

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 Parliamentary Questions

Immigration

James Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the number of older, non-asylum cases considered by the UK Border Agency which have resulted in (a) removal and (b) the award of a grant in each of the last five years; and how many such cases remain outstanding. [317319]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The chief executive of the UK Border Agency Lin Homer, reported in her letter to the Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) on 4 February 2010 about the group of older, non-asylum cases where the application has been dealt with, but where there is no formal record that the individual has left the country.

This review is in the early stages and the UK Border Agency has concluded just over 200 cases. The Agency is currently working those cases that fall into the exceptional circumstances criteria for expedition and is planning to increase resource allocated to this work as the clearance of casework backlogs is completed. The Agency is planning that all of the remaining files will be reviewed and archived by summer 2011. Lin Homer will provide a further progress update on the conclusion of these cases in the next update to HASC.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100309/text/100309w0016.htm#100309135000042>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

UK Border Agency: Complaints

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints about asylum applications submitted since March 2007 were made to the UK Border Agency in each of the last five years. [320885]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency does not hold central information to the level of detail asked for in this question. However, data are available relating to all types of complaints about the service that the Agency provides. In 2008 there were 10,835 such complaints received by the Agency and in 2009 there were 12,038.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100309/text/100309w0017.htm#100309135000047>

Immigration

Baroness Warsi: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people entered the United Kingdom under tier 2 of the points-based system in each month since February 2009. [HL2194]

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people entered the United Kingdom under tier 1 of the points-based system in each month since February 2009. [HL2195]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Data relating to passengers entering the United Kingdom in 2009 are currently being prepared for inclusion in the Home Office statistical publication "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2009". This is due to be published in August 2010 and will be available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office research, development and statistics website at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>. The requested monthly breakdown will therefore not be available until this date.

The Earl of Sandwich: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of recent evidence from the Immigration Advisory Service about the use of country of origin information in determining the status of refugees; and what changes they have made to that process in the past 12 months. [HL2371]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: UK Border Agency's country of origin (COI) material is subject to public external scrutiny by the independent chief inspector of UKBA to help ensure that it is as current, accurate and balanced as possible. The agency continuously monitors and evaluates all aspects of asylum caseworking practice, including the use of COI. The Immigration Advisory Service report The Refugee Roulette contains some interesting material which will inform these quality assurance processes.

A key part of the agency's quality assurance system, endorsed by UNHCR, is to check appropriate use of country of origin information. The agency has given a commitment to the Public Accounts Committee that 10 per cent of all asylum decisions will be independently audited in addition to those audited locally. The agency has also revamped its foundation training package and has introduced for the first time consolidation training for its case owners.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100309w0005.htm#100309120000986>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Entry Clearances

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken was to process an application for a spousal visa in each of the last six months. [320847]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The global average processing time for spouse visas in each of the six months from August 2009 to January 2010 was as follows:

<i>Processing times-spouse visas</i>	
<i>Month</i>	<i>Working days to resolve</i>
August 2009	28
September 2009	33
October 2009	25
November 2009	18
December 2009	16
January 2010	20

The target is to process 95 per cent. of settlement visas within 60 working days.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the (a) mean and (b) median time was to process an application for leave to remain in December 2009. [320894]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The information requested is as follows:

<i>Days</i>	
	<i>Number</i>
Mean	40
Median	48

Note: 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. Figures relate to cases which were decided by 3 March 2010.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the longest-standing application for leave to remain is for which processing is yet to be completed by his Department. [320895]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The information requested is not available centrally and could be provided only by examination of individual case files. Long standing applications arise for a variety of reasons.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100309/text/100309w0015.htm#100309135000036>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

George Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of private colleges that have closed as a result of a failure to gain Government accreditation as bona fide institutions offering courses for overseas students in the last 12 months. [314604]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Since 31 March 2009, any institution wishing to bring non EEA nationals to the UK to study must undergo a two-stage process of inspection, audit or accreditation, followed by licensing by the UK Border Agency for immigration purposes. This process has reduced the number of institutions able to bring students to the UK from over 4,000 to approximately 2,000.

There is no estimate of the number of private colleges that have closed as a result of failure to gain accreditation from an accreditation body as distinct from sponsor

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

licensing for UKBA purposes. If a private college does not have accreditation it does not prevent it offering courses to UK or other EEA nationals outside of Tier 4 of the points based system.

George Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of private colleges that have received and subsequently lost accreditation as a bona fide institution offering courses for overseas students (a) temporarily and (b) permanently. [314605]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Five private colleges that held a tier 4 sponsor licence at one time have since lost accreditation from their approved body and had their sponsor licence removed. UKBA does not hold any information on whether these institutions have since re-applied to the accrediting body. As at 31 January 2010 UKBA had revoked the licences of 15 educational institutions.

Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many tier 4 applications are awaiting decision in (a) India, (b) Nepal and (c) Bangladesh. [320946]

Reply from Phil Woolas: As of the end of January, the number of Tier 4 student visa applications lodged at our visa application centres in India, Nepal and Bangladesh that were awaiting a decision were as follows:

	<i>Number</i>
India	20,432
Nepal	6,783
Bangladesh	3,060

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100309/text/100309w015.htm#100309135000037>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100309/text/100309w016.htm>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

George Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what effect the withdrawal of accreditation as a bona fide institution offering courses for overseas students from a private college has upon the immigration status of students studying at that college. [314603]

Reply from Woolas: Withdrawal of accreditation from a private college that has been granted a Tier 4 Sponsor Licence by the UK Border Agency will lead to the revocation of their Sponsor Licence. Students studying at the college will then be afforded a maximum of 60 calendar days, to find another course with a registered Tier 4 sponsor. If at the end of this period they have not found a place on a new course they will have to leave the United Kingdom or face enforced removal.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who has responsibility for monitoring and enforcing the present 20 hour limit on work by overseas students; who will have the responsibility of monitoring and enforcing the 10 hours limit on work by overseas students proposed to be introduced on 3 March; and whether additional enforcement or monitoring duties will fall on the higher education institution accepting such students following implementation of the proposed changes. [318810]

Reply from Phil Woolas: It is the responsibility of all UK employers to establish that their employees have the legal right to work in the UK and to undertake the work in question before commencing that employment. The responsibility for monitoring the current 20 hour limit and the new 10 hour limit on employment therefore rests with employers who should only employ migrants who have the required permission to work, and employers should not offer employment in excess of an overseas student's permitted hours.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

It is the responsibility of the UK Border Agency to enforce compliance with the immigration rules, including compliance with any restrictions on employment.

No additional enforcement or monitoring duties fall on the higher education institutions accepting such students, except in the event that they are employers of these overseas students. The new 10 hour work limit will apply to all students following courses of study below degree level, excluding those who are on foundation degree courses, as outlined in the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules (HC367) laid before the House on 10 February 2010.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have received a student visa sponsored by a language college which has subsequently been identified by his Department as bogus in each year since 2006. [319578]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Prior to the launch of tier 4 on 31 March 2009 educational institutions were not required to be registered as sponsors with the UK Border Agency and it is therefore not possible to say how many bogus language colleges were in existence. Information about the number of overseas students attending such colleges is therefore not available.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people entering the UK on a false student visa have been identified and deported in (a) each of the last three years and (b) 2010 to date. [319579]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Information regarding the number of people attempting to enter the UK by presenting false student visas could be obtained by analysing each individual case record, only at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100308/text/100308w0028.htm#1003095000026>

Asylum

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he has taken to increase the rate of removal of failed asylum seekers since May 2005. [320607]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Government's measures include memoranda of understanding and readmission agreements with overseas governments to increase returns and re-documentation rates; regular charter services to countries where it would otherwise be difficult to return significant numbers because of lack of capacity on scheduled services; joint charters with other EU member states; Assisted Voluntary Return schemes offering enhanced packages to encourage voluntary return; close liaison with the judiciary to allow for the expeditious processing of legal challenges and changes to the judicial review policy to counter vexatious applications for judicial review; and expansion of the UK Border Agency detention estate.

In addition, we have made it increasingly difficult for people to live and work here who have no right to do so through toughening the illegal working legislation. Employers now face large fines if they hire illegal migrant workers including failed asylum seekers. Also, local immigration teams, backed by Immigration Crime Partnerships with the police, are in the process of being established across the country to track down, detain and remove all immigration offenders.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100309/text/100309w0015.htm#100309135000028>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Detention Centres: Children

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children (a) entered and (b) left immigration detention between April and December 2009; and how many of those who left detention in that period were (i) deported and (ii) released. [319000]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Published management information indicates that 830 children entered detention solely under Immigration Act powers between April and December 2009 and 860 children left detention held solely under Immigration Act powers during the same period. Within these statistics, it is not possible to separately identify how many of the children were removed from the UK or released upon leaving detention. However, published National Statistics indicate that a total of 415 children were removed from the UK upon leaving detention solely under Immigration Act powers in the same period. As usual, figures are provisional and are rounded to the nearest five. Children are those individuals recorded as being under 18 years of age at the start and the end of their period of detention respectively and may have been detained more than once during that time.

This information has been extracted from the text and the tables of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom-2nd to 4th Quarter 2009 publications which are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100308/text/100308w0027.htm#1003095000020>

British Nationality

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people of each nationality were granted UK citizenship (a) between 1980 and 1987 and (b) between 1988 and 1997; and how many have been granted UK citizenship since 1997. [317831]

Reply from Alan Johnson: The available data for 1977 to 2008 are given in the following table. Data for 2009 are scheduled for publication in May 2010.

Statistics on persons granted British citizenship by previous nationality, type and category of grant are published in table 4 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "British Citizenship Statistics United Kingdom, 2008". This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html>

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100310/text/100310w0013.htm>

Immigrants: Detainees

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children under the age of (a) 10 and (b) five years old were being held in immigration removal centres on the latest date for which figures are available. [319775]

Reply from Alan Johnson: As at 31 December 2009, no children, defined as persons aged 17 or below, were detained in the UK solely under Immigration Act powers. This excludes children detained in Prison Service establishments' mother and baby units.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100308/text/100308w0029.htm#1003095000035>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Deportation

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government how much compensation has been paid to complainants for injuries suffered through the use of excessive force during attempts to remove them from the United Kingdom in the past five years. [HL2311]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The Home Office prepares its accounts in accordance with UK GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles) adapted for the public sector in accordance with guidance issued by HM Treasury.

The Home Office has previously reported the total amount of compensation payments made in its annual resource accounts. However, it is not possible to disaggregate these totals without incurring disproportionate costs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100309w0006.htm#100309120000987>

Deportation

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many removal notices for unsuccessful asylum seekers have been issued in each year since 1997. [320651]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The number of IS151As, which is a notice to a person liable to removal, issued to failed asylum seekers (FAS) by the UK Border Agency in each year since 2003 is shown in the following table. Data for previous years were not recorded centrally and would require the examination of individual records at disproportionate cost to extract.

<i>Calendar year</i>	<i>Number of IS151As issued to FAS</i>
2003	20,611
2004	34,748
2005	26,309
2006	23,855
2007	25,666
2008	26,832
2009	25,618

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

The IS151A does not necessarily signify that the UK Border Agency is making immediate efforts to remove that person at that time, as there may be numerous barriers to removal (such as an outstanding asylum claim or appeal right) which must first be considered; should the person subsequently be granted leave then the IS151A is no longer valid. Therefore, the issue of such a form does not correlate with the numbers of people actually removed from the UK. Removal directions are set at the end of the process when any barriers to removal are resolved.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100309/text/100309w0015.htm#100309135000032>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking

Anthony Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons identified as possible victims of trafficking by the UK Border Agency or by their legal representative were placed in the detention fast-track system between 1 April and 31 December 2009; how many of them were subsequently released; and for what reason each was released. [318964]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009 competent authorities found reasonable grounds to believe nine individuals in the detained fast track system were victims of trafficking. In all of the nine cases the individuals were subsequently taken out of the detained fast track process for this reason. There is currently no record of individuals entering or being included in the detained fast track after receiving a positive reasonable grounds decision.

Legal representatives are not among the group of designated first responders under the National Referral Mechanism and we therefore do not record cases where solely a legal representative considers someone to be a victim of trafficking.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100308/text/100308w0028.htm#1003095000030>

Human Trafficking: Children

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the merits of appointing an independent National Rapporteur on Trafficking with a special focus on children. [320237]

Reply from Alan Campbell: The Government have considered the benefits of appointing an independent national rapporteur for child trafficking but believes the current system of having an Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking supported and challenged by the Trafficking NGO Stakeholder Group provide appropriate forums for scrutiny and challenge of both policy and practice of tackling human trafficking and supporting trafficking victims. Child Trafficking features heavily in both these forums and the UK Government's action plan includes 15 child specific actions to improve safeguarding of trafficked children.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the merits of introducing a system of guardianship for child victims of trafficking. [320238]

Reply from Alan Campbell: Protection and support for child trafficking victims is paramount and the Government have considered this issue carefully. However the Government do not believe that guardians for trafficked children would enhance the protection and support available to trafficked children over and above the existing safeguarding and support arrangements that are in place at a local level. The Government believe that this responsibility should remain with the local authorities who have a statutory duty to ensure that they safeguard and promote the welfare of all children under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, regardless of their immigration status or nationality. This conclusion was recognised and accepted by the Home Affairs Select Committee in its report in May 2009.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his latest estimate is of the number of child victims of trafficking in the UK. [320239]

Reply from Alan Campbell: The Government's latest estimate of the numbers of children believed to have been trafficked into the UK is 325. This estimate is taken from the strategic threat analysis carried out by the Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP) and published in its report in April 2009. The estimate is derived from data covering the period 1 March 2007 to 29 February 2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100308/text/100308w0028.htm#1003095000031>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **Press Release**

Refugees' route to citizenship

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/22-refugees-citizenship>

New publication

Migrants Rights News

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/downloads/newsletters/MRN_Newsletter_Mar_2010.pdf

News

Fashion guru urges Tories to get 'selfish' on immigration

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Fashion-guru-urges-Tories-to.6130956.jp>

Inquiry call into asylum family's flats death fall

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/inquiry-call-into-asylum-family-s-flats-death-fall-1.1012076>

UK Border Agency vigil for dead asylum family

<http://politics.caledonianmercury.com/2010/03/09/uk-border-agency-vigil-for-dead-asylum-family/>

Triple suicide puts pressure on PM over asylum seekers

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Triple-suicide-puts-pressure-.6137462.jp>

Salmond hints at inquiry over flats suicides

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/salmond-hints-at-inquiry-over-flats-suicides-1.1012797>

FAI campaign stepped up over deaths of asylum seekers who jumped from Glasgow tower block

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2010/03/12/fai-calls-mount-over-death-jump-of-red-road-asylum-seekers-86908-22106431/>

Fresh call for inquiry into asylum suicides

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Fresh-call-for-inquiry-into.6149212.jp>

Hundreds attend tower block 'suicide' rally

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/8564999.stm

Red Road mother's flat jump anguish

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/red-road-mother-s-flat-jump-anguish-1.1013049>

The story of the Red Road tragedy

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/the-story-of-the-red-road-tragedy-1.1013133>

'Mental illness epidemic hits asylum seekers in Scotland'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/health/mental-illness-epidemic-hits-asylum-seekers-in-scotland-1.1013192>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Refugees protest against 'United Nations of Hell' high-rise flats

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2010/03/14/refugees-protest-against-united-nations-of-hell-high-rise-flats-86908-22110127/>

The estate where asylum seekers abandon hope

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/the-estate-where-asylum-seekers-abandon-hope-1918347.html>

The rise and fall of Glasgow's Red Road

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article7060892.ece>

Be humane, urges Catholic leader after flats death leap

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article7057596.ece>

Handcuff restraint of asylum seekers criticised

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8563536.stm>

Refugees 'denied vital healthcare services'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugees-denied-vital-healthcare-services-1918346.html>

Catholic Church leader attacks asylum system

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/catholic-church-leader-attacks-asylum-system-1.1012511>

Convener's horror at detention of five-year-old twins

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news/nr200310.htm>

Asylum-seekers abused by security guards, says report

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylumseekers-abused-by-security-guards-says-report-1920094.html>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

New publication

Cohesion Delivery Framework 2010: Overview

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1501439>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Faith Schools: Equality

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward legislative proposals to provide that the exceptions to the equality duty contemplated in clause 29 of and schedule 3, part 2 of the Equality Bill be extended to faith schools in the public sector; and if he will make a statement. [317017]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In relation to their pupils, faith schools are not covered by clause 29 of the Equality Bill as a result of clause 28(2). They are instead covered by Part 6 of the Bill and the exceptions they need to operate are provided in that Part and in Schedule 11. In relation to other services and public functions provided by faith schools, the exceptions contained in Clause 29 will apply to all public bodies, including maintained faith schools. The exceptions in Part 2 of Schedule 3 apply mainly to local authorities in relation to their education functions. Where they need to apply more widely, including to maintained faith schools, they do. An example of this is paragraph 11 of the Schedule. There is no need for additional legislation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100309/text/100309w0010.htm#100309127000038>

New publications

Tackling Race Inequality: Summary of responses

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1493644.pdf>

Government Response to the Speaker's Conference Report

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/PDF/GovResponsetoSpeakersConference.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-5933 Stewart Maxwell: No Free Advertising for the BNP—That the Parliament believes that the British National Party (BNP) has no place in Scottish politics and completely rejects its policies; congratulates the people of Scotland for refusing to support BNP candidates at local authority, Scottish Parliament, UK and EU elections; condemns the use of images of the armed forces by the BNP, which it considers to be an attempt to win votes at recent elections; welcomes reports that some local authorities have outlawed election posters on lamp posts and other street furniture; calls on other local authorities to do the same without delay, and believes that such action will deny the BNP an opportunity at the forthcoming UK general election to spread what many consider to be its unwelcome message by giving the public a distorted view of its levels of support.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=18561>

Press Releases

Measures to be strengthened to prevent the promotion of racism by teachers in schools

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0064

Racism and Religious Hatred Press Releases (continued)

Amended BNP constitution ruled indirectly discriminatory

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/amended-bnp-constitution-ruled-indirectly-discriminatory/>

New publication

A review of the measures to prevent the promotion of racism by teachers and the wider workforce in schools

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/mauricesmithreview/downloads/FinalversionMSReviewReport11310.pdf>

News

Chief transport cop vows to wipe out sectarianism

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/editor-s-picks-ignore/chief-transport-cop-vows-to-wipe-out-sectarianism-1.1012126>

Call to ban bigots from trains

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/transport-environment/call-to-ban-bigots-from-trains-1.1012267>

BNP members will not be banned from teaching

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8563044.stm>

Tackling bigotry behind bars

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/tackling-bigotry-behind-bars-1.1012788>

How sectarian hooligans are killing off Scots far-right

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/how-sectarian-hooligans-are-killing-off-scots-far-right-1.1013146>

Court bars BNP from taking on new members

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/court-bars-bnp-from-taking-on-new-members-1920710.html>

[TOP](#)

Other Holyrood

Press Release

Inter-governmental dispute resolution protocol agreed

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/03/10144425>

Other Holyrood (continued)

New publications

Review of the Twice Yearly Count of Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/304871/0095664.pdf>

summary <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/305123/0095732.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Gypsy and Traveller Sites

Julie Morgan: What progress has been made in providing security of tenure for Gypsies and Travellers on local authority sites. [321003]

Reply from Shahid Malik: I begin by paying a tribute to my hon. Friend for her chairing of the all-party group on Gypsy and Traveller law reform. The Government remain committed to bringing security of tenure to local authority Gypsy and Traveller sites, which is a complex issue involving amendments to primary legislation that we must get right. Statutory instruments will be laid as soon as parliamentary time is available.

Julie Morgan: I am dismayed that Gypsies and Travellers as yet have no security of tenure, bearing in mind that the Connors judgment in the European Court was six years ago and the Government's proposals to change the law using the Mobile Homes Act 1983 were more than two years ago. There has been intensive discussion with Gypsies and Travellers and with support groups, and I wish to express my extreme dismay. What hope can the Government give Gypsies and Travellers who are living in uncertain situations and who had great hopes of this Government?

Reply from Shahid Malik: I absolutely understand my hon. Friend's frustration, and I know of her commitment to the matter. I think she will fully understand my commitment to it, too. I recently became the first Minister to visit a Gypsy and Traveller site. We are completely committed to the issue. I know that she wants me to say that I will consider the timing, but it would be disingenuous of me to say that knowing that in practical terms, it would be impossible to lay an instrument before Parliament this side of a general election, so I can only apologise.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100309/debtext/100309-0002.htm#10030993000021>

Early Day Motion

Katy Clark (1068) Scottish gypsy travellers – That this House expresses deep concern over the continued discrimination and persecution suffered by Scottish Gypsy Travellers; notes the common heritage, culture, language and traditions of the Scottish Gypsy Traveller community; believes that discrimination against this community has no place in the United Kingdom in 2010; expresses further concern that the Scottish Parliament's Equal Opportunities Committee, the European Parliament Committee of Ministers and the UK Commission for Racial Equality have all identified a lack of legal protection for Scottish Gypsy Travellers; further notes with concern the fact that Scottish Gypsy Travellers are not one of the ethnic groups given protection under the provisions included in the Equality Bill; and calls on the Government to amend the Equality Bill to give Scottish Gypsy Travellers the same rights and protection as Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers and other ethnic groups.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=40700&SESSION=903>

[TOP](#)

Other News

Orange RockCorps coming to Glasgow Spring 2010

The Charity Services Team at Orange RockCorps is seeking charity and local government partners who could provide our registered volunteers with valuable and fun volunteering opportunities. Every Orange RockCorp volunteer gives 4 hours of their time to volunteer at various project which included cleaning canals, parks, city farms, transforming schools, reclaiming allotments, painting community and youth centres and creating fruit and vegetable gardens.

What we need from you:

- Practical, hands on projects - enough work for a large group of volunteers for 4 hours work.

What we bring:

- We conduct site visits, risk assessments and produce project plans with you.
- We bring CRB checked project teams to deliver under your guidance.

The team arrive in Glasgow on **Monday the 15th of March** and will be doing site visits throughout the week. Don't miss out on your chance to be involved.

For more information see www.orangerockcorps.co.uk or contact 07813 352 874 or Caroline Nuttall cnuttall@rockcorps.co.uk / 07891 813 309

Call for higher priority voter registration after 'scandal'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/call-for-higher-priority-voter-registration-after-scandal-1.1012820>

"Rulings anywhere that women must wear the burqa should be condemned - but banning such dresses here would be wrong" says Commissioner Hammarberg

http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/Viewpoints/100308_en.asp

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

End of Life Assistance Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/38-EndLifeAssist/index.htm>

Public Services Reform Bill

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

Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc. Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/39-SPCC/index.htm>

Bills in Progress Westminster

**** Equality Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/039/amend/am039-a.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/039/amend/am039-b.htm>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

(closing date)

** new or updated this week

Equality Bill: Draft Codes of Conduct (2 April 2010)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legislative-framework/equality-bill/equality-bill-codes-of-practice-consultation/#1>

Options for future charity appeals route in Scotland (5 April 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/48453/0093191.pdf>

Inquiry into Migration and Trafficking (9 April 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/inquiries/migration/mtcallforev.htm>

Inquiry into the Budget Strategy and Equality Groups (9 April 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/Budget%20process%202011-12/BSPcallforev.htm>

Equality Bill: Draft Guidance (16 April 2010)

<http://ehrc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>

Death Certification, Burial, and Cremation (Scotland) (21 April 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/300112/0093686.pdf>

Scotland's Future: Draft Referendum (Scotland) Bill (30 April 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/303348/0095138.pdf>

Publication of monthly asylum application statistical data (30 April 2010)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-asylum-stat-data/asylum-consultation2835.pdf?view=Binary>

Call for Evidence on the End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill (12 May 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/endLifeAsstBill/currentInquiries.htm>

2011 Census Statistical Outputs (14 May 2010)

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/census/censushm2011/preparations/consultation-and-research/formal-consultations/spring-10-consultation.html>

Refusing entry or stay to NHS debtors (28 May 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/nhs-debtors/>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

Human Trafficking and the Criminal Process

18 March 2010 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.30)

Legal Services Agency conference about working with Victims of Trafficking and the Criminal Justice System. For information contact 0141 353 3354 or see http://www.lsa.org.uk/humantraffickingandthecriminalprocess_1.aspx

Sustaining and Reinventing Community Regeneration

24 - 25 March 2010 in Edinburgh

SURF annual conference to explore the realities of delivering regeneration in Scotland's most disadvantaged communities. In doing so, we will showcase the assets and resources that are at hand to support and sustain regeneration. For information see <http://www.scotregen.co.uk/events/default.asp?ItemID=1099> or contact Derek Rankine derek@scotregen.co.uk / 0141 585 6879.

Domestic Abuse and BME Children & Young People

25 March 2010 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 12.30)

Shakti training providing an opportunity for staff working with children and young people to gain greater understanding of how domestic and culture-based abuse affects black minority ethnic (BME) children and young people. For information contact info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk / 0131 475 2399.

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>

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

23 April 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>

[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/>