

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with **BEMIS - empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities**. It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary Activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.*

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Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month.

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Asylum Seekers

Johann Lamont (Glasgow Pollok) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it has sought information on how many children of asylum seekers were detained at Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre in each month of 2009 and, if so, what response it received. (S3W-33598)

Reply from Michael Russell: My officials have been informed that the UK Border Agency does not provide statistical information on a month by month basis. However, it has published quarterly reports for 2009 which are available on the UKBA website <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-publications.html>.

The reports detail the numbers of people who entered detention for immigration purposes – these include a breakdown by age and place of detention. However, they do not specify if the children were those of asylum seeking families.

According to these reports a total of 100 children entered Dungavel detention centre.

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Quarter (Period of Report)	No of Children Entered Dungavel
1 (January 2009 – March 2009)	25
2 (April 2009 – June 2009)	20
3 (July 2009 – September 2009)	25
4 (October 2009 – December 2009)	30
Total	100

These figures are not subject to detailed checks. Some detainees may be recorded more than once, for example, the person has been detained on more than one separate occasion in the time period shown, such as a person who has left detention, but has subsequently been re-detained.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-33598>

Linda Fabiani (Central Scotland) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it has sought clarification from the UK Government that the pledge in its coalition agreement to end detention of children in Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre will be extended to ensure the ending of dawn raids in Scotland. (S3W-33599)

Reply from Michael Russell: I welcome the Immigration Minister's recent announcement that the detention of children at Dungavel is to end immediately. However, I remain opposed to detaining children of asylum seekers anywhere in the UK, including those who may be transferred from Scotland, and urge the new UK Government to introduce their new policy throughout the UK as quickly as possible.

I am unclear how the UK Government will carry out its commitment to end the detention of children or whether this will include the end to dawn raids, however, I am aware that they have launched a comprehensive review. I took the opportunity to raise these issues in my letter to the new Home Secretary, Theresa May, on Tuesday 18 May and to Damian Green, the new Immigration Minister on Thursday 20 May. I also took these letters as an opportunity to offer support to the UK Government in finding a humane solution.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that my officials will be monitoring this change in practice and will continue to reaffirm our opposition to the forcible removal of children and dawn raids.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-33599>

Immigration

John Scott (Ayr) (Con): To ask the Scottish Executive whether the UK Government's proposed immigration policy will have an effect on the availability of seasonal workers in Scotland and if so, what effect. (S3W-33792)

Reply from Fiona Hyslop: The UK Government's proposal to introduce an annual limit on the number of non-EEA migrants admitted into the UK is unlikely to have a significant impact on the availability of seasonal workers in Scotland.

This is because there is currently no immigration route available for unskilled workers within the UK Points Based System for managed migration, the category most seasonal work would fall within. The vast majority of seasonal work in Scotland is currently undertaken by EEA nationals whose entitlement to live and work in the UK is unaffected by this proposal.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-33792>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Holyrood Committee

Equal Opportunities Committee Inquiry into Migration and Trafficking

Evidence from COSLA, Educational Institute of Scotland, HMIE, Scotland's Colleges Principals' Convention, UNISON, NHS Lothian, and Health, South East Glasgow CHCP.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/or-10/eo10-1002.htm#Col1746>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration: Detention of Children

Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope: To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will end the detention of children for immigration purposes.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): My Lords, the Government are committed to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes. My honourable friend the Minister of State for Immigration is heading a review on the way forward, which aims to protect the welfare of children while ensuring the removal of those who have no right to be in the UK. He will set out the way forward as soon as possible: certainly in the coming weeks. Currently, I might add, there is one family with two children in immigration detention.

Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope: My Lords, I am grateful to the Minister for that reply, and I welcome her to her new high ministerial office and wish her well for the future. When does she expect to be able to end child detention for immigration purposes? Does she not agree that it would be a signal success for the new Government if there could be an early announcement that ended the practice? Is there any chance of her being able to do that sensibly before the House rises for the Summer Recess?

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: My Lords, I thank the noble Lord very much for his kind words. I certainly agree that we want to progress this as rapidly as possible. I cannot unfortunately give him a deadline today, but I hope that my honourable friend in the other House will have more details really quite shortly. At the moment, we are working with various charities and NGOs that will help us to find solutions so that we can come forward with something that is not just process but that incorporates a solution. We will do that as rapidly as we can. The noble Lord is quite right that we need to end this as soon as possible.

Lord Dubs: My Lords, many of us who have argued for years that children should not be detained under immigration powers will welcome what the Government appear to want to do. Will the Minister confirm, however, that ending the detention of children must mean that families-parents as well as the children-will no longer be detained? If it does not, this will involve separating children from their families, which would be a retrograde step.

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: We certainly aim not to separate families from children or children from families. The noble Lord is quite right, and I think the House would agree, that this is not an ideal form of detention. I cannot say categorically how we will work it out, but the aim is certainly to keep families together.

Lord Ramsbotham: My Lords, I welcome the Minister to her position. While I welcome the statement about ending the detention of children, will the review consider the position of another group of children who are held in detention? I refer to the hundreds of independent juvenile asylum seekers who are currently being held in social services care around the country. There is a real need to look at the consistency of their treatment and conditions because those differ widely in different parts of the country.

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: The noble Lord makes a very important point. I am aware that children who are not in immigration detention and who are unaccompanied are indeed with local authorities. I will take back his point about the inconsistency of treatment and report back to the House.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Finlay of Llandaff: My Lords, I, too, congratulate the noble Baroness. Is consideration being given in the review to the bereavement needs of children, given that many children who come here as asylum seekers, or indeed for other immigration purposes, have often undergone traumatic bereavements? The incidence of severe bereavement reactions among these children is particularly high, and lack of attention to that in the processes to which they are subjected may make their experiences worse.

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: The noble Baroness makes an important point. All I can say at the present stage is that in the guidelines that we agree consideration should be given to cases of this kind in which an individual problem needs extra help.

The Lord Bishop of Liverpool: My Lords, will the Minister confirm that this is the only category of children who can be detained indefinitely without the oversight of the courts and without ever having committed a crime?

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: That is the formal case. However, in current circumstances, the average time for which children are being detained is only about 11 days. We are trying to bring that figure down. I pay tribute to the previous Government who did great work in bringing the timescale of these detentions down. I entirely agree that it is a problem. We are trying to make the system as humane as possible.

Lord Avebury: My Lords, perhaps I may ask my noble friend about the consultations which on 12 May Mr Damian Green said had already started. Stakeholders, such as the Children's Society, do not seem to be aware of that. Is it the intention to complete the consultation in six weeks, as we have heard? Will that be in time for them to incorporate any necessary amendments to the Secretary of State's powers to look after these children under alternative arrangements in the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act which will come before your Lordships?

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: My Lords, I will look into that point. I cannot give the noble Lord a definitive answer. All I can say is that we intend to proceed with this really fast. This review will not take very long. I hope that that timescale can be met.

Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, I, too, congratulate the Minister on her new post. I was delighted to hear her say how well the previous Government had done, which I never thought that I would hear. This shows the complexity of this entire subject. Having been beaten around the Floor of this House again and again by my friends, particularly those who were Liberal Democrats in the past, people are realising how extremely difficult it is. When I looked at this in the past, the difficulty was that one might apply sanctions and restrictions on people that were even worse than having people in detention for a short period. Will the Minister confirm that we will not do that in trying to ensure that we get these sometimes quite cute people who use children as a way of getting around our laws and that we will ensure that we do not put the children in a worse circumstance?

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: My Lords, I thank the noble Lord for his kind words. The object of the exercise clearly is to alleviate the situation of children and not to make it worse. I take the point that he is making and we will look at it in our discussion of the arrangements with the stakeholders to whom we are talking.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100602-0001.htm#1006023000294>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for asylum (a) were received in 2009 and (b) have been received in 2010 to date; and from which countries. [39]

Reply from Damian Green: A breakdown of asylum applications by nationality for 2009 can be found in Table C of the supplementary excel tables of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom Fourth Quarter 2009. A similar breakdown for the first quarter of 2010 can be found in Table 2a of the supplementary excel tables of the First Quarter 2010 edition of the same statistical summary.

Information on asylum applications is published quarterly in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom which is 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/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100602/text/100602w0002.htm#10060216000004>

Westminster Early Day Motions

Robert Halfon (114) Awarding the Jubilee Medal to Immigration Officers - That this House recognises the good work of immigration officers; considers that they should be retrospectively awarded the Golden Jubilee Medal, and considered for the Diamond Jubilee Medal; and further recognises that many immigration officers were understandably upset when they were not awarded the Jubilee Medal, unlike other important public servants, given their role in the frontline keeping the UK safe from terrorists, such as the hijackers at Stansted Airport, and other security threats.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=41030&SESSION=905>

Stephen Lloyd (140) Protecting English Language Schools - That this House is alarmed by the previous administration's ruling of 10 March 2010 that raised detrimentally the entry criteria for foreign students wishing to study the English language in this country in an attempt to deter bogus students; notes that it was both a rushed and flawed alteration, including a requirement for students to already possess intermediate level English, which is equivalent to A level English, before being allowed to even study English in the UK; considers that it will discourage an estimated 100,000 legitimate international students from coming to the UK to study; further notes that the professional body, English UK, estimates that £400 million per annum and 3,400 jobs will be lost from the teaching sector and £1 billion from the university sector, who take around 46 per cent. of their international students from those who already study English in the UK; further considers that it will have a profound impact on the vital £17 million per annum which foreign students bring to the economy in Eastbourne; and calls on the Government and the new Immigration Minister to abolish this inexplicable legislation in order to protect the UK's standing as a world leader in the area, noting that, if the Government does not rescind this legislation, other English-speaking countries will benefit while the UK's vital home grown industry will suffer.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=41056&SESSION=905>

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

Migrants tell equal opportunities committee about life in Scotland

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-comm-10/ceq10-s3-003.htm>

New publication

IPPR Migration briefing

http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=/ecomms/files/May%202010%20migration%20stats_ippr%20briefing.pdf&a=skip

News

'UK asylum system faces chaos over legal aid cash delays'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/39UK-asylum-system-faces-chaos.6329584.jp>

Students face deportation in college row

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/Students-face-deportation-in-college.6343254.jp>

Labour contender Ed Balls urges EU immigration limits

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/politics/10247644.stm>

We were wrong to allow so many eastern Europeans into Britain

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/jun/06/ed-balls-europe-immigration-labour>

Darfuri teenager killed himself after being told – wrongly – of deportation

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/darfuri-teenager-killed-himself-after-being-told-ndash-wrongly-ndash-of-deportation-1990011.html>

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Race Relations

News

Mixed housing scheme creates 'the whole world in one street'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/jun/01/asian-white-mixed-housing-race-bradford>

Election 2010: My black and blue battle

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/jun/02/ethnic-minorities-race-conservative-party>

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Equality

Press Release

Runnymede 360° is a new national network connecting aspiring and established leaders in race equality. The network represents an exciting opportunity for individuals to interact with others passionate about race equality in order to improve their knowledge base, professional skills, connections and contribution to challenging racism. For information and to apply see

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/projects-and-publications/projects/360net.html>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

News

A hatred exposed

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2010/jun/01/english-defence-league-islamophobia>

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Other Holyrood

New publication

What's On at the Scottish Parliament

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/vli/publicInfo/documents/SP-WhatsOnleafletMay10.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Female Genital Mutilation

Jim Sheridan (Paisley and Renfrewshire North) (Lab): What steps he plans to take to ensure that projects to prevent female genital mutilation have access to internet-based funding programmes. [000447]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Stephen O'Brien): The Government condemn female genital mutilation as an extreme violation of women's and girls' human rights. An estimated 140 million women and girls have been subjected to that practice. Internet-based funding, such as GlobalGiving, is increasingly helping civil society organisations to access funding for programmes to prevent female genital mutilation. We will look at that area over the next year as we design the poverty impact fund, which will support innovative ways of working.

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Jim Sheridan: Genital mutilation is condemned by most humanitarian organisations, so how does the Minister plan to ensure that his "My Aid" programme will not disadvantage unpopular programmes? As I understand it, his party's green paper says that if 25% of people vote for Malawi, that country's programme will get 25% of the funding. But how will he protect vital programmes that do not have the X factor and do not receive an internet vote?

Reply from Stephen O'Brien: I am very grateful to the hon. Gentleman for identifying the key issue of FGM. We will certainly consider carefully what he has said, as we look to roll forward the programmes, in order to ensure that we deal in the most effective way by bearing down not only on the activity, which is clearly intolerable, but on the societal and cultural drivers that lie behind it. That is what will be most influential in driving the funds to help the programmes.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100602/debtext/100602-0002.htm#1006029000022>

Press Release

New help for those working with victims of forced marriage

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=22323535>

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Other News

Commission welcomed into UN Human Rights system

<http://scottishhumanrights.com/news/latestnews/article/scotlandwelcomed>

Scotland's largest Hindu temple devastated by 'shocking' blaze

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/scotland-s-largest-hindu-temple-devastated-by-shocking-blaze-1.1031544>

MSP demands fresh action to curb travellers

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1764147>

Award for Awaz FM volunteers is UK first

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/award-for-awaz-fm-volunteers-is-uk-first-1.1032341>

Schools sideline Christianity when teaching pupils about religion, finds Ofsted

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1284385/Schools-sideline-Christianity-teaching-pupils-religion-finds-Ofsted.html>

Schools leave Christianity out in the wilderness

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Education/article309773.ece

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Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/46-ComVic/index.htm>

End of Life Assistance Bill

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

**** Palliative Care Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/50-PalliativeCare/index.htm>

Bill as introduced

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/50-PalliativeCare/9090b50s3-introd.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/50-PalliativeCare/b50s3-introd-en.pdf>

Policy Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/50-PalliativeCare/b50s3-introd-pm.pdf>

Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc. Bill

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

Bills in Progress Westminster

**** House of Lords Reform Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/houseoflordsreformhl.html>

Bill as introduced

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/008/2011008.pdf>

**** Identity Documents Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/identitydocuments.html>

Bill as introduced

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/001/2011001.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/001/en/2011001-en.pdf>

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Consultations (closing date)

** new or updated this week

**** ACPOS Draft Hate Crime Guidance Manual**

(note the short deadline – closes this week: 11 June 2010)

http://www.scojec.org/consultations/current/10vi_acpos_draft_hate_crime_manual.doc

**** Draft National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland** (17 September 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/313390/0099355.pdf>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** this week!**

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

8 June 2010 in Glasgow

22 July 2010 in Glasgow

26 August 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=87>

Refugee Week 14 - 20 June 2010

Refugee Week is a unique opportunity to discover and celebrate the contributions refugees bring to the UK. During Refugee Week events take place all across the UK, all of which explore refugee experiences. This year, everyone is being asked to do a Simple Act - one small, everyday action that can change perceptions of refugees and help create a society we all want to live in. For information see <http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk/>.

[Click here](#) for a calendar of events.

Rural Diversity Uncorked... Putting the fizz back into community action

16 June 2010: central event in Inverness linking with events throughout Scotland (9.30 – 4.30)

Scottish Rural Equality Network national networking conference using internet technology to link people from across rural Scotland to share experiences and ideas about how to involve communities in making life better for everyone in their own local areas. For information see <http://www.scvo.org.uk/SRENOnline/showthread.php?t=241> or contact srenadmin@scvo.org.uk / 01463 251 734

Show Racism the Red Card Intercultural Summer Camp

5-10 July 2010 in Co Donegal, Ireland

Summer camp for young people between the ages of 11 and 16 to enable them to acknowledge diversity whether it is cultural, linguistic, religious or other and to explore differences in a positive way, break down social barriers, which may prevent positive interaction, and empower young people by enhancing their communication skills and allowing them to engage in community building exercises. For information see http://www.theredcard.ie/camp/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1&Itemid=3

Third Sector Research Conference

15 October 2010 in Edinburgh

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

The needs and experiences of refugee women

22 October 2010 in Glasgow

Guest speaker: Kirsty Thomson, Solicitor, Women and Children's Department at Legal Services Agency.

Scottish Refugee Council course for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting women seeking sanctuary in Scotland. For information contact Jamie Spurway

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

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/home.htm>

Scottish Government <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Home>

Westminster Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.eu.int/parliament/public.do?language=en>

One Scotland Many Cultures <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Scottish Inter Faith Council <http://www.scottishinterfaithcouncil.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>
Scotland Helpline 0845 604 5510

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

SCVO <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Home/Home.aspx>

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

Social Economy Scotland <http://www.socialeconomyscotland.info/content/index.asp>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <http://www.oscr.org.uk/Index.stm>

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>

Useful Links (continued)

BBC Parliament online

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm

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The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charity SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. <http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>