

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](#)
[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)
[Other Holyrood](#)
[General Election](#)
[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)
[Job Opportunities](#)
[Funding 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.

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The new UK parliamentary session will begin on 18 May with the swearing-in of new MPs, and the State Opening of Parliament will take place on 25 May.

Immigration and Asylum

News

Asylum children will be kept out of 'distressing' detention centres

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/may/14/immigration-asylum-children-detention-centres>

Bike scheme for asylum seekers is saddled with success

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/may/12/bristol-bikes-refugees-asylum-volunteers>

Four live in filth of fly-tip

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/editor-s-picks-ignore/four-live-in-filth-of-fly-tip-1.1027422>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Motions

S3M-6268 Aileen Campbell: Combating Hate Crime in North Ayrshire—That the Parliament welcomes the launch of a new service in North Ayrshire that enables victims of hate crimes to report incidents to their local library; considers that this initiative will help promote and make the reporting of hate crimes easier in North Ayrshire; acknowledges the efforts of the Strathclyde Police and local librarians in tackling this important issue, and commends the work of all involved.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=18952>

S3M-6305 Kenneth Gibson: Rise in Anti-Semitism—That the Parliament expresses concern at the rising trend of anti-Semitic activity throughout 2009; acknowledges that the number of anti-Semitic incidents including extreme violence, assaults, damage and desecration of property, threats, abusive behaviour, including verbal abuse, and the disbursement of anti-Semitic literature almost doubled in the United Kingdom; recognises that a majority of the incidents were arbitrary and opportunistic in nature and notes that the number of politically motivated anti-Semitic incidents is also on the rise; believes that there is never an excuse for any type of hate crime, nor should they be accepted or tolerated, and considers anti-Semitic incidents to be counterproductive as a method of achieving political aims and not conducive to an overall peace solution in the Middle East.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=18996>

[TOP](#)

Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Questions

Voluntary Sector (Support)

Margaret Mitchell (Central Scotland) (Con): To ask the Scottish Executive what action it is taking to support the voluntary sector. (S3O-10496)

The Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism (Jim Mather): Over the past three years, we have sought to empower the third sector to join in the delivery of the national purpose, which will benefit everyone in Scotland. We have provided more than £90 million to grow the sector, to support the development of voluntary organisations and social enterprises and to promote volunteering. We have brought senior figures in the sector into discussions with the Scottish Cabinet and we have brokered a powerful agreement between the sector and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers. The sector has risen to that challenge and, in the years to come, we expect that it will be a powerful force to support those who are most in need in difficult economic circumstances.

Margaret Mitchell: Given that the voluntary and third sector is often viewed by local authorities as an easy route for making cuts during periods of tightening public expenditure, and in view of the fact that at stage 3 consideration of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Bill the Scottish National Party and Labour voted against amendment 77, which would have required public authorities to take into account the joint statement between COSLA, the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations and the Government to promote the third sector, what will the minister do to ensure that family support services, citizens advice bureaux, women's aid and other vital local services that are delivered by the third sector are not squeezed?

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Jim Mather: The member comes to the chamber with a false premise. We have increased funding for the voluntary sector. I chaired a meeting on 13 April at which we brought the voluntary sector together to engender yet more cohesion. If the member still has the deep concerns that she has just voiced, I would be keen to see them in writing and to engage with her more fully on the matter.

Linda Fabiani (Central Scotland) (SNP): At the Finance Committee, it was noted by local authority witnesses that, although there has been willingness on the part of local authorities and the voluntary sector to work in partnership, there are issues of differing governance and regulation systems to overcome. Are the cabinet secretary and ministers taking any action to assist smoother working operations, to allow the voluntary sector to maximise its extremely valuable role in the provision of public services?

Jim Mather: Indeed, we are. We very much encourage third sector organisations to apply professional management methods, both for their own protection and for better delivery of the outcomes that they seek. The most tangible point is that the Big Lottery Fund is funding the development of a bespoke version of the European framework for quality management, which will give the third sector and its interface organisations the opportunity to adopt management practices on a par with the best. As I said earlier, we very much encourage that continuing coming together and the triggering of further discussions involving the third sector to deliver the outcomes that are required under single outcome agreements.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-10/sor0513-02.htm#Col26224>

New publication

Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2009 Attitudes to Government, the Economy and Public Services in Scotland

Report <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/305570/0095845.pdf>

Summary <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/305565/0095844.pdf>

[TOP](#)

General Election

Press Releases

First Minister writes to new Prime Minister

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/05/12132347>

FM welcomes PM

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/05/14141648>

PM takes “respect agenda” to Scotland

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2010/05/pm-takes-respect-agenda-to-scotland-50138>

General Election (continued) **News**

Cameron's cabinet: A guide to who's who

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/election_2010/8675705.stm

David Cameron's coalition government sets to work

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/election_2010/8676607.stm

David Cameron: Life and times of new UK prime minister

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/election_2010/8661964.stm

Brown quits: The political career of Gordon Brown

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/election_2010/8673608.stm

Highlands MP to be new Scottish secretary

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/8676654.stm>

Conservative - Lib Dem coalition: First female Muslim Cabinet minister makes herself at home

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Conservative--Lib-Dem-coalition.6294725.jp>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Draft Census Order

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2010/draft/pdf/sdsi_9780111008379_en.pdf

End of Life Assistance Bill

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

Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc. Bill

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

[TOP](#)

Consultations (closing date)

** new or updated this week

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

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

Taking Talent to the Top: online survey for professionals (no closing date given)

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/183/272/Survey-for-professionals.html>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Funding Opportunities

** New or updated this week

Community Chest

Deadline for applications 30 June 2010

The Community Chest small grant programme provides grants of up to £1,000 and free training to help small community groups in Scotland sustain and develop their activities. For information see http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/5_40/grants/communtuy_chest/

Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, one of Scotland's leading charitable organisations, has announced the reopening of its grant-making programme and is inviting charities to apply for funding from the £2 million available for 2010. This year's main grant programme will be named 'The Henry Duncan Awards' in honour of the Reverend Henry Duncan who founded the first Trustee Savings Bank – which ultimately led to the establishment of the Foundation – 200 years ago this year.

There will be three application rounds in 2010 closing on 24 May, 19 July, and 13 September.

Henry Duncan Awards

For information see <http://www.ltsbfoundationforscotland.org.uk/index.asp?tm=31>

Capacity Building Grants

For information see <http://www.ltsbfoundationforscotland.org.uk/index.asp?tm=27>

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** this week!**

Making Integration Count: Local Gateways to Citizenship

19 May 2010 online (4.00 – 5.00)

Cities of Migration “webinar” that looks at how new gateway cities are helping transform the immigrant experience of dislocation and exclusion into a celebration of new community where everyone counts -and is counted. For information see <http://citiesofmigration.ca/integration-learning-exchange/calendar/lang/en/>

**** this week!**

Working with Interpreters

21 May 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)

The Housing Rights of Refugees

25 May 2010 in Glasgow

Guest speaker: Mark Willis, Welfare Rights Worker, Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland

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 those assisting refugees to access homelessness and housing services and to those assisting refugees to apply for benefits. 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>

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

8 June 2010 in Glasgow

22 July 2010

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>

Third Sector Research Conference

15 October 2010 in Edinburgh

For information contact Helen Swatton 01412258019 / helen.swatton@scvo.org

[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/>

Useful Links (continued)

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/>