

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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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

British Nationality

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she intends to implement the provisions in the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 in respect of the pathway to citizenship. [13665]

Reply from Theresa May: I believe that broad reform to the path to settlement and citizenship is necessary and I am currently considering the best way to achieve that. Applicants for British citizenship continue to be considered under the current requirements contained in the British Nationality Act 1981.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100914/text/100914w0001.htm#10091426000008>

Children in Care: Immigrants

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children of failed asylum seekers or illegal immigrants have been taken into care because their parents have absconded in each of the last two years; and how many of these children have subsequently been reunited with their families. [13220]

Tim Loughton: Information on the numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children entering care is collected and published annually, but this does not include a breakdown of whether they came into the country alone or their parents absconded and abandoned them.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100916/text/100916w0002.htm#10091640000029>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many immigration cases her Department recorded intercession by an hon. Member in 2009-10. [14914]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency do not keep statistics of the volume of correspondence from MPs that leads to intervention and any attempt to capture this information could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost. However, in the year 2009 the UK Border Agency received 66,320 inquiries by letter or email, and 25,322 inquiries by telephone, a total of 91,642 inquires from Members of Parliament.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100916/text/100916w0004.htm#10091645000051>

Immigration Controls: English Language

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps were taken to ensure that the new English language requirements for spouses joining British nationals are compatible with the relevant provisions of (a) section 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998 and (b) the European Convention on Human Rights. [14111]

Reply from Theresa May: We have taken appropriate steps in the development of the proposed new language requirements for spouses and partners to take into account the European Convention on Human Rights and in particular article eight (the right to respect for private and family life) of the convention.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100916/text/100916w0004.htm#10091645000052>

Entry Clearances

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) in-country and (b) out-of-country permits were granted in respect of (i) dependants and (ii) principal migrants under each (A) tier and (B) route under her Department's immigration rules in each relevant year between 2006 and 2009. [14451]

Reply from Damian Green: Statistics on entry clearance visas (out-of-country) issued by applicant type in 2007 to 2009 and extensions of stay (in-country) granted by category and applicant type for 2006 to 2009 were published in the Home Office bulletin 'Control of Immigration Statistics United Kingdom, 2009' on 26 August 2010 in tables 1.1 and 4.1 respectively. Statistics on entry clearance visas (out-of-country) by summary category granted in 2006 to Q2 2010 are published in the 'Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary Q2 2010' in supplementary table 1b. The publications also cover admissions to the United Kingdom, asylum grants and grants of settlement. Copies are available in the Library of the House and on 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/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100913/text/100913w0008.htm#10091413000019>

Detainees: Children

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what pilot schemes the UK Border Agency has introduced as part of the review of alternatives to child detention. [13208]

Reply from Damian Green: Following the Home Secretary's commitment to end the detention of children for immigration purposes the UK Border Agency is working to establish more effective ways of managing family returns without the need for detention in immigration removal centres. Through a new approach to

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

families, the UK Border Agency is seeking to encourage greater compliance and increase the number of families who choose to return voluntarily. The new process is designed to give families every opportunity to comply with return and empower them to make their own preparations for departure.

Two pilots are currently being conducted to develop and refine the new family returns process, one in the North West of England and one in London. Additionally, UK Border Agency enforcement teams across the country are changing the way they work in every family case to ensure that every effort is made to secure the departure of illegal migrant families without detention.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many children with primary carers in immigration detention were (a) in the care of (i) a parent and (ii) local authority children's services and (b) in private fostering arrangements in the last 12 months; how many such parents or primary carers have been (A) released from detention and (B) removed from the UK; how many are still detained; in how many such cases of fostering or care by a parent have children's services departments (1) reported to the UK Border Agency and (2) acted upon child protection concerns over the care arrangements for the child; [13770]

(2) what steps (a) her Department and (b) the UK Border Agency takes to gather information on child protection issues from (i) children's services departments and (ii) the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in cases where children of persons in immigration detention are in the care of another parent or are in private fostering arrangements and child protection concerns are raised; what other monitoring is undertaken of the welfare of such children; what steps are taken to gather information on child protection issues (A) before detention of that parent or primary carer and (B) at each detention review; and what mechanisms the UK Border Agency has to record and follow up on actions of relevant case owners in such cases. [13771]

Reply from Damian Green: The information requested in the question is not recorded centrally by the UK Border Agency and can be obtained only through examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100913/text/100913w0008.htm#10091413000017>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

David Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been detained at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre since it was rebuilt following fire damage; and how many children were in the family unit at Yarl's Wood on the latest date for which figures are available. [14030]

Reply from Damian Green: Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) re-opened in September 2003 and has provided accommodation for children who are part of a family group since January 2005. Information on the number of children detained at that centre from 2005 can be provided only by examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

In August 2009 the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical publication was expanded to include management 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 by age (to separately identify children), and will be published quarterly in the future; however data for years earlier than 2009 will remain unavailable. Between January 2009 and June 2010, 935 children entered Yarl's Wood IRC and were held solely under Immigration Act powers.

Published data, using rounding conventions to ensure that the identity of the individuals is safeguarded, show that as at 30 June 2010 there were less than three people detained solely under Immigration Act powers at Yarl's Wood

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

removal centre who were recorded as being less than 18 years of age. This figure includes any cases where the age is disputed at the time.

Information on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers relating to the second quarter 2010 are available in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, April to June 2010 in the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

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

The Government have made clear their commitment to end the detention of children and continue to work with their corporate partners to find an alternative that protects the welfare of children, without undermining UK immigration laws.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100913/text/100913w0008.htm#10091413000033>

Detention Centres: Restraint Techniques

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training on the control and restraint of adults over the age of 18 (a) each of the immigration detention centres and (b) each company contracted to provide UK Border Agency escorts has purchased in each of the last five years; and from what sources such training was purchased. [14329]

Reply from Damian Green: Detention custody officers employed in all immigration removal centres or as escorts are trained in the use of force by control and restraint instructors.

The control and restraint instructors are trained and annually accredited by instructors from the National Offenders Management Service (NOMS).

The UK Border Agency purchases the training from NOMS; individual contract values are commercially confidential and releasing these figures may prejudice the commercial interest of the agency and its suppliers. The use of restraint is only ever used as a last resort to prevent a person from harming themselves, others or property or to ensure he or she complies with a reasonable requirement, including one to leave the UK. Its use must be justified and proportionate, and reported to the relevant UK Border Agency contract monitor.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether (a) staff in immigration detention centres and (b) UK Border Agency escort providers are authorised to use the holds and techniques set out in the Physical Control in Care Manual on children under the age of 18. [14330]

Reply from Damian Green: The welfare of children in the care of the UK Border Agency is taken very seriously and in accordance with section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act, which requires all UK Border Agency staff and contractors to carry out their functions with regard to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Staff in immigration removal centres (IRCs) and UK Border Agency escort providers are authorised and trained to use the holds and techniques set out in the Physical Control in Care (PCC) manual on children under the age of 18. Only those staff employed to work in IRCs where persons under 18 years of age may be detained and escort providers used to escort children under the age of 18 are trained and accredited to use PCC. The use of restraint on children is very rare in the immigration detention estate and during escort, and is normally restricted to prevent self-harm, injury to others or damage to property.

The Government have made clear their commitment to end the detention of children and continues to work with their corporate partners to find an alternative that protects the welfare of children, without undermining UK immigration laws.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100913/text/100913w0008.htm#10091413000018>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is provided to UK Border Agency staff on responding to constituency cases raised by regional list members of the (a) Scottish Parliament, (b) National Assembly for Wales and (c) Northern Ireland Assembly. [13223]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency's policy is not to provide information on individual cases to Members of devolved legislatures, as immigration is a matter reserved for the Westminster Parliament. This policy is now under review. However, until a decision is taken on whether to change it, the previous policy remains in force.

The UK Border Agency will provide full responses to Members of devolved legislatures where they write on matters of policy or on non-case specific subjects.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100913/text/100913w0007.htm#10091413000003>

Asylum

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department provides assistance to asylum seekers with a professional or skilled background to retain their skills whilst awaiting determination of their claims; and if she will make a statement. [14901]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not provide assistance to asylum seekers with a professional or skilled background to retain their skills while awaiting determination of their claims.

Asylum seekers are entitled to apply for permission to work if they have not received a decision on their initial claim after 12 months, providing the delay is not their fault. Following an amendment to the Immigration Rules, asylum seekers who apply for permission to work on the basis of such a delay are restricted to employment in jobs on the Shortage Occupation List.

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers there are from each country of origin whose cases (a) were pending at the inception of the legacy cases scheme and (b) are still awaiting processing under that scheme. [15134]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is unable to accurately report on the initial or outstanding volume of asylum cases being dealt with by the Case Resolution Directorate (CRD) by nationality. As reported in July 2010 to the Home Affairs Select Committee, 50% of the concluded cases were data errors and required no further or any administrative action. Therefore, any such report would be unable to accurately represent CRD cases by nationality.

The agency will be reporting on its current performance in clearing the backlog in the autumn. I am confident CRD are on track to clear the backlog of older asylum cases by summer 2011 or earlier.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100915/text/100915w0002.htm#10091521000114>

Asylum

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the effects on those awaiting asylum application determination of the requirement to use the Azure card system as a means of payment for goods and services. [14900]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency maintains a clear distinction between the two support regimes provided to asylum seekers awaiting a determination and failed asylum seekers who have exhausted the asylum process.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Destitute asylum seekers still awaiting a determination on their asylum claim are eligible to receive cash support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. All asylum seekers whose applications have been fully determined and have exhausted their appeal rights are required to leave the UK as soon as possible. Those failed asylum seekers who are destitute and unable to leave the UK immediately due to circumstances beyond their control are provided with more restrictive cashless support under section four of the 1999 Act. It is section 4 for which the Azure card is provided.

The system of section 4 support is integral to the maintenance of a fair and consistent system of immigration control. The limitations on section 4 support reflects its temporary nature, and are necessary to avoid creating an incentive for failed asylum seekers to remain in the UK and placing additional pressure on limited public funds.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100916/text/100916w0004.htm#10091645000045>

Asylum: Deportation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements her Department has put in place for the transfer or disposal of assets belonging to (a) failed asylum seekers and (b) illegal immigrants on deportation. [13207]

Reply from Damian Green: UK Border Agency officials have the same arrangements in place for failed asylum seekers and illegal immigrants to secure or dispose of their possessions.

Where people have their removal enforced there is guidance in the public domain on the handling of belongings which can be found on the UK Border Agency website in chapter 45 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/enforcement/

Although this specific guidance relates to families, individuals are treated in line with this guidance.

If someone is arrested in their home a minimum of 30 minutes will be allowed for an individual or a family to pack their belongings dependant on a dynamic risk assessment. If someone is arrested outside their home the local immigration team will liaise with the departure port regarding arrangements for baggage delivery.

Individuals are advised of the need to make contact with someone to take responsibility for their belongings and will be provided access to telephones at the removal centre to make these arrangements. Further guidance can be found on the UK Border Agency website in the Detention Services Order 09-2008 at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/detention-services-orders/management-of-detainees!.pdf?view=Binary

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many public order offences were reported in relation to the removal of (a) failed asylum seekers and (b) illegal immigrants during deportations in each of the last 12 months. [13211]

Reply from Damian Green: Public order offences, including those committed during a removal operation, fall under the jurisdiction of the police force within the area the offence was committed. Such data would be recorded at a local level by the police and is therefore not routinely available to the UK Border Agency.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many no-notice removals of failed asylum seekers and illegal immigrants have been undertaken by the UK Border Agency in each of the last 12 months. [13219]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency policy is to give at least 72 hours notice of removal. However, in exceptional circumstances where the removal could not be managed in any other way, we have invoked a policy of

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

giving a reduced period of notice. Although the notice period may have been less than 72 hours, some notice was always given. This policy of giving less than 72 hours notice was quashed by the High Court on 16 July 2010, and has not been in use since the granting of an interim injunction on 21 May 2010. The policy is now the subject of an appeal to the Court of Appeal. Over the last 12 months, reduced notice of removal applied as follows:

	<i>Number of times reduced notice applied</i>	<i>Number of times removal proceeded</i>
September 2009	1	1
October 2009	4	4
November 2009	2	1
December 2009	2	1
January 2010	3	⁽¹⁾ 3
February 2010	5	3
March 2010	5	4
April 2010	⁽³⁾ 11	8
May 2010	⁽³⁾ 13	⁽²⁾ 4
June 2010	0	0
July 2010	0	0
August 2010	0	0

⁽¹⁾ One removal had the reduced notice period applied in December 2009 and was removed in January 2010.

⁽²⁾ No planned removals proceeded with less than the standard notification period following the granting of an injunction at 14.00 on 21 May 2010.

⁽³⁾ The rise in numbers for April and May is due to the coming into effect of new exceptions categories. The majority of these (nine in April 2010 and 12 in May 2010) were exceptions under the consent provision where the person being removed provided their written consent to a reduced notice period.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100913/text/100913w0007.htm#10091413000004>

Asylum: Deportation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the rate of deportations of (a) failed asylum seekers and (b) illegal immigrants by the UK Border Agency was in each of the last 12 months; [13209]

(2) what the rate of deportations of children of (a) failed asylum seekers and (b) illegal immigrants has been in each of the last 12 months. [13210]

Reply from Damian Green: We have interpreted "deportations" to mean "removals" and "illegal immigrants" to mean "non asylum offenders".

We have interpreted children to mean a dependant of a main applicant who is under 18 so have not included figures in relation to unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Table 1 shows the latest published statistics for asylum cases and non asylum cases removed from the UK in each month during the period July 2009 to June 2010.

Table 2 shows internal management information for the number of dependants (under 18) of failed asylum seekers and non-asylum offenders that were removed from the UK in each month during the period July 2009 to June 2010.

To read the lengthy tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100914/text/100914w0001.htm#10091426000006>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum: Deportation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Border Agency has undertaken a review of its policy on dawn raids for the removal of failed asylum seekers and illegal immigrants as a result of the report by the independent chief inspector of the UK Border Agency. [13222]

Reply from Damian Green: Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 placed a statutory safeguarding duty for children on the UK Border Agency, which we take very seriously. On its introduction we reviewed our guidance for immigration officers undertaking home visits and we have clear guidance on the time of day a visit should take place.

Where immigration officers are planning a visit all factors are considered. If a child or children are in a family that are being visited, a member of the team will be aware of them specifically and their welfare will be that staff member's prime concern. Visits to home addresses are undertaken as sensitively as possible.

We keep our guidance and staff activity under continuous review and following the review of family removals by the independent chief inspector we have accepted that while our guidance is clear, there is some assurance work to be done. In particular we have committed to make sure that our officers are taking an individual approach to each case when planning visits and assessing when the best time to visit a family should be.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100916/text/100916w0004.htm#10091645000046>

Deportation

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals of each country of origin were deported from the UK in each of the last 12 months. [15482]

Reply from Damian Green: The table showing the number of removals and voluntary departures from the United Kingdom, by country of nationality from July 2009 to June 2010 will be placed in the Library of the House.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis. These publications are available from the Library of the House and 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/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100916/text/100916w0004.htm#10091645000049>

Human Trafficking: Convictions

Dominic Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there have been for offences of human trafficking and forced labour under the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004 in (a) 2009 and (b) 2010. [13434]

Reply from Damian Green: Statistics held by the UK Human Trafficking Centre show that at 31 July there have been two convictions for trafficking for forced labour in 2009 and three convictions for conspiracy to traffic for forced labour in 2010.

There are 41 cases still pending that arise from arrests of in 2009 and 2010.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100913/text/100913w0008.htm#10091413000023>

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

Asylum procedures should be harmonised and improved

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/media/mr-080910_en.htm

New publications

The duty to inform applicants about asylum procedures: The asylum-seeker perspective

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/asylum-access-info-report-092010_en.pdf

Access to effective remedies: The asylum-seeker perspective

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/asylum-access-remedies-report-092010_en.pdf

'State Sponsored Cruelty': Children in immigration detention

<http://www.medicaljustice.org.uk/images/stories/reports/sscfullreport.pdf>

News

Vince Cable says cap on immigration 'forcing companies to leave UK for overseas'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Vince-Cable-says-cap-on.6538425.jp>

This was state-sponsored cruelty last year. It still is

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/libertycentral/2010/sep/16/nick-clegg-immigration-detention-children-yarls-wood>

Warning of human trafficking increase

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/warning-of-human-trafficking-increase-1.1055188>

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Race Relations

News

Dundee City Council's ethnic minority project commission criticised

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/News/Dundee/article/5064/dundee-city-council-s-ethnic-minority-project-commission-criticised.html>

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Equality

Press Release

Communities minister celebrates ethnic minority achievement

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsstories/communities/1715948>

Equality

New publication

2008-09 Citizenship Survey: Race, Religion and Equalities Topic Report
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/citizenshipsurvey200809/equality>

News

Diane Abbott calls for race and gender checks on job cuts
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/diane-abbott-calls-for-race-and-gender-checks-on-job-cuts-2078607.html>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

News

Scotland's shame: Amnesty hits out at Roma racism
<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/scotland-s-shame-amnesty-hits-out-at-roma-racism-1.1056025>

'Race' charge after disturbance
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-11359361>

Provost accused of racism reported to standards watchdog
<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Provost-accused-of-racism-reported.6538244.jp>

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Other Holyrood

Press Release

Vatican flag flies in Edinburgh
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/09/15155431>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Question

Kosher Meat: EU Action

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will meet representatives of the Jewish community to discuss the effect on that community of proposed EU regulations on labelling kosher meat; and if she will make a statement. [15754]

Reply from James Paice: The Government are still considering their position in relation to the recent vote in the European Parliament on the provision of food information to consumers and the proposed requirement to indicate the method of slaughter where an animal has been slaughtered without prior stunning. Currently, there is no statutory obligation to indicate the method of slaughter on meat labels.

Other Westminster Parliamentary Question

However, the EU Commission is looking at the introduction of standardised welfare indicators and an EU wide welfare labelling scheme, although it is not yet clear how religious slaughter practices will be reflected in any new arrangements. We will ensure full consultation, including with religious groups, on any proposals that may emerge.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100916/text/100916w0001.htm#10091620000019>

Press Releases

Voters to register individually by 2014

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2010/100915-voters.aspx

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New Publication

OSCR Monitoring Under Section 19 - Report on Work to Date

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=dee84d2c-25e6-4a91-a8d3-6d38e34d01ea&opt=1>

Guidance on OSCR Monitoring Under Section 19 (Charities removed from the register)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=391b4d11-e3c5-492a-b3d6-c40ab6ad1330&opt=1>

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Other News

Call to prosecute the husbands who knowingly wed forced-marriage girls

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Call-to-prosecute-the-husbands.6538333.jp>

Papal Visit

Queen welcomes Pope to UK

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=22875288>

Prime Minister on the Papal visit

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=22872409>

Queen's speech at the Palace of Holyrood House

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=Speech&id=22872888>

Pope's speech at the Palace of Holyrood House

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=Speech&id=22873187>

Papal Visit

Pope's address to religious leaders

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2010/09/17/papal-visit-2010%C2%A0popes-address-to-religious-leaders-%E2%80%93-full-text/>

Pope's speech in Westminster Hall

<http://www.thepapalvisit.org.uk/The-Visit-Live/Speeches/Speeches-17-September/Pope-Benedict-s-address-to-Politicians-Diplomats-Academics-and-Business-Leaders>

Carnival atmosphere as capital welcomes Pope

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/carnival-atmosphere-as-capital-welcomes-pope-1.1055761>

Pope wrong to dismiss Britain as secular society, insists Cameron

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Society/article398446.ece

Pope in Scotland: 1bn watch as Capital and Queen welcome Benedict

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/pope-benedict-xvis-visit-to-scotland/Pope-in-Scotland-1bn-watch.6536469.jp>

Pope in Scotland: Golden silence as 70,000 pray in a cathedral of nature

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/pope-benedict-xvis-visit-to-scotland/Pope-in-Scotland-Golden-silence.6536475.jp>

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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>

Stage 1 oral evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/endLifeAsstBill/or-10/ela10-0402.htm>

papers, including written evidence, for next Committee meeting

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/endLifeAsstBill/papers-10/elap10-05.pdf>

Palliative Care Bill

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

House of Lords Reform Bill

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

Face Coverings (Regulation) Bill

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

Bills in Progress Westminster

Human Trafficking (Border Control) Bill

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

**** Fixed Term Parliaments Bill**

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

Report: Political and Constitutional Reform Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmpolcon/436/43602.htm>

Second Reading, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100913/debtext/100913-0002.htm#10091315000001>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/064/amend/pbc0641309a.153.html>
and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/064/amend/pbc0640914a.161.html>

**** Identity Documents Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/001/amend/pbc0011309a.145-149.html>
and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/001/amend/pbc0011309a.145-149.html>

Third Reading, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100915/debtext/100915-0002.htm#10091526000004>

Report Stage Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/001/pro0010915p.47-50.html>

Bill as brought from the Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/019/2011019.pdf>

**** Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/063/amend/pbc0630809a.135-137.html>
and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/063/amend/pbc0630910a.143-144.html>
and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/063/amend/pbc0631309a.151-152.html>
and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/063/amend/pbc0630914a.163-165.html>
and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/063/amend/pbc0630915.167-172.html>
and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/063/amend/pbc0630916.173-179.html>

Return of Asylum Seekers (Applications from Certain Countries) Bill

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

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Consultations (closing date)

** new or updated this week

Taking action on rights, support and protection of victims of crime and violence
(30 September 2010)

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/news/consulting_public/news_consulting_0053_en.htm

Single Equality Scheme: NHS Quality Improvement Scotland (30 September 2010)

<http://www.nhshealthquality.org/nhsqis/8098.html>

Data protection legislative framework (6 October 2010)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/dpa-call-evidence-02-07-2010.pdf>

Administration of Future Elections in Scotland (15 October 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/323358/0104134.pdf>

General Medical Council (GMC) Equality Scheme 2011 – 2014 (15 October 2010)

https://gmc.e-consultation.net/econsult/consultation_Dtl.aspx?consult_Id=140&status=2&criteria=

Consultation on the change to policy direction for the Big Lottery Fund

(29 October 2010)

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/consultations/7313.aspx>

Equality Act 2010: The public sector Equality Duty: Promoting equality through transparency (10 November 2010)

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/402461_GEO_EqualityAct2010ThePublicSectorEqualityDuty_acc.pdf

**** Equality Duty: Detailed Proposals - Consultation on Public Sector Equality Duty Draft Regulations and Order** (26 November 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/324431/0104438.pdf>

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Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about current job opportunities.

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Events/Conferences/Training ** New or updated this week

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme

Frequent CRBS training sessions from September onwards to inform organisations about the new Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme (the replacement for “Disclosure” checks which must be carried out for staff (paid and voluntary) who work with children and/or “protected” adults). For dates and details of the different courses available see

<http://www.crbs.org.uk/Training/TrainingCalendar/EventDetails/tabid/446/Default.aspx>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

30 September 2010 in Glasgow

2 November 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for people whose work involves asylum seekers and refugees and who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting those 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=89>

Scottish Mental Health Arts & Film Festival

1-24 October 2010

<http://www.mhfestival.com/>

Understanding and Influencing Your Parliament

2 October 2010 in Edinburgh

Scottish Parliament conference to provide help, discussion and networking opportunities for local people and groups to engage successfully with MSPs and the Parliament. For information contact Paul Anderson paul.anderson@scottish.parliament.uk / 0131 348 5357

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust

4 October 2010 in Edinburgh (1.30-4.30)

Introduction to Holocaust Memorial Day for those planning an event, including a chance to hear directly from an eye witness to genocide, and the opportunity to network with other event organisers. For information see <http://www.hmd.org.uk/about/hmd-workshops/hmd-2011-workshops> or contact 0845 838 1883 / enquiries@hmd.org.uk

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

5 October 2010 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 2.30)

Annual conference providing an overview of OSCR's work during the past year and priorities for the future. For information see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/EventItem.aspx?ID=fd67b6a2-18b0-4fd0-98a1-c046ecff5732>

Gender and Gender Identity

12 October 2010 in Edinburgh (9.00 – 4.00)

EveryoneIN training on making services more inclusive for minority ethnic people who may identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender. EveryoneIN is a partnership project between BEMIS and the Equality Network. For information contact Sam Rankin sam@equality-network.org / 0774 704 0355 or Emma Boyd emma@lgbthealth.org.uk / 0131 652 3281

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>

Localism and the Third Sector

25 October 2010 in Edinburgh

SCVO conference on the future for localism with speakers from all the Holyrood parties, Local Government, and leading third sector organisations. For information contact Helen Swatton 0141 225 8019 / helen.swatton@scvo.org.uk or see <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/SCVOEvents/ViewSCVOEvents.aspx?al=t&EID=1276&from=EventHome>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Scottish Refugee Council annual conference

29 October 2010 in Glasgow

The conference will focus primarily on the new Coalition Government's stated agenda for asylum seekers and refugees - including: speeding up the asylum process; ending child detention and treatment of LGBT people seeking asylum. For information contact Graeme Corbett events@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Make a Difference Day

30 October 2010

Make a difference to your community by participating in a volunteer activity on CSV "Make a Difference Day". For information see <http://www.csv.org.uk/campaigns/csv-make-difference-day> or contact 0800 284 533/ difference@csv.org.uk

Judge a book by its cover? Not me!

3 November 2010 in Inverness (9.30 – 12.30)

SCVO training course to find out more about the processes of stereotyping, and how misinformed judgements can lead to prejudice and discrimination. For more information contact Jane Baillie jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 8019.

LGBT Asylum Seekers and Refugees

5 November 2010 in Glasgow (9.00 – 2.00)

EveryoneIN training on making services more inclusive for minority ethnic people who may identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender. For information contact Sam Rankin sam@equality-network.org / 0774 704 0355 or Emma Boyd emma@lgbthealth.org.uk / 0131 652 3281

Working with Interpreters

25 November 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 see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=94> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799

Scottish Interfaith Week

28 November – 5 December 2010

The theme for Scottish Interfaith Week 2010 is *Faith in Action*. Details of events will be posted at <http://www.scottishinterfaithcouncil.org/22.html> as they become available.

Youth Interfaith Connect Conference

2 December 2010 (10.00 – 3.00)

ACPOS conference for young people to discuss issues such as the impact of faith in Scotland today, the impact of religious and sectarian hate crime on our communities, the role of the media in representing faith communities, religious education in schools, identity faith and belief, and faith and social action. For information contact Fiach OBroin-Molloy 01786 456000 / 07769 920 462 or see <http://www.interfaithconnect.org/> and discussion forum <http://www.interfaithconnect.org/forum/>

Third Sector Research Conference

3 December 2010 in Edinburgh

SCVO conference to bring together Scottish Government, local government, third sector and academic researchers, to showcase their work and discuss a range of findings of relevance to public policy in Scotland. For information contact Helen Swatton 0141 225 8019 / helen.swatton@scvo.org

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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>

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/>