w0003.htm#09120352000517>

Immigration: Detainees

Lord Hylton [HL115]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what personal responsibility the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration takes for detainees held for longer than 28 days; and whether he has visited those held for longer than six months or one year.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The Minister of State for Borders and Immigration, on advice, personally considers whether detention should continue in those cases involving families with children detained for 28 days or longer. In all other cases, detention is reviewed on a regular basis at increasingly senior levels within the UK Border Agency. The Minister does not undertake visits to individual detainees.

Lord Hylton [HL117]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many immigration detainees have been released in each of the past three years because their medical examinations showed a serious physical or mental health condition.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: We do not hold medical data centrally. The information could be provided only by examining individual records at disproportionate cost.

Detainees are seen by a nurse within two hours of arrival for a medical screening examination. Any particular concerns are reported to the GP straight away. In any case, detainees are given an appointment to see a GP within 24 hours. Thereafter, detainees can access healthcare services on demand or following referral by a member of staff if there are particular concerns.

Lord Hylton [HL119]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many convicted offenders are currently in immigration detention pending deportation; and in which centres they are held.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: As at 1 August 2009 there were approximately 1,800 foreign national offenders detained beyond completion of their sentence under immigration powers who the UK Border Agency was seeking to deport from the UK. Around 500 of those were held in UK prisons, with the remainder in immigration removal centres within the UK Border Agency detention estate.

Lord Hylton [HL120]: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, when a person is first held in immigration detention, the written reasons for detention are always provided in a language that the detained person understands.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Every detained person is provided with written reasons for his/her detention at the point of initial detention. Reasons are provided in English but are explained to the detainee, using an interpreter where

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/91130w0002.htm#0911304000226>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Detention Centres

Lord Avebury [HL129]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the warnings they have received of the prevalence of drug and alcohol abuse in immigration detention centres; and what assessment they have made of whether contractors managing these centres provide adequate staff to monitor the use of these substances, and take action when evidence of abuse comes to their attention.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Each immigration removal centre (IRC) has a security department responsible for identifying threats, including drugs, and for developing strategies, responses and actions to counter these and to manage the risk.

For security reasons, we are unable to reveal the detail of the strategies. However, they are designed to minimise illegal entry to the centre of prohibited items including drugs and alcohol.

All removal centres are adequately staffed to provide a safe and secure environment for staff, detainees and visitors alike. Detention custody officers are all trained in searching techniques and substance awareness. All drug finds and incidents of trafficking are reported to the police and, where appropriate, detainee visits are monitored or visitors banned.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/91203w0003.htm#09120352000515>

Asylum

Paul Holmes [302156]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to ensure that those whose claim for asylum is refused but who are unable to return home immediately through no fault of their own are allowed to work in the UK pending their return.

Reply from Phil Woolas: It is not the Government's policy to allow asylum seekers or failed asylum seekers to work. The only exception to this is asylum seekers who have been waiting 12 months for a decision where this delay cannot be attributed to them. Allowing asylum seekers to work in these circumstances is in accordance with the EC Directive on the reception of asylum seekers.

Where a decision has been made that a person does not require international protection, and there are no remaining rights of appeal or obstacles to their return, we expect unsuccessful asylum seekers to return voluntarily to their country of origin. A generous package of reintegration assistance is available to assist failed asylum seekers to return voluntarily to the country of origin.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091201/text/91201w0021.htm#0912027000008>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Hylton [HL116]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum applicants have been placed on the detained fast track in each year since this process was introduced.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The attached table shows information on the number of principal asylum applicants accepted at Oakington, Harmondsworth and Yarl's Wood detained fast track centres in each of the years 2000 to 2008.

Information on immigration and asylum are published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics for 2008 and the latest statistics for Q3 2009 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Principal asylum applicants accepted at Oakington, Harmondsworth and Yarl's Wood detained fast track centres, 2000 to 2008⁽¹⁾			
			Number of principal applicants
	Oakington ⁽²⁾	Harmondsworth ⁽³⁾	Yarl's Wood
2000 ⁽⁴⁾	3,000	:	:
2001	9,125	:	:
2002	8,360	:	:
2003 ⁽⁵⁾	5,835	580	:
2004	6,470	1,110	:
2005	5,330	1,495	230
2006	2,335	1,205	380
2007	320	745	520
2008 ^(P)	:	1,160	515

(1) Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (- = 0, * = 1 or 2).

(2) The detained non-suspensive appeal process for males at Oakington has been moved to Harmondsworth alongside the male detained fast track process already there, this followed an earlier move of the process for females to Yarl's Wood.

(3) May include a small number of cases dealt with at other scheduled sides under the Harmondsworth Fast Track procedure.

(4) Part year March to December 2000 for Oakington as the Oakington Fast Track started in March 2000.

(5) Part year April to December 2003 for Harmondsworth as the Harmondsworth Fast Track started in April 2003.

(P) Provisional figures.

: Not applicable/not available.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/91130w0001.htm#0911304000216>

Asylum

Claire Curtis-Thomas [301225]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has evaluated on the extent to which (a) linguistic and (b) economic factors affect the decisions of (i) migrants and (ii) asylum seekers to seek to live in the UK.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The information is as follows:

1. Linguistic factors affecting migrants' decisions

Other than the study referred to as follows in relation to asylum seekers, there are no reports published by the Home office which refer to linguistic factors affecting migrants' decisions to live in the UK.

2. Economic factors affecting migrants' decisions

Although there is no published information from the Department answering your query, the department has made use of work undertaken by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research in 2003, entitled "The Determinants of International Migration into the UK: A Panel Based Modelling Approach", by James Mitchell and Nigel Pain.

3. Linguistic factors affecting asylum seekers' decisions to live in the UK

In 2002, the Home Office published a study (Home Office Research Study 243) on the decision making of asylum seekers, entitled "Understanding the decision-making of asylum seekers", by Vaughan Robinson and Jeremy Segrott.

This work was undertaken by the Migration Unit in the Department of Geography at the University of Wales, Swansea.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

4. Economic factors affecting asylum seekers' decisions to live in the UK

A number of studies making reference to economic factors have been used, the first of which is referred to in (3), above. A number of other studies also refer to economic factors including:

- "The social networks of asylum seekers and the dissemination of information about countries of asylum", by Khaled Koser and Charles Pinkerton (2002). Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate;
- "An assessment of the impact of asylum policies in Europe 1990-2000", by Roger Zetter, David Griffiths, Silva Ferretti and Martyn Pearl (2003). Home Office Research Study 259;
- "The Determinants of International Migration into the UK: A Panel Based Modelling Approach", by James Mitchell and Nigel Pain (2003). National Institute of Economic and Social Research;
- "Why asylum policy harmonization undermines refugee burden-sharing", by Eiko R. Thielemann (2004), European journal of migration and law, 6 (1). Pp 47-65;
- "Migration and the Economic Downturn: what to Expect in the European Union", by Demetrios G. Papademetriou, Madeleine Sumption, and Will Somerville (2009). Migration Policy Institute;
- "Immigration in the United Kingdom: The recession and beyond", by Will Somerville and Madeleine Sumption (2009). Migration Policy Institute; and
- "Does Policy Matter? On Governments' Attempts to Control Unwanted Migration", by Eiko R. Thielemann (2003). London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE. November 2003. IMS Discussion Paper No. 9.

Peter Bottomley [301645]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the outcome was of the Prime Minister's question-and-answer session with members of the Mumsnet forum on 16 October 2009; to what categories of asylum seeker the inflationary increases referred in the Prime Minister's discussion do not apply; what the change in the weekly amount of support to a single adult asylum seeker aged 25 years is; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Prime Minister informed Mumsnet that the Government are not cutting the amount of money given to lone parent asylum seeking families. The lone parent rate will remain at £42.16 and the amount of money going to asylum-seeking children is going up by 5.2 per cent. These changes came into effect on 6 July 2009.

The existing support structure was modelled on that used by the Department of Work and Pensions for income support. This system distinguishes between persons aged under and over 25. Given that all asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute have access to rent free accommodation with utilities included, we do not consider the essential living needs of supported asylum seekers change on the 25th birthday.

Therefore, there has been no increase to the existing over 25 rate and from 5 October no new support recipients have received this rate. Instead, a new unified rate of support for all single adult asylum seekers (excluding lone parents) regardless of age was introduced. This rate is £35.13 per week. We will honour the old over-25 rate for those asylum seekers already in receipt of it by 5 October until their appeals rights are exhausted or they are granted.

With the exception of the rate for lone parents, and the rate for single adults over 25, on 6 July all other asylum support rates were increased by 5.2per cent. in line with the Consumer Price Index for September 2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091130/text/91130w0022.htm#09120111000003>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum

Paul Holmes [302157]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his policy is on allowing asylum seekers to work if they have been waiting longer than six months for a full resolution of an asylum claim.

Reply from Phil Woolas: It is not the Government's policy to allow asylum seekers to work. The only exception is asylum seekers who have been waiting 12 months for a decision where this delay cannot be attributed to them. Allowing asylum seekers to work in these circumstances is in accordance with the EC Directive on the reception of asylum seekers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091202/text/91202w0006.htm#09120240000083>

Asylum

Chris Huhne [302883]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children seeking asylum and aged (a) 17, (b) 12 to 16, (c) five to 11 and (d) under five years old have been removed from the UK through (i) voluntary and (ii) forced departure in each year since 1997.

Reply from Alan Johnson: The following table shows the number of removals and voluntary departures of children asylum cases under 18 years of age, including dependants, from the United Kingdom between 2004 and 2008, by age group and type of departure.

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

<i>Removals and voluntary departures^(1,2) of children asylum cases⁽³⁾, by age group and type, 2004 to 2008</i>					
<i>Number of departures⁽⁴⁾</i>					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 ⁽⁵⁾
Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures ^(6,7)	1,050	1,400	1,035	570	505
<i>O f which:</i>					
Under 5 years	435	500	375	220	175
5 to 11 years	295	435	355	205	180
12 to 16 years	205	330	230	115	120
17 years	115	140	80	30	25
Assisted voluntary returns ⁽⁸⁾	295	235	580	305	160
<i>O f which:</i>					
Under 5 years	120	110	280	145	70
5 to 11 years	100	65	190	95	50
12 to 16 years	60	40	80	50	30
17 years	20	20	30	15	10

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Other voluntary departures ⁽⁹⁾	n/a	-	30	35	60
<i>O f which:</i>					
Under 5 years	n/a	-	5	5	10
5 to 11 years	n/a	-	15	15	20
12 to 16 years	n/a	-	5	10	20
17 years	n/a	-	5	5	15
Total removals and voluntary departures	1,345	1,635	1,645	905	725
<i>O f which:</i>					
Under 5 years	555	610	660	370	255
5 to 11 years	395	500	555	310	250
12 to 16 years	265	370	320	175	170
17 years	135	155	110	50	50

n/a = not applicable. ⁽¹⁾ Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 (- = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding. ⁽²⁾ Figures include dependants. ⁽³⁾ This figure may overstate because some applicants aged 18 or over may claim to be younger on their date of departure from the UK. ⁽⁴⁾ Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken. ⁽⁵⁾ Provisional figures. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken. ⁽⁶⁾ Due to a reclassification of removal categories, figures include asylum removals which have been performed by enforcement officers using port powers of removal and a small number of cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls. ⁽⁷⁾ Since October 2006, figures include persons leaving under facilitated return schemes. ⁽⁸⁾ Persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration. May include some cases leaving under the assisted voluntary return for irregular migrants programme and some cases where enforcement action had been initiated. ⁽⁹⁾ Since January 2005, persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091203/text/91203w0007.htm#09120371000003>

Deportation

Damian Green [301240]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many asylum seekers were awaiting deportation on 1 November 2009; (2) [301239] how many foreign national prisoners were awaiting deportation on 1 November 2009.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency only departs foreign nationals offenders who meet the following criteria for deportation:

A court recommendation.

For non-European economic area nationals—a custodial sentence of 12 months or more either in one sentence, or as an aggregate of two or three sentences over a period of five years or a custodial sentence of any length for a drug offence (an offence other than possession only).

For EEA nationals—a custodial sentence of 12 months or more for an offence involving drugs, violent or sexual crimes or a custodial sentence of 24 months or more for other offences.

At the point where no barriers to removal exist, the UK Border Agency will set a direction to remove. According to provisional management information, as at 20 November, approximately 125 foreign nationals who met the relevant deportation criteria had removal directions set against them.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Of these, around one third had also submitted a claim for asylum at some stage prior to the removal direction being set.

Daniel Kawczynski [301269]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which section of his Department is responsible for handling the legal proceedings relating to the deportation of foreign nationals on grounds of national security.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Special Cases Directorate of the United Kingdom Border Agency manage the cases through the courts. Legal Advisors Branch and the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism in the Home Office also deal with specific aspects of the legal case.

Other directorates can be brought in as and when required in specific cases.

Daniel Kawczynski [301270]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons have been (a) deported and (b) excluded from the UK on the grounds of fomenting extremism under the 12-point plan in each quarter since the plan was implemented.

Reply from Phil Woolas: I have taken the term "fomenting extremism" as equating to unacceptable behaviour under the policy announced by my right hon. Friend, the then Home Secretary on 24 August 2005. The powers to exclude or deport an individual on the grounds of their unacceptable behaviour are directed at foreign nationals who foment hatred or violence in support of their extremist beliefs. In each quarter since August 2005 the following number of foreign nationals have been (a) deported and (b) excluded from the UK on the grounds of unacceptable behaviour:

In 2005: (a) 0, (b) Q3 = 3⁽¹⁾, Q4 = 18

In 2006: (a) Q4 = 1, (b) Q1 = 8, Q2 = 10, Q3 = 4, Q4 = 11

In 2007: (a) 0, (b) Q1 = 0, Q2 = 7, Q3 = 5, Q4 = 9

In 2008: (a) 0, (b) Q1 = 4, Q2 = 0, Q3 = 0, Q4 = 8

In 2009: (a) 0, (b) Q1 = 14, Q2 = 4, Q3 = 1 to date

⁽¹⁾ This figure is from August 2005 and included within previous PQ answer on 29 September 2008, Official Report, column 2359W the figure given was four. This figure has now been reduced to three due to the re-classification of one exclusion, from unacceptable behaviour to public order.

Daniel Kawczynski [301271]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons have been extradited for terrorism-related offences in each quarter since the announcement of the 12-point plan in August 2005; and how many requests from his Department for extradition for terrorism-related offences (a) are outstanding and (b) have been made since August 2005.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Between August 2005 and September 2008, 13 people were extradited by the UK for terrorism-related offences; four people were discharged by UK courts; five cases are ongoing and one case was withdrawn by the Requesting State. The following table gives a breakdown of these figures.

The UK's extradition partners are divided into two categories. Category 1 territories are those Member States of the EU that operate the Framework Decision on the European arrest warrant (EAW). Category 2 territories are those territories outside the EU with which the UK has extradition relations by way of either bilateral or multilateral extradition treaties:

Part 1

The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (for cases involving Scotland) are the designated authorities for the receipt and transmission of EAWs in the UK. It is not possible from current SOCA systems to break down the number of extraditions and EAWs issued or received by offence type.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Part 2

There have been no persons extradited between the UK and Category 2 territories, in either direction, for terrorism-related offences since September 2008. As a matter of policy and practice, the Home Office will neither confirm nor deny the existence of any extradition request ahead of a person's arrest.

<i>Extradition requests for terrorist related offences since August 2005</i>			
	<i>Arrested</i>	<i>Status as at 17 September 2008</i>	<i>Number</i>
2005			
	Pre-August 2005	Withdrawn by Requesting State	1
	3 ^(rd) quarter	Ongoing	1
	Pre-August 2005	Extradited	2
2006			
	Pre-August 2005	Discharged	1
	Pre-August 2005	Extradited	3
	1 ^(st) quarter	Discharged	1
	2 ^(nd) quarter	Extradited	1
	3 ^(rd) quarter	Extradited	1
	3 ^(rd) quarter	Ongoing	1
2007			
	Pre-August 2005	Extradited	1
	2 ^(nd) quarter	Extradited	3
	2 ^(nd) quarter	Ongoing	1
	4 ^(th) quarter	Ongoing	2
	4 ^(th) quarter	Discharged	2
2008			
	Pre-August 2005	Extradited	1
	1 ^(st) quarter	Extradited	1

Note: There are currently four other cases before the courts which were received before August 2005.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091130/text/91130w0023.htm#09120111000021> and
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091130/text/91130w0024.htm>

Asylum Seekers: Deportation

Baroness Warsi: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many illegal asylum seekers have been deported in each of the last five years. [HL307]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Information on asylum removals and voluntary departures in the last five years is available from Table 3.1 of the *Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2008* bulletin (<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1409.pdf>).

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons who were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, 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>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Warsi [HL308]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average cost per person of deporting an illegal asylum seeker.

[HL309] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average cost per person of a failed deportation of an illegal asylum seeker.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: It is not possible to provide an average figure for the cost of removing an individual, including failed asylum seekers, for either successful or unsuccessful removals. This is because there are many different factors which may or may not be involved in the cost of a case (such as detention costs, travel costs, and the cost of escorting the individual in question). We are unable to disaggregate the specific costs and any attempt to do so would also incur disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/91203w0001.htm#09120352000502>

Human Trafficking

Anthony Steen [301255]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding he has allocated to the training of competent authority decision-makers for the identification of potential victims of human trafficking in each of the next three years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Funds have not been specifically allocated for training of competent authorities. To date this training has been treated as a business as usual cost by UKBA, supported by the UK Human Trafficking Centre and a number of voluntary sector organisations. There are no plans to change this arrangement.

Anthony Steen [301256]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of competent authority decision-makers responsible for the identification of potential victims of human trafficking are employed by the UK Border Agency.

Reply from Phil Woolas: There are approximately 180 trained staff within UKBA who undertake this role part-time, alongside other duties. The UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) is the only other organisation that hosts competent authority decision-makers and it has three full-time competent authority posts.

Anthony Steen [301257]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place for the review of a reasonable grounds decision taken by a competent authority decision-maker in relation to a potential victim of human trafficking.

Reply from Phil Woolas: There is no requirement under the Council of Europe Convention against trafficking to create a specific right of appeal. The reasonable grounds decision is a low threshold which is made following multi-agency consultation and engagement. There is also an opportunity for first responders to provide additional information if the competent authority is initially unable to make a positive identification. This helps to ensure that the right decisions are taken and victims are properly identified. There are also standard avenues for appealing immigration decisions, and a reasonable grounds decision can be subject to judicial review.

Anthony Steen [301258]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many competent authority decision-makers have been trained since the implementation of the National Referral Mechanism for the identification of victims of human trafficking; and how many competent authority decision-makers he expects to be trained in the next three years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Over 180 people have been trained to act as competent authority decision makers within the national referral mechanism. There are no plans to significantly increase that number but the position will be regularly reviewed against the number of referrals made. New competent authorities will be trained if it is necessary to meet an increase in trafficking numbers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091130/text/91130w0026.htm#09120111000036>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking

Claire Curtis-Thomas [301224]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has evaluated on any relationship between levels of human trafficking into the UK and economic conditions.

Reply from Alan Campbell: None.

Claire Curtis-Thomas [301265]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition of human trafficking his Department uses; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Alan Campbell: The UK uses the definition of trafficking set out in the Palermo Protocol to the 2000 UN Convention against Transnational Crime (UNTOC), "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children" which defines human trafficking as:

"Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs."

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091201/text/91201w0025.htm#0912027000024>

Human Trafficking

Andrew Pelling [303692]: What recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the effect on trafficked women of the proposed closure of the Metropolitan Police's human trafficking unit.

Peter Bone [303694]: What her latest estimate is of the number of women who have been trafficked (a) into the UK and (b) from one part of the UK to another for the purposes of sexual exploitation in the last 12 months

Reply from Harriet Harman: There are regular discussions between us Equality Ministers and ministerial colleagues in the Home Office on the question of human trafficking. Trafficking is by nature a covert activity, so it is difficult to be precise about the numbers. The Association of Chief Police Officers, the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre and others are on course for an estimate of the number of women trafficked into the UK for sexual exploitation to be made available in early 2010.

Andrew Pelling: I am very concerned about the proposed closure of the trafficking unit in the Met, as particularly specialised skills are involved in the unit. What is the Minister's view on the issue, particularly bearing in mind that I have had a letter from Cressida Dick saying that it is inevitable that the change will take place because of reduced funding from the Government to the Met? That certainly came as a surprise to me, as I thought that the Government had been very generous to the Metropolitan Police Service in terms of funding via the Greater London authority. She says that the-

Reply from Harriet Harman: In order to reassure hon. Members that the Government, the Metropolitan police and police forces around the country will be taking strong action to investigate and bring to court those engaged in human trafficking for the purposes of exploitation, I should explain that human trafficking is the offences of breaching immigration rules, rape, assault, kidnap, abduction, fraud and serious organised crime. A unit was set up in the Metropolitan police to focus on the new context of human trafficking, which involves all those crimes. Training has been under way for both prosecutors and police, and we have the UK

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking Centre. A unit in the police was funded especially to upskill and improve the understanding of the Metropolitan police so that the whole issue could be mainstreamed. Funding has been made available for that, and it continues.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091203/debtext/91203-0003.htm#09120350000026>

Westminster Early Day Motion

David Lepper (338) Review of tier 4 points-based system for student visas – That this House recognises the important role of the English language teaching sector in the UK economy and in promoting a positive image of the UK; welcomes the steps taken by the Government and by the sector to introduce more robust forms of registration and the accreditation of course providers; acknowledges the need to deal with abuses of the student visa system, but is concerned that proposals being consulted on in the review of the Tier 4 Points-based System for student visas could result in some 50,000 fewer legitimate students a year coming to the UK's language schools, further education colleges and universities to study, causing severe damage to the sector and a major loss of income to the UK; believes that it is possible to deal with any abuses in the system in ways which do not damage properly registered and accredited providers of courses; and calls on the Government to work closely with representatives of those providers to agree an alternative solution to that currently being consulted on.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=39898&SESSION=903>

Westminster Ministerial Speech

John Denham: Managing the welfare impact of migration during the recession

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

Press Releases

Migrants shock - UK Border Agency response

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/november/migrants-shock-ukba-response>

Meeting the needs of the UK economy through selective high-skilled immigration

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/economy-high-skilled-immigration>

Media reports about UK education providers - UK Border Agency response

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/december/07-media-education-response>

Refugee puts human rights on the agenda this St Andrew's day

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/Home_StAndrewsDayNov

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **New publications**

Points-Based System Pilot Process Evaluation - Tier 1 Highly Skilled Applicant Survey

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/horr22c.pdf>

Asylum directives: scrutiny of the opt in decisions

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldselect/ldcom/6/6.pdf>

PICUM's Main Concerns about the Fundamental Rights of Undocumented Migrants in Europe

http://www.picum.org/data/PICUM_AnnualConcerns_2009_EN.pdf

News

Holding children in immigration centres must be stopped, say MPs

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/holding-children-in-immigration-centres-must-be-stopped-say-mps-1.987321>

Suspend Iraq refugee deportations, says Keith Vaz

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8386941.stm>

Foreign student visa review call by UK advisory body

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8394374.stm>

Fast-track fear for asylum girl Precious

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/fast-track-fear-for-asylum-girl-precious-1.990207>

Glasgow MSP in bid to stop fast-tracking of deportation case

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/news/Glasgow-MSP-in-bid-to.5887727.jp>

Immigration rules result in flood of bogus students

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/6736498/Immigration-rules-result-in-flood-of-bogus-students.html>

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Equality

Press Release

Equality Bill may give option to recruit under-represented people

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/equality-bill-may-give-option-to-recruit-under-represented-people/>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Racism

Gavin Brown (Lothians) (Con): To ask the Scottish Executive how many people have been charged with racism in the Lothians region in each of the last three years, broken down by local authority area and manner of disposal. **(S3W-29081)**

Reply from Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government Court Proceedings database, which is derived from data held on the criminal history system, does not hold information on the number of people charged.

The unit of analysis used to derive these data is persons proceeded against. Persons are counted once for each occasion on which they are proceeded against. If more than one proceeding is disposed of on the same day, each occasion will be counted separately.

Where a person is proceeded against for more than one crime or offence, only the main charge is counted. The main charge is the one receiving the severest penalty if one or more charges are proved. If no charge is proved then the one reaching the furthest stage in proceedings is the main one.

The available information is given in the following table.

Persons Proceeded Against¹ in the Lothians Region for Racism^{2, 3, 4}, by Approximate Local Authority Area⁵, 2004-05 to 2006-07

Local Authority/Result	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
East Lothian			
Not Guilty	1	0	4
Custody	1	1	2
Community sentence	4	0	2
Monetary	3	5	6
Other	1	1	0
Total	10	7	14
Edinburgh, City of			
Not Guilty	38	55	51
Custody	26	36	36
Community sentence	26	24	19
Monetary	80	85	123
Other	18	25	13
Total	188	225	242
West Lothian			
Not Guilty	5	13	10
Custody	4	6	5
Community sentence	7	7	4
Monetary	11	27	11
Other	2	1	3
Total	29	54	33
Lothians			
Not Guilty	44	68	65
Custody	31	43	43
Community sentence	37	31	25
Monetary	94	117	140
Other	21	27	16
Total	227	286	289

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Notes:

1. Data source is the Scottish Government Court Proceedings database.
2. Includes the offences of racially aggravated harassment, racially aggravated conduct and other offences with a racial aggravator recorded against them.
3. The recording of aggravator codes has improved over time therefore caution is needed when comparing changes over time. 2005-06 is the first year where it has been considered that the use and recording of racial aggravator codes from the Scottish Government Court Proceedings database has been of sufficient coverage to be used.
4. The data recording codes for aggravators changed on 10 March 2008. The new codes will be reconciled against the existing codes when the 2008-09 data is available in March 2010.
5. Incorporates an approximate mapping of sheriff courts into local authority areas. Some sheriff courts will deal with cases from more than one local authority area. Midlothian does not contain a sheriff court.

Sectarianism

Bill Butler (S3W-29200): To ask the Scottish Executive how many officials are working on its sectarianism strategy, broken down by directorate.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: Work to tackle sectarianism is part of a broader strategy of work to tackle all forms of religious intolerance and racism, and involves many areas across Scottish Government. Whilst there are staff allocated to work on religious intolerance and faith issues, there are no officials who work exclusively on tackling sectarianism. However, the key elements of this agenda are being delivered by the following teams:

Directorate	Team	Number of Team Members	Activities
Equalities, Social Inclusion and Sport Directorate	Race, Religion and Refugee Integration	7	Co-ordination on anti-sectarian work, Work with faith communities, Interfaith development.
	Sport	4	Citizenship through Football Partnership including anti-sectarian activity.
Justice	Police Powers and Public Protection	5	Football Banning Orders, Marches and parades.
Education	Support for Learning	3	Sectarianism: Don't Give it, Don't Take It schools resource, Twinning schools.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pq=S3W-29200>

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Sectarianism

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Scottish Executive whether the Minister for Community Safety will meet (a) the Orange Order and (b) Cairde na h'Eireann to discuss how further progress can be made in implementing the actions agreed in the 2006 statement on tackling abusive behaviour at marches and parades. (S3W-29116)

Reply from Fergus Ewing: I intend to meet all of the partners who signed the 2006 statement on tackling abusive behaviour at marches and parades, including the Orange Lodge and Cairde na h'Eireann, to consider with them how the statement can be taken forward at a local level.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-29116>

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Scottish Executive whether the Orange Order and Cairde na h'Eireann will be invited to participate in the work on marches and parades announced by the Minister for Community Safety in his statement to the Parliament on the Sectarianism Strategy on Wednesday, 18 November 2009. (S3W-29117)

Reply from Fergus Ewing: Yes.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-29117>

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Hate Crimes

Claire Curtis-Thomas [300483]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of legislation designed to tackle hate-related offences.

Reply from Alan Campbell: The Government have not made any recent formal assessment of the effectiveness of this legislation. In September 2009 the Home Office published the Cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan. This plan brings together a range of work being delivered across Government and criminal justice agencies to target hate crime. The development of the Action Plan, involved informal assessment of the current legislative provision against the work being delivered.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091130/text/91130w0026.htm#09120111000035>

Press Release

ENAR Shadow Report on racism: a Europe free from racism and discrimination is still distant

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2009-12-03%20-%20press%20release%20shadow%20report.pdf>

New publication

Shadow Report on Racism in Europe

http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/publications/shadowReport2008_EN_fin_al.pdf

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) News

Amir Khan's father Shah rejects son's bigotry claim

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/boxing/8396760.stm>

Arrests made at right-wing group rally

<http://www.heraldsotland.com/news/home-news/arrests-made-at-right-wing-group-rally-1.990243>

Equality quango staff rebel over BNP 'sting'

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6945883.ece>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Questions

Census

Jim Tolson (Dunfermline West) (LD): To ask the Scottish Executive for what reason the ethnic category, Arab, was not included in the draft 2008 census form. (S3W-29192)

Reply from Jim Mather: The proposed question about ethnicity for use in the next census and in other Scottish surveys, and published in July 2008, included for the first time a separate tick box for the Arab ethnic category.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-29192>

Jim Tolson (Dunfermline West) (LD): To ask the Scottish Executive for what reason the draft 2008 census form was drafted without consulting Arab community groups or representatives. (S3W-29193)

Reply from Jim Mather: The proposed question about ethnicity for use in the next census and in other Scottish surveys, and published in July 2008, was based on wide consultation over several years. Consultation with Arab representatives, and with users of census statistics, resulted in the inclusion of a specific "Arab" tick box for the first time in the history of the census. More recent discussion has led to an amended proposal, incorporated in the draft Census (Scotland) Order which was laid on 26 November, to label the tick box "Arab, Arab Scottish or Arab British".

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-29193>

Jim Tolson (Dunfermline West) (LD): To ask the Scottish Executive what ethnic groups were consulted in the drafting of the draft 2008 census form. (S3W-29194)

Reply from Jim Mather: During the extended period of consultation which led up to the publication in July 2008 of the proposed question about ethnicity for use in the next census and in other Scottish surveys, the following groups were contacted:

To read the lengthy list of groups see

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-29194>

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Jim Tolson (Dunfermline West) (LD): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will amend category F of the draft 2011 census form to include a category, Arab and Other Ethnic Groups, and subcategories, Arab, Scottish Arab or British Arab. (S3W-29195)

Reply from Jim Mather: That approach has not been taken in the draft Census (Scotland) Order which was laid on 26 November, for two reasons. First, it would risk reducing the response from ethnic groups which have no tick box, because their eye would be caught by Arab in the section title and they might not notice the subsequent tick box for Other. Second, since the proposed section headings are the same throughout the UK, comparability with England and Wales would be lost, which is important to many users of census data.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-29195>

Jim Tolson (Dunfermline West) (LD): To ask the Scottish Executive how many responses to the draft 2008 census form consultation expressed concerns about the ethnic categories listed. (S3W-29196)

Reply from Jim Mather: The proposed question about ethnicity for use in the next census and in other Scottish surveys was published in July 2008, following extensive consultation. It was not itself a consultative document.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-29196>

Jim Tolson (Dunfermline West) (LD): To ask the Scottish Executive how many responses to the 2009 census rehearsal questionnaires indicated Arab under the Other ethnicity option. (S3W-29197)

Reply from Jim Mather: In the 2009 census rehearsal, there were 29 responses to the ethnic group question which indicated Arab under the Other ethnic group section. This was out of a total of 33,531 responses to the ethnic group question.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-29197>

Press Release

Scottish Government changes

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/12/01103038>

New publication

Your Scotland, Your Voice: A National Conversation

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/293639/0090721.pdf>

News

Salmond launches government referendum poll plans

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/salmond-launches-government-referendum-poll-plans-1.986573>

Scotland 'at a crossroads for the future'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Scotland-39at-a-crossroads-for.5870987.jp>

Salmond hands referendum deal to opposition

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Salmond-hands-referendum-deal-.5870994.jp>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Question

Forced Marriage

Adam Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of forced marriages involving at least one British citizen which took place in (a) the UK and (b) each other country in each year since 1997; and how many such citizens were (i) male and (ii) female. [303024]

Reply from Chris Bryant: The very nature of forced marriage means that cases often go unreported. The joint Home Office-Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) are working with governmental and non-governmental partners to build the best statistical picture possible. The statistics we do have are based on the work of the FMU since its establishment in 2005 and are fuller from 2008 when a new system of recording data was implemented.

Statistics for 2009 (January to end October):

- 1,327 instances in which the FMU gave advice or support related to possible forced marriage.
- 286 cases of forced marriage, including both assistance and immigration cases, dealt with by the FMU.
- 14 per cent. were male and 86 per cent. were female.
- The geographic balance of cases associated with other countries/regions was as follows: Pakistan (57 per cent.), Bangladesh (10 per cent.), India (8 per cent.), Turkey (2 per cent.), Africa (1 per cent.), Afghanistan (1 per cent.), and other (7 per cent.). 14 per cent. of cases were solely linked to the UK or were of unknown origin.

Statistics for 2008:

- 1,618 instances in which the FMU gave advice or support related to possible forced marriage.
- 420 cases of forced marriage, including both assistance and immigration cases, dealt with by the FMU.
- 15 per cent. of victims were male and 85 per cent. female.
- The geographic balance of cases associated with other countries/regions was as follows: Pakistan (57 per cent.), Bangladesh (13 per cent.), India (7 per cent.), Middle Eastern (3 per cent.), Africa (2 per cent.), Turkey (1 per cent.), Afghanistan (1 per cent.), European (1 per cent.), and other (4 per cent.). 11 per cent. of cases were solely linked to the UK or were of unknown origin.

Statistics for 2007:

- 262 cases of forced marriage, including both assistance and immigration cases, dealt with by the FMU in the UK and overseas.

Statistics for 2006:

- 182 cases of forced marriage, including both assistance and immigration cases, dealt with by the FMU in the UK and overseas.

Statistics for 2005:

- 152 cases of forced marriage, including both assistance and immigration cases dealt with by the FMU in the UK and overseas.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091130/text/91130w0013.htm#09113048000011>

Press Releases

Number 10 marks Eid ul Adha

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page21586>

Other Westminster Press Releases (continued)

Number 10 Christmas card

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page21604>

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New Publication

Charity Reporting and Accounting: A chance to shape the future

<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/Library/publications/pdfs/rs21text.pdf>

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Other News

Young Scot is looking for a volunteer to fill the role of Investigation Assistant with the Access All Areas Project.

This is an exciting opportunity to explore young people's involvement in community planning and support groups of young people from ethnic minority, refugee, asylum seeking and faith groups to influence service provision in their local area. The Investigation Assistant would be based in Edinburgh and would spend 7 hours a week volunteering on the project though there is flexibility about time and hours worked. For more information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09xii_young_scot.doc or contact Emma Laverie 0131 313 2488 / emmal@youngscot.org

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Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

** Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-09/bb-12-01g.htm>

Public Services Reform Bill

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

Bills in Progress Westminster

** Equality Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/equality.html>

Report Stage, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/005/amend/pbc0050212m.99-105.html>

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

Equality Bill (continued)

Report Stage Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/005/pro5021209p.1-7.html>

Bill as brought from the Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/020/2010020.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/020/en/2010020en.pdf>

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Consultations

(closing date)

** new or updated this week

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

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>

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Implementation: Consultation on Significant Draft Secondary Legislation, Guidance and Regulatory Impact Assessment

(2 February 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/children-families/pvglegislation/Consultation09>

Simplifying Immigration Law - A New Framework for Immigration Rules

(3 February 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/simplifying-imm-law-new-framework/>

Consultations (continued)

Reforming asylum support (4 February 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/simplifying-imm-law-new-framew1/>

Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005: Consultation on Options for the Implementation of the Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)
(26 February 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/292195/0090094.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!**

"Scotland's Shame" Revisited

7 December 2009 in Glasgow at 7.30

Irish Diaspora in Scotland Association lecture by James Macmillan and Patricia Walls which will reflect on sectarian discrimination in Scotland during the last ten years. For information see

<http://www.irishinscotland.com/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/november09.doc>

**** this week!**

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>

Scottish Government Race Equality Conference

15 December 2009 in Glasgow

The Scottish Government recognises that there are still many challenges to overcome before we achieve our shared goal of a Scotland free of discrimination. This conference is an opportunity for minority ethnic communities to explore and debate on how those challenges can be best addressed in the future. For information contact Linda Bruce 0131 474 9228 / Linda@cosla.gov.uk or see

http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09xii_sg_race_equality.pdf

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Has devolution helped to achieve a fairer Scotland?

15 December 2009 in Edinburgh (6.00 – 8.00pm)

Equalities and Human Rights Commission debate on devolution and equality. For information contact scotlandcommunication@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5935 by 2 December or see http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/cgi-bin/generate.pl?page_id=8n3uttc84t&save=screen&session=

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/trashshow.php?ref=1354>

BEMIS AGM

16 December 2009 (6.00 – 8.00)

GO Business & Training Centre, Thornwood Suite, Second Floor, George House, 36 North Hanover Street, Glasgow G1 2AD. For information contact Sue Barnes sue.barnes@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047

Scottish Refugee Council AGM and Public Meeting

15 January 2010 (2.00 -)

The theme of the AGM will be that asylum is a human right. Keynote speeches will come from Roland Schilling, UK representative of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Professor Alan Miller, Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission. For more information contact Graeme Corbett on (0141) 223 7930 or graeme.corbett@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

A public appointment – no way? Think again

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

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, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps 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/>