

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 Westminster](#)

[New Publications](#)

[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.

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The Scottish Parliament returns from recess on 25 October.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-7209 Christina McKelvie: UK Anti-Slavery Day and European Anti-Trafficking Day—That the Parliament marks the first UK Anti-Slavery Day, which coincides with European Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October 2010; understands that an estimated 12.3 million people across the world are in slavery today, forced to work for little or no pay and denied basic human rights and freedoms; further considers that many enslaved people have also been victims of human trafficking across international borders, including into the United Kingdom; further recognises that, between 1 April 2009 and 31 August 2010, 74 people in Scotland were identified as suspected victims of human trafficking; pledges its support for the Anti-Slavery International and Stop the Traffik campaigns to bring a global end to slavery and human trafficking; calls on the UK Government to reconsider what it considers its regrettable decision to decline to opt in to the new European Union anti-trafficking directive, and asks the Scottish Government to continue its existing work to prevent women, children and men being trafficked into Scotland and to provide services and support for victims of trafficking and slavery.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=19994>

Westminster Debate

House of Lords: Immigration

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101021-0001.htm#10102148000677>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) Westminster Ministerial Statement

Fee Charging (Immigration and Asylum Appeals)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly):

This Government believe strongly in the values of responsibility, freedom and fairness. It is these values which inform all our judgments as we face up to the exceptionally tough fiscal situation we have inherited, and it is with these values in mind that I am launching a consultation on the mechanisms for introducing fees to the immigration and asylum appeals system. I believe that it is reasonable to ask non-UK citizens appealing against some categories of immigration and asylum decisions to contribute to the costs of the administration of that appeal, where they are able to. This is particularly the case given that some two thirds of appeal cases are declined each year.

The current situation is that the Tribunals Service Immigration and Asylum system (TSIA) demands no appeal fee. Costs are met by the Ministry of Justice through funds provided by the UK taxpayer and in part from fees levied on visa applicants by UKBA. For this reason I am today launching a public consultation on the mechanisms for introducing fee charges as I have outlined here. The consultation will be available from today on the Ministry of Justice's website and will run for 12 weeks, concluding on 21 January 2011. I welcome feedback from all interested parties.

This Department is currently undertaking an internal review of legal aid and will be seeking views on reform shortly. If the proposals taken forward in the future, as a result of that consultation, affect the availability of legal aid in immigration appeals and consequently our assumptions about the impact of charging appeal fees to appellants of limited means, we will consult again as necessary on an alternative remissions and exemptions policy in respect of the fees to ensure that access to justice in immigration appeals is appropriately maintained.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101021/wmstext/101021m0001.htm#1010214000013>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Visas

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of those making claims for asylum in the past two years had already entered the United Kingdom on a visa; what types of visa were involved; and what were the means of entry to the United Kingdom in the non-visa cases.[HL2426]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The number of applications for asylum in 2008-09 was 33,945 and for 2009-10 was 25,505. This data are from published statistics and includes main applicants and their dependants. Further details on the number of asylum applications can be found on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>.

The number of asylum applicants who have already entered the United Kingdom on a visa in this period is as follows; 2,878 in 2008-09 and 2,915 in 2009-10. This is internal management information and is subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

A full breakdown of the types of visas held has been placed in the Library of the House Commons (See Annex A of background note).

The UK Border Agency does not hold information about the means of entry to the UK on non-visa cases. To answer this Question would require a manual search of individual case papers which would incur disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101021w0001.htm#10102144000343>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre: Children

Adrian Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the safety and well-being of children being held at Yarl's Wood detention centre; and what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Education on the detention of children. [17437]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency takes very seriously the health and well-being of those in its care. This is particularly true in respect of the small number of children who are detained with their parents for a short period of time immediately prior to their removal after they refuse to leave the UK voluntarily or while checks are being made at the border to ascertain whether they and the adults accompanying them should be admitted to the country.

Safeguarding procedures in respect of children are kept under constant review across the immigration removal estate to ensure that they are consistent with section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 which requires the agency to carry out its functions having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the UK. Prior to detaining an individual family, the agency considers medical and welfare needs to assess the appropriateness of detention and any particular support which may need to be put in place for the child. On arrival in Yarl's Wood, on-site social workers from Bedford borough council make their own assessment and monitor the child during the period of detention. The Government have made clear their commitment to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes. We are currently conducting a review to consider how this can be done in a way which protects the welfare of children while ensuring the return of families who have no right to be in the UK. The Department for Education, as the lead Department for children, families and safeguarding is closely involved with the review. We have already announced that the family unit at Yarl's Wood will be closed as soon as we have identified a credible alternative way of ensuring the departure of families who do not wish to go voluntarily, despite being given every opportunity to do so.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101018/text/101018w0004.htm#1010191000035>

Human Trafficking

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many victims of trafficking have been identified through the national referral mechanism since April 2009; [17624]

(2) how many victims of human trafficking have been identified (a) nationally and (b) in Leicestershire in each of the last five years. [17625]

Reply from Damian Green: Between 1 April 2009 and 30 September 2010 1,048 cases were referred into the national referral mechanism. Of the 857 reasonable grounds decisions made by 30 September 2010, competent authority decision makers found reasonable grounds to believe trafficking had occurred in 534 cases. Prior to 1 April 2009 the UK did not have a national system to track and confirm victim status. The Government do not record victims identified by county.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101018/text/101018w0004.htm#1010191000016>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking: Convictions

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been (a) arrested, (b) charged, (c) prosecuted and (d) convicted in relation to offences of trafficking for sexual exploitation under sections 57 to 60 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. [17976]

Reply from Damian Green: As of 30 June 2010 in relation to offences of trafficking for sexual exploitation there have been:

558 arrests;

294 people charged and prosecuted for trafficking and or other related offences; and

233 convictions comprising 139 for human trafficking and 94 for other offences including rape, brothel management and money laundering.

As at the end of June 2010 there were 61 cases that were at various stages of the criminal justice system.

The figures have been supplied by the UK Human Trafficking Centre.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been (a) arrested, (b) charged, (c) prosecuted and (d) convicted in relation to offences related to slavery, servitude or forced or compulsory labour under section 71 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. [17977]

Reply from Damian Green: The information requested is not available.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. From these centrally reported categories it is not possible to separately identify individual offences.

Section 71 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 was implemented on 6 April 2010. The most recently available data on court proceedings (held by the Ministry of Justice) is 2008. Court data for 2010 will be available in 2011.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been (a) arrested, (b) charged, (c) prosecuted and (d) convicted in respect of offences of trafficking under section 31 of the UK Border Act 2007 committed (i) in and (ii) outside the UK. [17978]

Reply from Damian Green: None. Section 31 of the Borders Act 2007 does not create a separate offence of trafficking but amends the offences contained within existing legislation which criminalises human trafficking.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been (a) arrested, (b) charged, (c) prosecuted and (d) convicted in respect of offences of trafficking for labour and other exploitation under section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004 committed (i) in and (ii) outside the UK. [17979]

Reply from Damian Green: As of 30 June 2010 in relation to offences of trafficking for labour exploitation there have been:

270 arrests;

86 people charged and prosecuted for trafficking and or other related offences; and

26 convictions comprising 10 for human trafficking and 16 for other offences.

At the end of June there were 50 cases at various stages of the criminal justice system.

The figures have been supplied by the UK Human Trafficking Centre.

These figures relate to offences within the United Kingdom. There has been one conviction of trafficking for forced labour where the victim was trafficked out of the UK. This offence was dealt with under the legislation of the receiving country.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101020/text/101020w0002.htm#10102059000040>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Early Day Motion

Jeremy Corbyn (870) Statement of changes in immigration rules (CM 7944) -That this House opposes the Statement of Changes in the Immigration Rules laid on 1 October 2010, Cm 7944, on account of its introduction of compulsory English language tests for non-EEA migrants applying to join or remain with their British or settled spouses, fiancé(e)s or partners in the UK as it will discriminate against South Asians, women, those in conflict zones and poor people in developing countries who will struggle to access English teaching before coming to the UK; notes that it will also generate hardship for certain groups of refugees, and former refugees with British citizenship who wish to be reunited with their spouses, and that such individuals cannot return to their home countries to live with their spouses for fear of torture or persecution; and believes this measure risks breaching the European Convention on Human Rights whilst also undermining the spirit of the Refugee Convention.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=41851&SESSION=905>

Press Releases

Biometric residence permits for highly skilled and temporary workers

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/oct/48brp-tier1-tier5>

October limit is reached for Tier 1 (General) applications from abroad

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/oct/52limit-reached-tier1-oct>

Poverty a major problem for refugees

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/761_poverty_a_major_problem_for_refugees

New publications

Refugees' Experiences and Views of Poverty in Scotland

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0000/0947/Poverty_Briefing_Paper_PDF.pdf

Driven to Desperate Measures: 2006-2010

http://www.irr.org.uk/pdf2/DtDM_2006_2010.pdf

News

Scots refugees 'struggling with poverty'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-11567706>

Immigrants to be charged for appeals

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-11598677>

One third of 'brain surgeon' immigrants in unskilled jobs

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1323268/One-brain-surgeon-immigrants-unskilled-jobs.html>

Britain shuts out highly skilled migrants as new limit is reached

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/oct/21/migrants-cap-new-limit-reached>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Doctors' regulators want to test language skills

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/8080881/Doctors-regulators-want-to-test-language-skills.html>

The new slaves: Children forced to work as farm labourers

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/the-new-slaves-children-forced-to-work-as-farm-labourers-2115115.html>

The racism that kills

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/oct/17/racism-asylum-seekers-uk-laws>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

Press Release

Citizenship Survey: April-June 2010, England

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/citizenshipsurveyq1201011>

New publication

Citizenship Survey: April-June 2010, England

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1546462.pdf>

News

Hideously diverse Britain: Is angling a racist sport?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/oct/19/hideously-diverse-britain-angling-racist>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Higher Education: Ethnic Groups

Chuka Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of school leavers from ethnic minority groups entering higher education. [17774]

Reply from David Willetts: 44% of English maintained-school pupils from ethnic minority groups, who were aged 15 in the 2003/04 academic year, progressed to higher education by age 19 in 2007/08. This figure is the latest available estimate based on matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record. Progression rates to higher education for ethnic minority groups are shown in the following table.

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Question (continued)

Estimates of the proportions of English maintained-school pupils from ethnic minority groups⁽¹⁾ aged 15 in 2003/04 who progressed to higher education⁽²⁾ by age 19 in 2007/08

<i>Ethnic group</i>	<i>Progression rate (percentage)</i>
All ethnic minorities	44
Black ⁽³⁾	35
Asian ⁽⁴⁾	52
Mixed ⁽⁵⁾	33
Other ⁽⁶⁾	42

⁽¹⁾ Ethnic minority groups include pupils whose ethnicity was classified as Black, Asian, Mixed or Other.

⁽²⁾ Covers UK higher education institutions and English further education colleges.

⁽³⁾ Includes African, Caribbean and other Black backgrounds.

⁽⁴⁾ Includes Bangladeshi, Chinese, Indian, Pakistani and other Asian backgrounds.

⁽⁵⁾ Includes White and Asian, White and Black African, White and Black Caribbean and other mixed backgrounds.

⁽⁶⁾ Includes Romany Gypsy and other backgrounds.

Note:

Percentages are based on pupils with known ethnicity and exclude those pupils whose ethnicity information was classified as unknown, refused or missing.

Source:

Matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101019/text/101019w0004.htm#10102010000009>

New publication

Overview of the impact of Spending Review 2010 on equalities

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_equalities.pdf

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Anti-Semitism

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to reduce the incidence of anti-Semitism since his appointment; what such steps he plans to take in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [17335]

Reply from Andrew Stunell: The Department of Communities and Local Government chairs the cross-Government working group to tackle anti-Semitism and plans to publish a three-year progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the All Party Inquiry into anti-Semitism in December 2010. The cross-Government working group will continue to meet over the next 12 months to tackle anti-Semitism and any other issues of concern to the Jewish community.

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Jewish community on reducing the incidence of anti-Semitism; and if he will make a statement. [17368]

Reply from Andrew Stunell: I met representatives of the Community Security Trust in September 2010 where the issue of reducing the incidence of anti-Semitism was discussed. I also attended the All Party Parliamentary Group on Anti-Semitism breakfast in May 2010 where issues concerning the Jewish community were discussed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101018/text/101018w0003.htm#10101831000012>

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which directorate of his Department has responsibility for the (a) formulation and (b) implementation of policy on reducing the incidence of anti-Semitism; how many officials at each pay band in his Department are employed in each such directorate; what other posts in his Department each such official has held; and if he will make a statement. [17384]

Reply from Andrew Stunell: The Communities and Neighbourhoods Directorate in the Department of Communities and Local Government is responsible for the formulation and in partnership with other Departments the implementation of policy on reducing the incidence of anti-Semitism. The department's work on anti-Semitism falls under the auspices of the team that works on hate crime and all other forms of hatred and intolerance. This team is made up of three officials, one at pay band 6.1, one at pay band 4.3 and one at pay band 3.2. All three have held a range of previous positions across Government including the Home Office, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Government Office for London.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101019/text/101019w0002.htm#10101955000043>

Press Release

Secretary-General cautions against new 'politics of polarization' in Europe

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=36488&Cr=Europe&Cr1>

News

Scotsman hate case man pleads guilty

<http://www.thejc.com/community/community-life/40053/scotsman-hate-case-man-pleads-guilty>

Hardliners call for deaths of Surrey Muslims

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/hardliners-call-for-deaths-of-surrey-muslims-2112268.html>

The Inevitable Racial Effect: Counter-Terror Stop and Search Powers

<http://www.humanrights.ie/index.php/2010/10/22/the-inevitable-racial-effect-counter-terror-stop-and-search-powers/>

[TOP](#)

Parliamentary Questions

Food: Labelling

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to bring forward proposals for food labelling guidelines requiring disclosure of slaughter methods for meat products. [18047]

Reply from James Paice: The European Parliament has suggested an amendment to the proposed EU food information regulations to require food labels to indicate whether an animal has been stunned before slaughter.

I appreciate that this is an issue which people feel strongly about and we will be working with interested groups to find a way to address their concerns. People should know what they are buying in shops and when they are eating out, and I will be discussing with the food industry whether labelling and point of sale information can play a greater role in giving consumers a choice.

Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations issued by her Department govern the (a) sale and (b) labelling of halal meat; and if she will make a statement. [18120]

Reply from James Paice: There are no specific regulations governing the sale and labelling of Halal meat. However, if meat is labelled as Halal, this must not mislead the consumer. Information provided on the label or in the presentation of a food must not be false or misleading under the Food Labelling Regulations 1996 (as amended), section 15 of the Food Safety Act 1990 (as amended), Article 16 of Regulation (EC) 178/2002 (General Food Law Regulation 2004) and the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008. Information provided or the overall presentation of a food must not deceive the average consumer such that the average consumer would make a purchasing decision that they would not have taken otherwise.

Madeleine Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the merits of bringing forward regulations to require halal slaughtered meat for sale to the public to be clearly labelled as such; and if she will make a statement. [18209]

Reply from James Paice: The European Parliament has suggested an amendment to the proposed EU Food information regulations to require food labels to indicate whether an animal has been stunned before slaughter.

I appreciate that this is an issue which people feel strongly about and we will be working with interested groups to find a way to address their concerns. People should know what they are buying in shops and when they are eating out, and I will be discussing with the food industry whether labelling and point of sale information can play a greater role in giving consumers a choice.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101020/text/101020w0001.htm#10102051000026>

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make an assessment of the effects on the market for kosher meat of EU regulations on labelling kosher meat; and if she will make a statement. [R] [17365]

Reply from James Paice: There are currently no specific EU regulations on labelling kosher meat. However, in the context of proposals for an EU Food Information Regulation, the European Parliament has suggested an amendment to require food labels to indicate whether an animal has been stunned before slaughter. I will be meeting with members of the Jewish community in early November to hear their concerns about the European Parliament proposal.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101019/text/101019w0001.htm#10101946000016>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Food: Labelling

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to ensure that food labelling includes information on the use of halal meat. [17665]

Reply from James Paice: The European Parliament has suggested an amendment to the proposed EU Food Information Regulations to require food labels to indicate whether an animal has been stunned before slaughter.

I appreciate that this is an issue which people feel strongly about and we will be working with interested groups to find a way to address their concerns. People should know what they are buying in shops or when they are eating out, and I will be discussing with the food industry whether labelling and point of sale information can play a greater role in giving consumers a choice.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101019/text/101019w0001.htm#10101946000014>

Slaughterhouses: Religious Practice

Madeleine Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the number of (a) slaughterhouses and (b) slaughterhouses practising halal slaughter. [18319]

Reply from James Paice: There are currently 346 approved slaughterhouses operating in Great Britain. There is no separate approval of Halal slaughterhouses and consequently we do not know the number of slaughterhouses practising Halal.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101019/text/101019w0001.htm#10101946000017>

Female Genital Mutilation

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many cases of female genital mutilation have been reported to UK police in each year since 2003; [17789]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the number of girls resident in the UK who have been taken overseas to undergo female genital mutilation in each of the last three years. [17790]

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: There is currently no national database which records the number of female genital mutilation (FGM) cases reported in the UK. However, Project Azure, a specialist unit within the Metropolitan Police, has been flagging FGM incidents since 2006, during which time they have recorded 166 possible cases of FGM.

Research suggests a number of barriers to reporting incidents of FGM including the age and understanding of the victim and pressure from the family or wider community.

No estimate has been made of the number of girls taken overseas to undergo FGM. In summer 2010, Project Azure ran a campaign to raise awareness of FGM with families travelling back to practicing countries. Officers operated in Terminal 4, Heathrow airport, in plain clothes with a view to identifying proactively those girls who may have been at risk of being taken out of the UK for FGM. The initiative also sought to raise awareness with those communities about the implications of FGM. Findings from this initiative are currently being assessed and will determine any follow-up enquiries with girls identified as being at risk of FGM.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101019/text/101019w0001.htm#10101950000008>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Niqabs

Lord Sheikh: To Ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to proposals for a ban on the niqab in the United Kingdom.[HL1847]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): The Government would oppose a change in the law as being out of keeping with our nation's long-standing approach to religious tolerance. A ban on what citizens can wear in the street would be an attack on the British rights and values of freedom of speech, freedom to associate and freedom of worship.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101019w0001.htm#10101929000585>

Early Day Motion

Sammy Wilson (864) United Nations resolution on defamation of religions - That this House strongly supports every person's right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, including freedom to change religion or belief as stated in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is deeply concerned that the United Nations resolution on Combating defamation of religions introduced annually at the UN by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference has the effect of severely restricting these foundational freedoms and undermines the right to religious liberty; encourages the ongoing work of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on this issue; welcomes the Right to Believe global petition of the Open Doors charity; and urges United Nations member states to reject this resolution.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=41845&SESSION=905>

[TOP](#)

New Publications

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Annual Report

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=a683e2c6-3259-4488-bd49-b18a2e2c667c&opt=1>

Public and Charity Perspectives 2010

Report

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=7473f0e0-d382-41cb-b15f-30117e88c35f&opt=1>

Summary

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=d6c6e122-285d-4138-8fc3-6edf50d6640b&opt=1>

Voluntary Power

http://www.reformscotland.com/include/publications/Voluntary_Power_-_consultation_report.pdf

Website: 60 years of the European Convention on Human Rights

<http://human-rights-convention.org/>

[TOP](#)

Other News

Research to explore the experiences of ethnic minority background solicitors in Scotland

The Law Society of Scotland has commissioned research to examine the experiences of ethnic minority background solicitors within the legal profession in Scotland. Evidence suggests that the proportion of solicitors who come from an ethnic minority background is steadily increasing but the 2006 Law Society study suggested that minority ethnic lawyers were significantly less likely to be equity partners than their white colleagues. The research also suggested that solicitors of an ethnic origin other than white were more likely to have suffered discrimination at work than solicitors of white ethnic origin. The research will focus on the experience of practicing solicitors, however will also explore the experiences of those in other roles, such as law students, trainee lawyers, and paralegals. For more information see

http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/10x_solicitors.doc

Can you have the 'wrong' skin colour? (and other interesting questions)

<http://ukhumanrightsblog.com/2010/10/18/can-you-have-the-wrong-skin-colour-and-other-interesting-questions/#more-4741>

Reporting crime is a waste of time, says survey

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/8083115/Reporting-crime-is-a-waste-of-time-says-survey.html>

Violent battle feared as 1,000 travellers are to be evicted from UK's biggest gipsy site

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/8082753/Violent-battle-feared-as-1000-travellers-are-to-be-evicted-from-UKs-biggest-gipsy-site.html>

Spending Review: Cuts could cost charities 'billions'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-11614520>

Now it's halal hairdressing: a snip for Scottish Muslims

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/now-it-s-halal-hairdressing-a-snip-for-scottish-muslims-1.1063415>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Certification of Death Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/58-CertDeath/index.htm>

End of Life Assistance Bill

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

Bills in Progress

Holyrood (continued)

Forced Marriage etc. (Protection and Jurisdiction) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/53-forcedMarriage/index.htm>

Local Electoral Administration Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/57-LocalElecAdmin/index.htm>

**** Palliative Care Bill**

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

Scottish Parliament Information Centre Briefing

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research/briefings-10/SB10-69.pdf>

Public Records Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/56-PublicRecords/index.htm>

Bills in Progress

Westminster

**** Face Coverings (Regulation) Bill**

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

Second Reading scheduled for 3 December 2010

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

Fixed Term Parliaments Bill

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

House of Lords Reform Bill

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

**** Human Trafficking (Border Control) Bill**

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

Second Reading scheduled for 17 February 2012

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

**** Identity Documents Bill**

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

Human Rights Committee Report

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201011/jtselect/jtrights/36/36.pdf>

Second Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101018-0001.htm#1010186000503>

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

**** 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/pbc0631810m.377-383.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/063/amend/pbc0631910m.427-433.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/063/amend/pbc0632010m.581-587.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/063/amend/pbc0632110a.733-739.html>

Committee Stage, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101018/debtext/101018-0001.htm#1010184000001>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101019/debtext/101019-0002.htm#10101928000008>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101020/debtext/101020-0002.htm#10102049000002>

Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/063/pro0631810p.61-67.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/063/pro0631910p.83-84.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/063/pro0632010p.85-91.html>

**** Return of Asylum Seekers (Applications from Certain Countries) Bill**

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

Second Reading scheduled for 2 December 2010

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

[TOP](#)

Consultations

(closing date)

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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

(29 October 2010)

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

Consultations (continued)

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

Certification of Death (Scotland) Bill (closes 18 November 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/inquiries/CertificationOfDeathBill/CallForEvidence.htm>

The Forced Marriage (Protection and Jurisdiction) (Scotland) Bill (25 November 2010)

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

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIO) Draft Regulations Discussion Paper (26 November 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/48453/0105742.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>

**** Shaping Bereavement Care** (2 December 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/327965/0105922.pdf>

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Draft Code of Practice on Further and Higher Education (closes 31 December 2010)

http://live.ehrc.precedenthost.co.uk/cgi-bin/generate.pl?page_id= sx0666i4b&save=screen

**** Introducing fee charges for appeals in the Immigration and Asylum Chambers of the First-Tier Tribunal and the Upper Tribunal** (21 January 2010)

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

**** New or updated this week**

**** this week!**

Black History Month

29 September -31 October 2010

For the programme of events see <http://www.gara.org.uk/attachments/BHM2010web.pdf>

**** this week!**

Localism and the Third Sector

25 October 2010 in Edinburgh

SCVO conference on the future for localism. 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)

**** this week!**

How do services acknowledge LGBT identities in BME communities?

25 October 2010 in Glasgow (9.30-1.30)

EveryoneIN discussion on improving access to services for people from black and minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds 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.

**** this week!**

Document 8: International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival

26-31 October 2010 in Glasgow (launch event 26 October, 7pm)

The Document Festival, which is intended to challenge negative media attitudes, was founded in response to the discrimination faced by asylum seekers and refugees in Glasgow. For information see <http://documentfilmfestival.org/>

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

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

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

9 November 2010 in Glasgow

17 December 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore immigration terminology, main refugee nationalities, why people flee and factors affecting migration, the Refugee Convention - its history and interpretation, the UK asylum process and current implementation in Scotland, how to develop culturally sensitive services, and issues facing practitioners and possible solutions; best practice for support and advocacy. For information contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/553_an_introduction_to_working_with_asylum_seekers_and_refugees

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Still not easy being British**

12 November 2010

Webchat and Q&A about multiculturalism and developments in Muslim identity politics with Tariq Modood, Catherine Fieschi, and Sunny Hundal discussing. For information see <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/events-conferences/econferences/still-not-easy-being-british.html>

Asylum law, beyond the first tier tribunal

23 November 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council legal seminar for immigration advisers, solicitors and advocates to examine representation of asylum claims to the Upper Tribunal and Court of Session. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/745_asylum_law_beyond_the_first_tier_tribunal

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

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.

UKBA (formerly NASS) asylum support - the essentials

30 November 2010 in Glasgow

3 February 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for people supporting those going through the asylum process. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/325_ukba_formerly_nass_asylum_support_-_the_essentials

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/>

Demands, Challenges, Opportunities: the changing third sector-public policy relationship

3 December 2010 in Edinburgh

SCVO Third Sector Research 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 or see <http://microsites.scvo.org.uk/scvo/SCVOEvents/ViewSCVOEvents.aspx?al=t&EID=1176&from=EventHome>

[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/>