

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.

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

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

International Student Visas

Shirley-Anne Somerville (S3O-9049): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment has been made of the effect on Scottish universities of the introduction of tier 4 of the points-based system for international students.

Reply from Michael Russell (Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning): The First Minister and I have both taken a close personal interest in the matter and in my previous role I specifically raised this subject on several occasions in discussion with my counterparts in the Westminster Government. At the First Minister's behest, officials wrote to college and university principals to ask for their feedback and examples, if appropriate, of where the new system has had a detrimental effect on their recruitment or retention of international students.

It remains early days for the new system. The overall message from Scottish institutions is that, although there have undoubtedly been problems and there is concern about how the new system will affect Scotland's reputation as an open, welcoming country, the system is operating better than expected. Some—particularly in the college sector—are positive about the increased capacity to prevent bogus institutions operating and to ensure that students arrive at their

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

institution. The issues that have been raised tend to concern inconsistent and changeable procedures within the UK Border Agency, delays, and teething problems with the new system.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and will work to ensure that Scottish institutions are receiving the best possible service from the UKBA.

Shirley-Anne Somerville: The cabinet secretary will be well aware of the important contribution that international students make, both academically and financially, to Scotland's education institutions and economy. Concerns have been raised with me that the new tier 4 system discriminates against students from less wealthy countries by requiring them to show that they have thousands—often tens of thousands—of pounds available up front in advance of their studies. Can he assure us that everything that can be done will be done to ensure that access to Scottish universities is not being unreasonably restricted to the detriment of students, institutions and the country as a whole?

Reply from Michael Russell: The member is right to say that a points-based system is not an ideal system. Indeed, at a national conversation meeting about migration that was held with a range of institutions, there was a feeling that we should not really have such a system at all. However, because such a system is in place and because we do not currently have the ability to change it, how we work within the system is very important. It is important that the Scottish Government makes representations repeatedly, regularly and clearly to the UK Government about the operation of the system. That is why, when we observe that tier 4 possibly discriminates against students from less wealthy areas, it is important that, with the backing of universities and colleges, we make strong representations to Westminster. I encourage the member so to do and not to take no for an answer. The UK Border Agency has an unfortunate tendency to try to brush off members of this Parliament, but I hope that we will resist that.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-10/sor0107-02.htm#Col22556>

Westminster Debate

Immigration Control

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100106/halltext/100106h0005.htm#10010648000003>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

British Nationality: Assessments

Nigel Waterson [303810]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the benefits to migrants to the UK of the use of citizenship tests.

Reply from Phil Woolas: We consider citizenship tests to be an important element in helping people to integrate into their wider community in the UK. Passing the citizenship test ensures that migrants have an understanding of life in the UK and the requisite skills, including English, to allow them to fully integrate. Preparing for the test gives applicants the practical knowledge needed to live in the UK and to take part in society.

The consultation document "Earning the Right to Stay-A New Points Test for Citizenship", published in August 2009, set out proposals for changes to the test

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

process and outlined how a two stage citizenship test might fit within the new system for earned citizenship set out in the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009. The consultation closed on 26 October and responses are being analysed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100105/text/100105w0032.htm#1001062000008>

Immigration

Richard Younger-Ross [305715]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the average time taken by the UK Border Agency to process an application for leave to remain in the UK.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table shows performance for LTR casework by application type for the most recent reporting month (October 2009).

<i>Performance by workstream</i>	<i>Service standard</i>	<i>Percentage of applications dealt with within service standard for month end October 2009</i>
Family	65 per cent. of cases within 20 working days	53
Study	75 per cent. of cases within 20 working days	91
Visiting the UK	75 per cent. of cases within 20 working days	61
Work	75 per cent. of cases within 20 working days	89

Note: These data are not provided under National Statistics protocols. They have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100105/text/100105w0037.htm#1001062000028>

Asylum

Damian Green [306627]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps he has taken to reduce the asylum backlog; whether any additional staff have been assigned to this task in the last three months; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Lin Homer updated the Home Affairs Select Committee on 19 October 2009 on steps the UK Border Agency has taken to reduce the asylum backlog. Lin Homer will provide a further update to the Committee in January 2010.

Sarah Teather [307094]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has set a timetable for the consideration of the backlog of non-Arab Darfuri asylum claims in respect of the new Operation Guidance Note on Sudan.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The backlog of asylum claims from Darfuris will be considered in line with existing priorities as set out by the Case Resolution Directorate. All cases will be dealt with on their own individual merits and in accordance with these priorities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100105/text/100105w0032.htm#1001062000007>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Yarl's Wood

Lord Ramsbotham [HL742]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to staff of Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre not allowing the Canon Theologian of Westminster Abbey to deliver Christmas presents to detained children.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The incident involved a request from a Jonathan Cox, representing Citizens for Sanctuary and the St Nicholas Society, to come into Yarl's Wood to distribute gifts to children and not specifically from the Reverend Professor Nicholas Sagovsky, Canon Theologian of Westminster Abbey. The UK Border Agency has a duty to safeguard those in its care, especially children. That includes appropriate vetting of those who wish to work or operate in the immigration removal centres. Mr Cox's request was therefore declined primarily on security grounds because the two organisations were not known to centre staff and did not have suitable clearance to have direct contact with the children in our care. However, arrangements were made with the society for gifts to be delivered to the centre for onward distribution, which indeed occurred. We have a full plan of activities for the celebration of major religious festivals, including Christmas. These include parties, a traditional carol service, and a visit by Father Christmas to Yarl's Wood. Ministers of religion are able to make arrangements with the manager of religious affairs to attend an immigration removal centre subject to appropriate clearance, and I understand that an invitation has been extended to the Canon Theologian to visit Yarl's Wood at some point in the future.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100105w0011.htm#10010561003019>

Polygamy

Lord Pearson of Rannoch [HL875]: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 21 July (WA 301-2), whether the minister's officials have come to a conclusion as to whether changes to the UK Border Agency's Entry Clearance Guidance are required, in the context of polygamous marriages; and, if so, what is their view of that advice.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: In my Written Answer of 30 November 2009 (WA8) to the noble Lord I referred to my letter, despatched on 24 November 2009, responding to him on this subject. Divorces of convenience are extremely rare, and after careful consideration we have decided that the relevant part of the current entry clearance guidance (SET 14.8) should be amended to read simply that any case where there is evidence that a divorce of convenience has occurred should be referred to ECO Support for consideration and advice. We believe that this advice is more proportionate and appropriate than the previous wording.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100105w0014.htm#10010561003048>

Immigration: International Students

Baroness Warsi [HL246]: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 6 July (WA 99), what is the current immigration status of the 3,940 international students enrolled at schools, colleges and universities prior to 31 March and subsequently refused a sponsor licence by the UK Border Agency.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The students enrolled at institutions before the introduction of tier four would have been granted leave under the student Immigration Rules in place at the time. These students may stay and study at these institutions for the duration of their existing leave.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100105w0011.htm#10010561003018>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Susan Kramer [306345]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to ensure that any changes to Tier 4 of the points-based system do not reduce the attractiveness of the UK as a study destination to foreign students.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Prime Minister announced on 12 November 2009 that a review of tier 4, the student tier of the Points Based System, would be conducted by a joint team from the UK Border Agency and the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. The review team have been asked to assess whether the current tier 4 policy strikes the appropriate balance between facilitating access of genuine students to education in the UK and preventing abuse by economic migrants.

The review is looking at evidence gathered from the early stages of tier 4, which was launched in March this year, to look at the case for or against any policy changes. The review will consider all of the available data and evidence, including the potential effect of any changes on the attractiveness of the UK as a study destination for international students.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100105/text/100105w0037.htm#1001062000022>

People Trafficking

Lord Hylton [HL832]: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether 77 children suspected of having been trafficked went missing from a children's home near Heathrow since March 2006; if so, whether any of them have been found; and what steps have been taken to prevent such a situation happening again.

Reply from Baroness Morgan of Drefelin: Children who enter the UK without an adult to take responsibility for their care, which could include children who may have been trafficked into the country, will become looked after by the local authority where they present. Where any looked-after children subsequently go missing from their care placements, the local authority must report their absence to the local police so that all necessary action can be taken to locate them and make sure that they are safe.

Information about the outcomes of individual children who have gone missing from care in any local authority is not collected centrally. However, following the Prime Minister's Parliamentary Answer to the honourable Member for Hayes and Harlington in the other place on 6 May, officials from the Home Office and the DCSF were asked to investigate concerns about potentially trafficked children from abroad going missing from the London Borough of Hillingdon.

Hillingdon works very closely with other local partner agencies through the Hillingdon Local Safeguarding Children Board, which has a child trafficking sub-group. Since 2007, stronger process and systems have been put in place to disrupt the trafficking of children through Heathrow Airport, which has had the effect of reducing the numbers both of young people arriving at Heathrow suspected as being at risk of trafficking and of children later going missing from residential care.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100107w0001.htm#10010731000111>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Early Day Motions

Jo Swinson (530) Trafficking Hotline – That this House notes with deep concern the numbers of women and girls trafficked into the UK for commercial sexual exploitation and the inadequate availability of specialist resources for them; welcomes the Government's new strategy, Tackling violence against women, and the introduction of a 24-hour sexual violence helpline; and calls for the advertising of this hotline to be required as part of the sex establishment licence for all sexual entertainment venues in the UK to ensure maximum numbers of victims can be identified and offered the crucial early care they require.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=40106&SESSION=903>

Press Releases

Changes to the law on citizenship

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/January/03-changes-law-citizenship>

Changes to the child visitor rules

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/december/changes-to-child-visitor-rules>

Skilled migrant workers get identity cards for foreign nationals

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/January/02-immigration-applicants-icfn>

IT firms and intra-company transfers - government response

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/January/04-it-workers-t2-ict>

New publication

UK border Agency: Working in partnership with stakeholders

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/stakeholders/working-in-partnership.pdf>

News

Minister is urged to end 'cruel' child detention centre stays

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Minister-is-urged-to-end.5926942.jp>

Clampdown on illegal workers

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/clampdown-on-illegal-workers-1.994392>

Jobs for illegals at Home Office as dozens of NHS and public bodies ignore immigration laws

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1240204/Jobs-illegals-Home-Office-dozens-NHS-public-bodies-break-immigration-laws.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Gurkhas 'in need after coming to the UK with nothing'

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/8439870.stm

MPs urge '70m population cap' in party manifestos

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/8442662.stm

Immigrants should understand Christian heritage - Carey

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8442662.stm

Let's take immigration seriously

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/articles/?id=3842>

Fewer Muslims for the Archbishop

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/andrewbrown/2010/jan/07/religion-carey-islam-immigration>

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Race Relations

Press Release

Appointment of new faith advisers

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1426032>

News

Britons are suspicious towards Muslims, study finds

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/religion/6958571/Britons-are-suspicious-towards-Muslims-study-finds.html>

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Equality

News

Ethnic minorities hit hardest by rising unemployment in the UK

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Ethnic-minorities-hit-hardest-by.5950441.jp>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Press Release

UN refugee agency outlines strategy to fight xenophobia and racism

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33330&Cr=racism&Cr1=>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued)

New publication

Links between migration and discrimination

http://www.migpolgroup.com/public/docs/166.LinksbtwMigratio&Discrimination_thematicreport_02.12.09.pdf

News

Race hate crime reports on rise

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/Race-hate-crime-reports-on.5934186.jp>

Lothians' race crimes shame

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/Lothians39-race-crimes-shame.5939369.jp>

Police trainer probed over racism claim

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/scotland/Police-trainer-probed-over-racism.5952089.jp>

BNP challenge must be met by main parties, says Howard

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/8431749.stm

This is England: Masked like terrorists, members of Britain's newest and fastest - growing protest group intimidate a Muslim woman on a train en route to a violent demo

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/moslive/article-1238213/This-England-On-trail-English-Defence-League.html>

BNP crisis as Nick Griffin faces jail over whites-only policy

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6982345.ece>

Sharing Stories: Changing Minds is gathering personal accounts of hate crimes to use in training with schools, staff and the wider community and would like to invite people to share your story because they believe that hearing the impact of hate crime is one of the most powerful tools in preventing it from happening again. To participate in this project see <https://www.survs.com/survey/Z8OMH001HF>

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New Publications

Volunteering Information? The use of Freedom of Information laws by the Third Sector in Scotland

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=3488&sID=3210>

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Other News

£1m Lottery grant for minorities

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/glasgow_and_west/8425184.stm

Other News (continued)

Probe into Hepatitis C risk faced by city's Asians

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/health/probe-into-hepatitis-c-risk-faced-by-city-s-asians-1.996360>

Scottish Human Rights Commission Research Contractor Database opens

<http://scottishhumanrights.com/research/ourpublications/article/researchcontractordatabase>

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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>

** Public Services Reform Bill

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

Stage 1 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-10/sor0107-02.htm#Col22495>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-10/sor0107-02.htm#Col22573>

Bills in Progress Westminster

Equality Bill

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

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Consultations (closing date)

** new or updated this week

** closes this week!

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

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

** closes this week!

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

** closes this week!

UK Border Agency Equality Scheme (15 January 2010)

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

Consultations (continued)

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-framewrk/>

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!**

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

**** Introduction to Asylum and Immigration Law**

19 and 20 January 2010 in Glasgow (9.00 – 4.15)

Legal Services Agency course to provide an introduction to asylum and immigration law in the UK and also to provide service users with the knowledge and understanding required in order to sit and pass the Level One Competence Assessment of the OISC. For information see

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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

**** An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees**

29 January 2010 in Glasgow

2 March 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course is for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland. It is particularly relevant to people working in social work, housing, welfare, education, employment, health, community development or the justice system. For information contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=82>

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

**** UKBA (formerly NASS) Asylum Support - The Essentials**

11 February 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore the support arrangements available to asylum seekers from the beginning to the end of the asylum process. For information contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=83>

**** The Housing Rights of Refugees: Supporting those with Leave To Remain into appropriate housing**

18 February 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for people working with refugees who need a comprehensive knowledge of their rights to housing in Scotland. It is particularly relevant to professionals assisting refugees to access services or to organisations providing these services directly. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=66>

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Working with Interpreters**

18 March 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work with non-English speaking service users, including asylum seekers and refugees, who need a comprehensive understanding of how to work with interpreters. For information contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=80>

**** An Introduction to the Needs and Experiences of Refugee Women**

9 April 2010 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 Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=77>

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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>

Useful Links (continued)

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/>