

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.*

Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Race Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)

[Other Holyrood](#)

[Other Westminster](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Events/Conferences/Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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

Westminster Debate

Asylum: EUC Report

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100112-0012.htm#100112104000145>

Trafficked Women

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100112/debtext/100112-0001.htm#10011255000018>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Entry Clearances

Claire Curtis-Thomas [300385]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what remedies his Department provides for those wishing to contest the decision to place them on the list of individuals excluded from the UK; what steps he takes to monitor the effectiveness of such decisions; and whether those placed on the list are informed of their inclusion.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Phil Woolas: An individual may contest a decision to place them on the list of those individuals excluded from the UK by seeking a judicial review of the exclusion decision. Where an immigration decision is taken to refuse or cancel leave, on the basis of the Home Secretary's decision to exclude, this refusal decision may provide a right of appeal. If evidence can be provided that an individual has recanted their extremist statements in a genuine, credible and public manner, their exclusion may be reconsidered by the Home Secretary. Decisions to exclude are normally reviewed every three years but otherwise remain in place unless the Home Secretary decides to lift the exclusion. An individual who has been excluded for engaging in unacceptable behaviour is notified of their exclusion where it is possible to do so.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown [304817]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken to process an application was for a (a) Tier 1 (investor), (b) Tier 1 (entrepreneur) and (c) EU Association Agreement business visa for a foreign national whose application to visit the UK on commercial matters was granted in each month of the last three years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table illustrates by month the average time taken to process requested categories of visa applications over the last three years. Tier 1 of the points based system was introduced on 1 July 2008.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100114/text/100114w0006.htm#10011462000094>

Quarterly information about the performance and processing times of each of our visa sections, against our target agreed customers service standards, is published on the following website: www.ukvisas.gov.uk. A guide to current processing times is also available on this website.

Mark Oaten [306369]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 888-9W, on entry clearances, how many (a) postal and (b) premium applications for further leave to remain have been made under Tier 4 of the points-based system since April 2009; and how much revenue has accrued from fees for applications of each type since that date.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The number of valid postal applications made for further leave to remain under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system during the period 1 April 2009 to 30 November 2009 is 68,777. The value of these applications is £25,058,389. The number of valid premium applications for further leave to remain made under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system during the period 1 April 2009 to 30 November 2009 is 10,780. The value of these applications is £6,233,100.

The amount of revenue earned from fees from caseworking activities in respect of postal applications for further leave to remain made under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system during the period 1 April 2009 to 30 November 2009 is £14,762,673.

The amount of revenue earned from caseworking activities in respect of fees for premium applications for further leave to remain made under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system during the period 1 April 2009 to 30 November 2009 is £6,030,150.

This information is derived from internal management information systems. All figures from this source are provisional and subject to audit and amendment.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100114/text/100114w0007.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Damian Green [301232]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many entry visas for students attending colleges which were subsequently closed on the intervention of the UK Border Agency were issued in (a) 2007 and (b) 2008; and how many such visas were issued between 1 January and 31 October 2009.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Since the introduction of PBS Tier 4 on 31 March 2009, UKBA has the authority to suspend or revoke the licence of a college. Of the 1,800 colleges currently licensed, 14 had their licences revoked between 1 April and 31 October this year. The number of visas issued to students attending these colleges in 2007, 2008 and 2009 is shown in the following table:

College	2007	2008	2009	Grand total
Bells College	37	48	175	260
Brookes College	1	-	-	1
Concept Care College	18	88	97	203
Holborn School of Finance and Management	-	5	3	8
London Academy for Higher Education	62	82	58	202
London College of Science and Technology	81	16	52	149
London College Wimbledon	112	137	292	541
London Reading College	225	340	456	1,021
London School of Language t/a Great Chapel College	181	207	61	449
Middlesex College	197	152	183	532
St Martin's Business School	22	37	5	64
The Muslim college	3	8	1	12
Waterloo School of English	68	43	60	171
Grand Total	1,007	1,163	1,443	3,613

Mark Oaten [301658]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students have been (a) served with enforcement notices and (b) deported since the implementation of Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Tier 4 of the points based system was implemented on 31 March 2009, replacing the previous arrangements for overseas students to come and study in the UK.

Between 31 March 2009 and 14 December 2009 2101 former students, which would include people who were students under the arrangements which applied before the implementation of Tier 4, have been served with enforcement form IS 151A of which 1,811 have been removed from the UK.

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

Mark Oaten [307730]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2009, Official Report, column 481W, on entry clearances: overseas students, how many and what percentage of administrative reviews have been completed within 28 days.

Reply from Phil Woolas: As I advised the hon. Member in my answer of 30 November 2009, Official Report, column 481W, we do not record information on the duration of the administrative review process.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100111/text/100111w0012.htm#10011128000012>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Entry Clearances

David Lidington [307853]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the longest time taken to process an asylum application from a former Iraqi locally employed civilian awaiting an asylum decision has been since the inception of the Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Former locally engaged civilians in Iraq who meet the criteria as set out in the Foreign Secretary's statement of 30 October 2007 can request assistance in the form of resettlement to the UK. Their applications are considered to be activated at the point that the UK Border Agency is referred their resettlement application by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Before this time, they will have submitted an application form for assistance under the Locally Engaged Staff Assistance Scheme, but not an application for resettlement or any immigration category to the UK. The longest time it has taken to process an application is 13 months from the time when the UNHCR submitted the application to the date on which the UK Border Agency issued the decision after interview. The average time is five months.

David Lidington [307854]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps his Department has taken to expedite the asylum process for those Iraqi locally employed civilians who are awaiting a decision on an asylum application; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Several steps have been taken to streamline the decision making process for former locally engaged staff who are being considered for resettlement to the UK. The UK Border Agency has reduced the timeframe from registration with UNHCR to interview with UK Border Agency staff from four months to less than two months. We have also reduced the timeframe between interview date and the decision being made from three months to one and a half months, where no further investigation is required.

We have also responded positively to requests to undertake additional selection missions by staging three interviewing missions previously unplanned. This has ensured that regular numbers of locally engaged staff have been interviewed every quarter during the year and had their decisions made in a timely fashion.

The UK Border Agency is unable to process an application until former locally engaged civilians are outside of Iraq and have been assessed by the UNHCR. Some have delayed their travel because they wished to complete medical treatment or studies in Iraq which is outside of our control. An application is only activated once UNHCR submits their application to the UK Border Agency.

Time frames for decision making are communicated to locally engaged staff at the time of their interview and at regular intervals through meetings with the LE staff manager based in Amman.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100111/text/100111w0012.htm#10011128000011>

Higher Education: Overseas Students

Baroness Neville-Jones [HL420]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many sponsors of migrant students have been removed from the register of sponsors, the register of education and training providers, and any predecessor lists, in each year since 1997; and for what reasons.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord West of Spithead): Fourteen sponsors of migrant students have been removed from the register of sponsors since 31 March 2009. Of these, six had no accreditation, one entered into liquidation and seven failed to meet their sponsor obligations.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

There were 14,838 institutions on the DIUS register of education and training providers when it closed on 31 March 2009. Information on the number of education and training providers who had been removed from this register is not available.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100112w0003.htm#10011247000390>

Immigrants: Detainees

Paul Holmes [307422]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what gender-sensitive policies and procedures his Department implements in respect of women held at immigration removal centres.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Detention Centre Rules 2001 (S.I. 2001/238), which regulate the operation of immigration removal centres, make specific reference to the conditions for searching of women and their entitlement to be examined by a medical practitioner of the same gender.

The UK Border Agency has a specific operation standard for women which sets out minimum auditable requirements for the provision of a safe and secure environment that meets their needs. This includes the provision of separate sleeping and dining accommodation for those centres where they can mix, equality of access to all activities within the centres, provision of activities appropriate to their needs and interests such as single-sex gym sessions, and seeking their views when arranging activities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100111/text/100111w0013.htm#10011128000016>

Detention Centres: Children

Jim Cunningham [310110]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support his Department provides to young children detained in immigration removal centres.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Three immigration removal centres in the UK can accommodate families with children. Dungavel House routinely accommodates family groups for approximately 72 hours and Tinsley House for approximately 24 hours. Where detention is likely to extend beyond this timeframe, families are transferred to Yarl's Wood, which has facilities to support longer periods of detention. These include:

A comprehensive welfare framework to support family members;

Access to onsite independent social workers and registered counsellors;

An Ofsted inspected crèche and school classrooms delivering 30 hours per week of tuition by qualified teachers for children aged five to 16 years;

A crèche staffed seven days a week from nine to five by appropriately qualified child care professionals for children under school age.

In addition to structured activities, children are able to voice concerns using dedicated complaints forms and can participate in a fortnightly children's forum. The centres provide internet and telephone facilities to enable children to keep in touch with friends in the community.

All immigration removal centres provide free onsite primary health care to the same level of care as NHS general practices in the community. Referrals to local hospitals for secondary care are made as medically required. Yarl's Wood provides dedicated services to meet the needs of families and children including a paediatric nurse, health and midwife visitors, weight and immunisation clinics which are able to prescribe malarial prophylaxis for identified risk groups, access to children's acute mental health services (CAMH) and counselling services.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Jim Cunningham [310111]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were detained in immigration removal centres in 2008.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The requested information is not available; however, in August 2009 the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical publication was expanded to include, for the first quarters of 2009, information on persons entering detention, total number of persons leaving detention and the number of families with children held in detention. This information is available split by age (to separately identify children), and will continue to be published quarterly in the future; however data for earlier years will remain unavailable.

Information on the number of children under the age of 18 entering detention solely under Immigration Act powers in Q1 to Q3 2009 by age and country of nationality is available in

Q1 and Q2 2009

Table 8a and 8b of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom publication at:

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

and Tables G and H of the supplementary tables at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immig209supp.xls>

Q3 2009

Table 9 of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom publication at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immig309.pdf>

and Table H of the supplementary tables at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immig309supp.xls>

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>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100112/text/100112w0008.htm#10011271000020>

Immigration: Deportation

Baroness Warsi [HL370]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how long it takes on average to deport a failed asylum seeker.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The time taken to remove a failed asylum seeker varies greatly and so overall averages can be misleading.

The 2008 National Audit Office (NAO) report identified average times to remove different types of failed asylum seekers as: 79 days for those in the detained fast track; 250 days for removing forcibly those not detained throughout the period of their claim; and 300 days for voluntary returns.

Baroness Neville-Jones [HL789]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the costs of legal proceedings relating to the deportation of foreign nationals on the ground of national security in each year since 2001.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The information requested is not centrally collated and could only be obtained by examination of individual case files which would incur a disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100112w0003.htm#10011247000391>

Neil Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evidence there is that the policy before 2002 of allowing asylum seekers who had waited more than six months for a decision on their claim to apply for permission to work was a pull factor for asylum seekers to come to the UK; and if he will make a statement. [305956]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Government believe that managed migration is a valuable source of skills and labour to the British economy and there are recognised routes into the UK for those seeking to work. However, entering the country for economic reasons is not the same as seeking asylum, and it is important to maintain the distinction between the two.

Giving asylum seekers or failed asylum seekers permission to work would be likely to encourage asylum applications from those without a well-founded fear of persecution, hence slowing down the processing of applications made by genuine refugees and undermining the integrity of the managed migration system. Indeed, asylum intake has dropped significantly since the policy change in 2002.

This is why we do not generally allow asylum seekers to work while their claim for asylum is under consideration. The only exception is asylum seekers who have been waiting 12 months for a decision where this delay cannot be attributed to them. This is consistent with our obligations under the EC reception directive.

Neil Gerrard [305957]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for permission to work were (a) made by asylum seekers and (b) granted in each year since 2000.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The requested information on the number of applications for permission to work made by asylum seekers and those granted since 2000 is not collated and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost through examination of individual case records.

Neil Gerrard [305958]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the potential savings that could be made by allowing asylum seekers who have waited more than six months for a decision on their claim to undertake paid work so that they would not be dependent on support from the public purse.

Reply from Phil Woolas: No formal estimate has been made to date. However, the Government consider that while allowing asylum seekers to work may increase tax revenue this has to be balanced finely against the very real concern that allowing employment will act as a pull factor, and that the UK may subsequently receive an increase in the number of unfounded asylum applications as a result. We also have to consider the potential that this may have to delay the processing of asylum claims which would lead to more hardship, not less and more demands on the public purse as well as an increase in exploitation by traffickers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100114/text/100114w0005.htm#10011462000079>

Asylum

Vincent Cable [308751]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the number of refused asylum seekers remaining (a) illegally and (b) pending appeal in (i) the UK, (ii) England and (iii) each region in each of the last five years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The number of individuals who receive a decision to refuse them asylum and the number who are removed from the UK or depart voluntarily are published quarterly and can be found on the Home Office website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>

The following table shows the number of outstanding asylum appeals before the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) in each region of the UK and in England only in December 2006, December 2007, December 2008 and November 2009.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

<i>Asylum and Immigration Tribunal, outstanding asylum appeals</i>				
	<i>December 2006</i>	<i>December 2007</i>	<i>December 2008</i>	<i>November 2009</i>
Midlands	507	376	321	495
Northeast and Northwest	940	635	556	898
Scotland	182	241	167	172
Birmingham ASC ⁽¹⁾	-	-	106	118
Northern Region	1,629	1,252	1,150	1,683
Central London	3,632	2,111	1,344	2,042
Greater London and the Southeast	596	418	366	983
Wales and Southwest	172	126	102	205
Loughborough/Leicester ⁽¹⁾	413	105	30	19
Southern Region	4,813	2,760	1,842	3,249
AIT total	6,442	4,012	2,992	4,932
⁽¹⁾ Birmingham, Loughborough and Leicester are Administrative Support Centres and not AIT hearing centres.				

Prior to 2006 figures showing the number of outstanding appeals were based on a manual file reconciliation and subsequent appeal receipt and disposal figures. It is therefore not possible to break down those figures on either a regional basis or to reflect England only.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100113/text/100113w0004.htm#10011367000067>

Asylum

Vincent Cable [308752]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what (a) financial, (b) legal and (c) housing support his Department provides to refused asylum seekers allowed to remain in the UK temporarily for humanitarian reasons.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Provision for the temporary support of failed asylum seekers, in the form of subsistence and accommodation required to prevent destitution is only available in certain circumstances, primarily under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. Details of the availability of support are set out on the UK Border Agency website at

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/asylum/support/apply/section4/

The Government have introduced proposals for reform of asylum support under the draft Immigration Bill which was published on 12 November. The objectives in reform are to ensure those seeking asylum are effectively supported during the determination of their claim; that the system for achieving this is as simple and efficient as possible; and that it works towards the return of those who have no protection needs and who have no right to be in the United Kingdom.

Funding for civil legal aid is available to anyone who qualifies, provided that the case is within the scope of the legal aid scheme. Each application is considered on an individual basis and is subject to the statutory test of the applicant's means.

Vincent Cable [308753]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of asylum seekers were (a) granted asylum and (b) allowed to remain temporarily in the UK for humanitarian reasons in each of the last five years.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table provides the number and proportion of persons granted asylum at initial decision stage of their application in the UK. It also includes the number and proportion of persons granted humanitarian protection and discretionary leave in each of the last five years.

Information on immigration and asylum are published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics 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>

<i>Applications received for asylum in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants and initial decisions^(1, 2), 2004 - 08</i>									
<i>Number of principal applicants</i>									
	<i>Total applications</i>	<i>Total initial decisions</i>	<i>Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum</i>	<i>As percentage of initial decision</i>	<i>Not recognised as a refugee but granted humanitarian protection</i>	<i>As percentage of initial decision</i>	<i>Not recognised as a refugee but granted discretionary leave</i>	<i>As percentage of initial decision</i>	<i>Total</i>
2004	33,960	46,020	1,565	3	160	0	3,835	8	40,465
2005	25,710	27,395	1,940	7	120	0	2,675	10	22,655
2006	23,610	20,930	2,170	10	55	0	2,245	11	16,460
2007	23,430	21,775	3,545	16	125	1	2,075	10	16,030
2008 ⁽³⁾	25,930	19,400	3,725	19	95	0	2,075	11	13,505

⁽¹⁾ Figures (other than percentages) rounded to the nearest 5 (- = 0, * = 1 or 2). Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
⁽²⁾ Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period and exclude the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
⁽³⁾ Provisional figures.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100113/text/100113w004.htm#10011367000067>

Human Trafficking: Children

Anthony Steen [309626]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been referred to the human trafficking national referral mechanism by local authorities in (a) Scotland, (b) England, (c) Northern Ireland and (d) Wales since 1 April 2009.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009, the number of potential victims under 18 years of age referred into the National Referral mechanism by local authorities totals 57. This is composed of six from local authorities in Scotland, 47 from local authorities in England and four from local authorities in Wales. There have not been any referrals during this period from local authorities in Northern Ireland.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100111/text/100111w0013.htm#10011128000015>

Human Trafficking

Anthony Steen [309623]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training and guidance first responder agencies have received on how to make a referral to the national referral mechanism on behalf of a potential victim of trafficking; and who has provided it.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Guidance on the National Referral Mechanism can be found on the Home Office website:

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

<http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/humantrafficking005.htm>

In addition, a Trafficking Toolkit is available on the Criminal Justice System website, which provides advice and support to all frontline practitioners who may come into contact with victims of human trafficking. Copies of these publications will be made available in the House Library.

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) has developed mandatory human trafficking training for all staff, which it has made available to other front line agencies. The UK Human Trafficking Centre, in conjunction with the National Policing Improvement Agency, has developed training for police officers. The training covers all forms of human trafficking and has been incorporated into programmes for all new officers as well as specific programmes such as initial detective training and those aimed at police community support officers, domestic violence, roads policing and public protection programmes.

NGO organisations who act as first responders have been chosen specifically for their extensive knowledge and experience in working in the field of human trafficking and often contribute to the training of other agencies.

Human trafficking training for local authorities is delivered either as part of the Local Safeguarding Children Board child trafficking training model or directly by the London Safeguarding Children Board pilot support group to local authorities across the UK.

The Department of Health has issued guidelines to assist professionals and services to identify and respond to the needs of sexually abused and exploited victims, including those who have been trafficked into and within the UK. The Trafficking Toolkit, available on the Criminal Justice System, also provides specific guidance to NHS professionals.

Anthony Steen [309665]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many referrals of potential victims of trafficking have been made to the National Referral Mechanism at the UK Human Trafficking Centre between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009; and which agencies made such referrals.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009 there have been 289 referrals made to the Competent Authority within the UK Human Trafficking Centre. The referrals were made by the following agencies:

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Number of referrals</i>
Police	166
Local authorities	⁽¹⁾ 57
Poppy	27
Kalayaan	19
TARA	9
Migrant Helpline	8
CPS	2
NHS	1
Total	289

⁽¹⁾ One of these cases was incorrectly referred to UKBA by the local authority.

Anthony Steen [309667]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many potential victims of trafficking who received no decision on their referral to the National Referral Mechanism since 1 April 2009 have subsequently gone missing.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009 there have been seven suspended cases where the individual has either absconded or gone missing prior to the reasonable grounds decision being made.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

During the same period 18 cases have also been withdrawn as the individual intended to leave the UK prior to the reasonable grounds decision being made.

Anthony Steen [309669]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the people who have received a positive conclusive grounds decision from the National Referral Mechanism since 1 April 2009 were (a) granted a residence permit or any other form of leave to remain and (b) left the UK through (i) voluntary return and (ii) other means.

Reply from Phil Woolas: From the cases referred into the National Referral Mechanism between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009, 85 have received positive conclusive grounds decisions. Of these 85 decisions, 30 have been granted a residence permit or other form of leave to remain and 40 are EU or British nationals whose stay in the UK is not subject to immigration control. Tracking victims beyond the reflection and recovery period is limited if there is no longer a risk to their safety or health and they have the right to remain in the UK (UK and EEA victims in particular). This makes it difficult to confirm the numbers of voluntary returns in this category. There is currently no record of any enforced return of individuals conclusively found to be victims of trafficking returned to their own country.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100112/text/100112w0009.htm#10011271000027>

New publications

Factors affecting participation in assisted voluntary return programmes and successful reintegration: a review of the evidence

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/horr29c.pdf>

The Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP) 2004 and 2004 extension: monitoring report

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/horr30c.pdf>

News

Burma's Karen refugees struggle in UK

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/8386945.stm>

I'll limit net immigration, says Cameron, citing squeeze on services

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/1391I-limit-net-immigration-says.5970327.jp>

Plea to Scottish cities to take in refugees

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Plea-to-Scottish-cities-to.5984906.jp>

Deportation policy breaches human rights

<http://www.irr.org.uk/2010/january/ha000015.html>

UK immigration debate 'disgraced'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/uk-immigration-debate-disgraced-1.999221>

New terror laws set to cost Scots colleges millions

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/news/New-terror-laws-set-to.5988874.jp>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Cameron's call for immigration cap woos voters in Labour seats

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6991051.ece>

Lord Carey's comments on immigration promote racism, bishop warns

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article6988719.ece>

Muslim peer: rising immigration is 'damaging race relations'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/7004493/Muslim-peer-rising-immigration-is-damaging-race-relations.html>

Eastern European immigration 'has hit low-paid Britons'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/jan/17/eastern-european-immigration-hits-wages>

Young, self-reliant, educated: portrait of UK's eastern European migrants

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/jan/17/eastern-european-uk-migrants>

We're still a long way from an honest debate about immigration

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/jan/17/uk-immigration-policy>

Detaining children in Britain: No place for the innocent

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/this-britain/detaining-children-in-britain-no-place-for-the-innocent-1864768.html>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

Westminster Debate

UK: Tolerance, Democracy and Openness

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100114-0010.htm#10011439000663>

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

"Tackling Race Inequality: A Statement on Race"

John Denham (Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government): I have today published *Tackling Race Inequality: A Statement on Race*. This document sets out the Government's approach to tackling the inequalities that people from minority ethnic groups continue to face and also sets out the increasing complexity of those problems. The statement was informed by the responses to the publication *Tackling Race Inequalities: A Discussion Document* and the listening events held in April and May 2009 which supplemented the written document.

Over the past decade, the Government have worked tirelessly to build a fairer, more equal society. A society where a person's chances and opportunities in life are determined solely by their talent and effort-not by their class, gender, beliefs, sexuality or their race. The Macpherson report in 1999 has helped achieve substantial strides towards racial equality throughout our society.

However, there is still much to do. We know that there are still areas of concern, especially in school exclusions and stop and search. But we must also recognise that

Race Relations

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement (continued)

Britain today is not the same place as it was a decade ago. Migration, the growing importance of community cohesion, and our better understanding of the way in which race interacts with class and other factors such as religion and identity, have all changed the terms of the debate and made promoting race equality a much more complex challenge.

So we must recognise that we will not succeed in tackling racism without tackling all forms of discrimination, prejudice and inequality. We have to redouble our efforts to promote greater equality for all, and combine that with action to target the specific problems faced by particular groups. And we have to do that in ways which are fair, and seen to be fair, so that no group is neglected or overlooked.

This statement sets out how we will build on the remarkable achievements of the past 10 years. We now have a very strong legal framework to tackle racism and promote equality-this will be simplified once the new Equality Bill becomes law.

The emphasis in this statement is on enforcing those laws, particularly through the EHRC and through effective inspection of public services. We stress the commitment across government departments to promoting race equality. And we make clear that we will continue to promote targeted approaches to address the specific obstacles and barriers which hold particular groups back-such as the very successful Reach programme for black boys and young men. I am grateful to all those who have contributed to and commented on this statement. It reflects the concerns and priorities of a whole variety of individuals, community groups, and public bodies-and I look forward to working with them to deliver its ambitions.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100114-wms0001.htm#10011432000054>

Press Releases

John Denham - Government is committed to tackling inequality and disadvantage wherever it exists

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1432659>

Commission responds to John Denham speech

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/commission-responds-to-john-denham-speech/>

New publication

Tackling race inequality: A statement on race

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1432344.pdf>

News

Amid a slew of negative coverage, we must all work at challenging how Muslims are seen

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2010/jan/16/negative-coverage-muslims-interfaith-dialogue>

[TOP](#)

Equality

News

Britain 'more comfortable with diversity than it ever was before'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/britain-more-comfortable-with-diversity-than-it-ever-was-before-1.998787>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Religion: Defamation

Lord Patten: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their stance on the resolution promoted by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference before the United Nations General Assembly on the defamation of religion. [HL1038]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead): The Government share the concern of the Organisation of Islamic Conference that individuals around the world are victimised because of their religion or belief. We all need to do more to eliminate religious intolerance and to ensure that those who incite hatred or violence against individuals because of their religious beliefs are dealt with by the law.

But the Government cannot agree with an approach that promotes the concept of "defamation of religions" as a response. This approach severely risks diminishing the right to freedom of expression. We believe that international human rights law already strikes the right balance between the individual's right to express themselves freely and the need for the state to limit this right in certain circumstances. International human rights law provides that only where advocacy of religious hatred constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence should it be prohibited by law.

We believe that the concept of "defamation of religions" puts in danger the very openness and tolerance that allows people of different faiths to co-exist and to practise their faith without fear. It risks changing the focus of international human rights law from examining how countries promote and protect the right to freedom of expression to censoring what individuals say. If this happened, people might feel unable to speak out against human rights abuses or hold their government to account. It is also inconsistent with the international human rights legal framework which exists to protect individuals and not concepts or specific belief systems.

For this reason the UK, along with our EU Partners and other like-minded countries, voted against the resolution put forward by the Organisation of Islamic Conference at the 64th session of the UN General Assembly on Combating Defamation of Religions.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100111w0004.htm#1001116000945>

News

MSP wants £100k to be used to fight bigotry

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/msp-wants-100k-to-be-used-to-fight-bigotry-1.997600>

Ethnic minorities 'no longer always disadvantaged'

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8458298.stm

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Labour battles the BNP on class and race

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8454590.stm

[TOP](#)

Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Question

Gypsies/Travellers

Marlyn Glen (S3W-30167): To ask the Scottish Executive how it monitors reference to the circumstances and needs of Gypsies/Travellers in local housing strategies, in accordance with planning guidance.

Reply from Alex Neil: The Scottish Government and COSLA will jointly review each local housing strategy and, as part of the review, will examine whether there is evidence that equalities issues have been addressed, including the specific housing needs of Gypsies/Travellers.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-30167>

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Debate

Honour-related Violence

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100114-0001.htm#10011439000653>

New publications

Swine flu information sheet for asylum seekers, refugees and other foreign nationals in the UK

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_110808

[TOP](#)

Other News

Gay Muslims made homeless by family violence

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/8446458.stm>

Majority remain unconvinced by arguments for Scottish independence

<http://www.scotcen.org.uk/pzMedia/uploads/EntityFieldFile/9216722d-34de-4dbd-81b5-6538e5973792.doc>

Other News (continued)

The crusade against faith schools is an attack on our freedom

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/benedict-brogan/6983794/The-crusade-against-faith-schools-is-an-attack-on-our-freedom.html>

[TOP](#)

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-10/bb-01-14g.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>

House of Lords Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100111-0004.htm#1001113000341>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100111-0013.htm#10011139000077>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100113-0003.htm#10011365000347>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100113-0011.htm#100113108000147>

Scottish Parliament Subordinate Legislation Committee Legislative Consent Memorandum Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/subleg/reports-10/sur10-02.htm>

[TOP](#)

Consultations (closing date)

** new or updated this week

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

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

Consultations (continued)

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>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities advertised in MEMO+ Recruitment

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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

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>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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>

[TOP](#)

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

[TOP](#)



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/>