

## Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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## Immigration and Asylum

### Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

#### Asylum Seekers (Accommodation)

**Anne McLaughlin** (Glasgow) (SNP): To ask the First Minister what the impact on local communities across Scotland will be of the decision by the United Kingdom Border Agency to cancel its contract with Glasgow City Council. (S3F-2711)

**Reply from the First Minister (Alex Salmond):** Both Glasgow City Council and the city of Glasgow have a positive record of welcoming and working with asylum-seeking families. The Scottish Government has no jurisdiction in matters between the UKBA and Glasgow City Council. Nevertheless, the Parliament and the people of Scotland should not lose sight of the fact that the needs of the 1,300 asylum seekers—vulnerable people who have often been through very traumatic experiences—must be foremost in all considerations of what must be done next. All asylum seekers who are dispersed to Scotland must be treated fairly and humanely, and, while they are in Scotland, they must be welcomed and supported in local communities. I understand that many of them are visiting Parliament today, and I hope that that offer is made to them on a cross-party basis.

**Anne McLaughlin:** I, too, welcome the Glasgow asylum seekers and their friends who are in the public gallery and those who are watching in the public area. I ask the First Minister to do two things.

## Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

First, will he condemn the sickening, disgraceful letter that many asylum seekers received last week, telling them that they would have just three to five days' notice to pack no more than two suitcases and move to a location somewhere in Scotland?

Secondly, will he make the strongest representation possible to the Home Office, telling it that the UKBA must get round the table again with Glasgow City Council to ensure that the city whose Government, whose council and whose ordinary people—many of whom are in the public gallery today—have invested so much in providing the particular support that is needed by those who seek refuge is able to continue to provide that support?

**Reply from the First Minister:** As Anne McLaughlin knows, the matter is not within the Scottish Government's devolved competence. However, that does not mean that we have not acted. Scottish Government funds have been used in projects to improve the lives of asylum seekers and refugees, such as the Bridges Programmes in Glasgow, which helps refugees to overcome barriers to employment, and the Maryhill Integration Network, which provides language classes and activities to encourage integration. I condemn in the strongest possible terms the nature of the letter that the asylum seekers received. I have constantly made it clear that asylum seekers should be welcomed and treated with respect and dignity in Scotland. I therefore share the concerns about the letter, which shows a lack of sensitivity and respect. It would be totally inappropriate in any circumstances, but it is reprehensible when dealing with vulnerable people. I will make those views, which I hope are shared by the whole Parliament, known to the Home Secretary, and I will make it clear that negotiations between the UKBA and Glasgow City Council should be reopened immediately.

**Johann Lamont** (Glasgow Pollok) (Lab): I welcome and agree with the First Minister's comments about the role that Glasgow citizens and Glasgow City Council have played in their long-standing support for asylum seekers.

The First Minister may be aware that young people from Lourdes secondary school in my constituency are at the Parliament today to highlight the impact of the issuing of those awful letters on individual school students and the school community. We know about the work that has been done on the matter by Glasgow MPs and the Scottish Affairs Committee and their broad approach to it, which the First Minister mentioned. Will he consider how he and his education minister might intervene in relation to their responsibilities for the young people whose schooling is being disrupted and for whom the actions that are being taken at UK level have huge personal, social and educational consequences?

**Reply from the First Minister:** As the member knows, on a number of occasions in the past, on education and other grounds related to our devolved activities, we have intervened to try to secure the position of asylum seekers, and we will be delighted to do so again, in the hope of securing a better position for them.

I welcome the tone and the nature of these exchanges. It must be of encouragement to people in their extremity to see a Parliament that is united in seeking to defend the interests of vulnerable people.

**Robert Brown** (Glasgow) (LD): Does the First Minister share my view that the priority now must be to retain asylum seekers in their current homes and to keep their children in their current schools? Regardless of the management arrangements that are contracted for by the UKBA, stability and security are vital for such people, many of whom, as the First Minister touched on, have gone through horrendous experiences at the hands of oppressive regimes abroad. Do the protocols regarding the treatment of asylum seekers that were arrived at with such great difficulty between successive Scottish Governments and the most recent UK Government give the Scottish Government the opportunity to discuss practical solutions to the issues at hand with the Border Agency and, indeed, the UK Government?

## Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Reply from the First Minister:** I must confess that I have never found the UK Border Agency to be among the foremost advocates of the respect agenda between Westminster and Scotland. Nonetheless, given that the important matter here is the treatment of people who are in a vulnerable situation, we will take up Robert Brown's suggestion and will seek to use the protocols to defend their position.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-10/sor1118-02.htm#Col30620>

## Westminster Debates

### Immigration

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101118/debtext/101118-0002.htm#10111862000001>

### Immigration and Nationality (Fees) (No. 2) Regulations 2010

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101117-0001.htm#10111743000858>

## Westminster Parliamentary Questions

### Immigration Cap

**Keith Vaz** (Leicester East) (Lab): What recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the effect of implementation of the immigration cap on recruitment and retention in small businesses. [24741]

**Reply from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable):** Ministers and officials in my Department, and I, are in regular contact with the Home Secretary and other Ministers and officials in the Home Office to discuss the implementation of the commitment to limit non-EU economic migration. Those discussions have, of course, considered all types of business across the economy.

**Keith Vaz:** I welcome the fact that 12 hours after the publication of the Home Affairs Committee's report on immigration the Government accepted our recommendation on the immigration cap with regard to intra-company transfers. However, there is a problem, in that the Home Secretary qualified this by reference to a minimum salary of £40,000. Will the Business Secretary continue with the representations that I know he is making to the Home Office that these salary positions make it extremely difficult, especially for small businesses, to be flexible in their recruitment of people from overseas?

**Reply from Vince Cable:** I thank the right hon. Gentleman for his contribution to that valuable report, whose conclusions the Home Secretary has endorsed. Our overall approach to this is reflected in the answer that the Prime Minister gave in Parliament yesterday. He said that he wanted our policy to be "business-friendly and helpful to the economy."-[ *Official Report*, 17 November 2010; Vol. 518, c. 885.] Skilled, entrepreneurial and talented people will be welcome under the immigration policy.

**Peter Bone** (Wellingborough) (Con): I am sure that Government Members entirely welcome the Government's cap on immigration. Obviously we will be having a debate on immigration later today, which has been put on by the Backbench Business Committee. Will the Secretary of State confirm that the immigration cap does not apply to EU citizens, so they represent a big pool for small businesses to attract?

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Reply from Vince Cable:** The hon. Gentleman is right on a matter of fact: this is a cap on non-EU migration, not on migration from the EU.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101118/debtext/101118-0001.htm#10111862000033>

### Asylum: Glasgow

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the decision to terminate the UK Border Agency housing contract with Glasgow City Council was taken; for what reasons the contract was terminated; whether the UK Border Agency is liable for payments to Glasgow City Council as a result of the early termination of the contract; with what providers the UK Border Agency intends to rehouse asylum seekers following the termination of the contract; what type of accommodation will be provided; and what discussions the UK Border Agency had with Glasgow City Council on the housing contract before termination occurred. [23917]

**Reply from Damian Green:** A contract review allowed the UK Border Agency (UKBA) and Glasgow city council to review the terms of the contract. Discussions were held over a period of months but the two parties were unable to reach agreement on the costs of housing asylum seekers despite the UKBA offering an increase on what are, already, the highest accommodation charges in the UK outside London. I agreed with the final decision to terminate the contract with Glasgow city council just prior to the termination letter being issued on 5 November 2010. Asylum seekers currently accommodated by Glasgow city council will be transferred to either Glasgow YMCA or to the Angel Group and will be provided with suitable housing to the equivalent standards as that supplied by Glasgow city council. We are hopeful that in many cases they will be able to remain in the same accommodation. The agency will be liable for early termination costs which have not yet been determined. These costs will be significantly lower than the savings that will now be realised by moving service users to alternative providers already operating in Glasgow.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what daily rate the UK Border Agency paid for asylum seeker accommodation with Glasgow city council. [23928]

**Reply from Damian Green:** This information is commercially sensitive and the disclosure of such rates would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both the Home Office and those companies and local authorities with whom the Home Office enters into contracts but they are the highest in the UK outside London.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what daily rate the UK Border Agency will pay for asylum seeker accommodation with replacement providers following the Agency's decision to terminate its housing contract with Glasgow city council. [23929]

**Reply from Damian Green:** information is commercially sensitive and the disclosure of such rates would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both the Home Office and those companies and local authorities with whom the Home Office enters into contracts.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment the UK Border Agency has made of the costs incurred by asylum seekers in moving accommodation following the Agency's decision to terminate its housing contract with Glasgow city council. [23930]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The incoming accommodation providers will manage and pay the costs associated with moving asylum seekers to alternative accommodation.

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) individuals and (b) families the UK Border Agency is housing in accommodation managed by Glasgow city council. [23932]

**Reply from Damian Green:** As of 8 November 2010 Glasgow city council were supporting 274 individuals and 334 families, a combined total of 1,271 individuals.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the timescale is for moving to alternative accommodation asylum seekers housed with Glasgow city council. [23933]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The contract with Glasgow city council will terminate on 3 February and we will transfer those affected to an alternative provider by this date. This may not require a physical move given that one of the other accommodation providers in Glasgow also uses Glasgow Housing Association as a provider of accommodation.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assistance the UK Border Agency plans to provide for asylum seekers with removal costs following the Agency's decision to terminate its housing contract with Glasgow city council. [23934]

**Reply from Damian Green:** Removal costs will be the responsibility of the incoming provider and not for the affected asylum seekers.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions the UK Border Agency had with (a) UK Ministers, (b) the Scottish Executive and (c) the Scottish Refugee Council prior to the Agency's decision to terminate its housing contract with Glasgow city council. [23936]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency advised Home Office Ministers of the intention to terminate the contract and also informed officials at the Scottish Government and the Scottish Refugee Council of the likelihood of termination and of the final decision to terminate the contract prior to the formal termination letter being issued on 5 November 2010.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any asylum seekers being re-housed from accommodation with Glasgow city council will be moved to accommodation outside (a) Glasgow city and (b) Scotland. [23937]

**Reply from Damian Green:** There are no plans to move asylum seekers currently supported by Glasgow city council either outside of Glasgow or Scotland.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice has been issued by the UK Border Agency to asylum seeker tenants of Glasgow city council regarding their re-housing. [23939]

**Reply from Damian Green:** A letter has been issued to all service users currently accommodated by Glasgow city council in Glasgow Housing Association properties advising them of the possibility that they may be moved to alternative accommodation and offering details of support available to them if they have any queries. Further communication is planned to keep the service users advised of future developments.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Border Agency will be contracting with any organisations to assist tenants moving from Glasgow city council accommodation. [23940]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The responsibility for providing support and accommodation to service users moving from Glasgow city council rests with the incoming accommodation provider. The incoming accommodation provider will be one of our two remaining regional accommodation providers. The Scottish Refugee Council will be in a position to provide additional advice if required.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101116/text/101116w0003.htm#1011174000014>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

### Asylum: Glasgow

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what (a) discussions and (b) correspondence he has had with (i) the Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency and (ii) the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the termination of the contract for accommodation and other services between the UK Border Agency and Glasgow city council. [24244]

**Reply from Michael Moore:** I am in regular contact with Home Office Ministers on matters related to immigration and asylum. Senior officials in the Scotland Office have regular discussions with the UK Border Agency's director for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with (a) Glasgow city council, (b) the Scottish Executive and (c) the Scottish Refugee Council on the termination of the contract for accommodation and other services between the UK Border Agency and Glasgow city council; and if he will make a statement. [24245]

**Reply from Michael Moore:** My officials have been kept informed of the negotiations between UK Border Agency (UKBA) and Glasgow city council which led to the recent termination of the contract to provide accommodation services. The UKBA informed officials in the Scottish Government and the Scottish Refugee Council of the likelihood of termination and of the final decision to terminate the contract prior to the formal termination letter being issued to Glasgow city council on 5 November 2010. I understand that the UKBA is working with support organisations in Glasgow to ensure individuals and families will be transferred to their new accommodation with minimum disruption.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101115/text/101115w0001.htm#101115500012>

### Asylum: Glasgow

**William Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what future arrangements her Department plans to make for asylum seekers in Glasgow following the termination of the contract between the UK Border Agency and Glasgow city council for the provision of accommodation and other services to asylum seekers. [24118]

**Reply from Damian Green:** We will transfer those affected to an alternative provider operating in Glasgow by 3 February 2011. The affected service users are currently accommodated, under a sub contract arrangement, with Glasgow Housing Association. The other accommodation provider to whom we are transferring service users also uses Glasgow Housing Association (GHA) as a provider of accommodation, so no physical move of service users may be necessary.

**William Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on the future dispersal of asylum seekers to Glasgow. [24119]

**Reply from Damian Green:** Asylum seekers will continue to be dispersed to the remaining two housing providers in Glasgow, that is Angel Group and YMCA Glasgow.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101118/text/101118w0002.htm#10111865000113>

### UK Border Agency: Glasgow

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the chief executive of the UK Border Agency on the termination of the contract between the UK Border Agency and Glasgow city council for the provision of accommodation and other services to asylum seekers; and if she will make a statement. [24120]

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Reply from Damian Green:** The Secretary of State for the Home Department has not discussed the termination of the contract between the UK Border Agency and Glasgow city council with the chief executive of the UK Border Agency. She does not intend to make a statement on this matter.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether compensation will be payable by the UK Border Agency to Glasgow city council following the termination of the contract between these bodies for the provision of accommodation and other services to asylum seekers. [24121]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency will be liable for early termination costs which have not yet been determined. These costs will be significantly lower than the financial savings that will be realised by moving service users to alternative providers already operating in Glasgow.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101118/text/101118w0002.htm#10111865000125>

### Asylum: Finance

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Section 4 payment cards are in use by people in (a) Scotland, (b) England, (c) Wales and (d) Northern Ireland. [23479]

**Reply from Damian Green:** There are currently 358 Azure payment cards in use in Scotland, 3,452 in England, 300 in Wales and 27 in Northern Ireland.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which retailers participate in the Section 4 payment card scheme, and what plans the UK Border Agency has to extend the (a) number and (b) range of participating retailers. [23480]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The Section 4 payment card can be used at over 8,800 retail outlets throughout the UK. The Azure payment card is accepted at all Tesco, Asda, Sainsburys, Morrisons and Co-op Group supermarkets and local shops. The card can also be used at Boots and Peacocks clothing stores. Mothercare will shortly be joining the scheme and Sodexo is in discussions with low cost supermarkets Lidl and Aldi to reconsider their decision not to join the scheme.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much in unspent credit has been recovered from section 4 payment cards in each month since the scheme was introduced. [23482]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The estimated amount of unspent credit recovered from the Section 4 payment card for the first year of its operation is £650,000. The figure is not collated monthly.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the operating costs for the Section 4 payment card scheme were in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [23483]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The Section 4 payment card scheme is cost neutral, costs being covered by commission from retailers and improved efficiency in UK Border Agency processes.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department at what rate calls to the automated balance check telephone line for users of the Section 4 payment card are charged. [23484]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The automated balance check telephone line for users of the Section 4 payment card is a free phone facility. There is no cost to the caller from BT landlines and other landlines provided by other telephone operators. Costs for calls made from mobiles may vary subject to the charges of the specific mobile operator.

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there is a multilingual option for users of the Section 4 payment card using the automated balance check telephone line. [23485]

**Reply from Damian Green:** There is no multilingual option for users of the Section 4 payment card using the automated balance checking telephone operators. The facility is accessed on average 12,000 times per week with an average call time of 37 seconds.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Border Agency operates a helpline for participating retailers on the operation of the Section 4 payment card. [23486]

**Reply from Damian Green:** participating retailers on the operation of the Section 4 payment card. Each affiliate retailer manages their staff training with assistance from Sodexo.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what emergency facilities are available for users of the Section 4 payment card whose weekly resources have been exceeded. [23487]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency does not provide any emergency facilities for users of the Section 4 payment card whose weekly resources have been exceeded. The current rate of £39.39 per person, per week is considered to be sufficient to meet the essential living needs of the supported persons.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will consider the merits of increasing the weekly carry-over limit for the Section 4 payment card. [23488]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency currently has no plans to review the £5 carry-over limit for supported singles. The £5 carry-over limit does not currently apply to families with children under the age of 18 or expectant mothers.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether retailers are able to credit a Section 4 payment card where a user has returned a purchased item. [23489]

**Reply from Damian Green:** There is no provision for retailers to immediately credit a Section 4 payment card where a user has returned a purchased item. Credits appear on the supported persons Section 4 payment card account within 48-hours from the return of the item.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the merits of extending the Section 4 payment card scheme to include charity shops. [23490]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency has held discussions with the Association of Charity Shops who canvassed their members on viability of extending the Section 4 payment scheme to include charity shops. The members did not ask to be included in the Section 4 payment card scheme. However, the UK Border Agency is currently in talks with the Red Cross who have indicated an interest in the scheme.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Section 4 payment cards have been reported (a) lost or stolen or (b) used without authorisation in each month since the introduction of the scheme. [23491]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency does not centrally record the numbers of Section 4 payment cards that have been lost or stolen. The UK Border Agency only tracks replacements, irrespective of the reason for the replacement. Cards can be cancelled immediately in the case of loss or theft.

## Immigration and Asylum

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes were made to the Section 4 payment card scheme as a consequence of its trial in Scotland. [23492]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The Section 4 payment card scheme was not trialled in Scotland. Scotland was the first region in which the Section 4 payment card scheme was implemented. Therefore, no changes were made to the scheme following the first stage of the roll out in Scotland.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what budget advice is provided to individuals using Section 4 payment cards; in what language this advice is available; and if she will place in the Library a copy of such guidance. [23493]

**Reply from Damian Green:** Each Section 4 payment card is distributed by the accommodation providers on behalf of the UK Border Agency. The accompanying information is in English and does not contain any budget advice.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Border Agency has received reports of restrictions which retailers have placed on the purchase of certain items by users of Section 4 payment cards. [23494]

**Reply from Damian Green:** Restrictions on the type of items that can be purchased with the Section 4 payment card are set by the UK Border Agency not the contracted retailers.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to allow the withdrawal of limited cash sums using the section 4 payment card to enable payment for items or services not accessible through participating retailers. [23731]

**Reply from Damian Green:** There are currently no plans to allow the withdrawal of cash sums using the Section 4 payment card to enable payment for items or services not accessible through participating retailers.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the UK Border Agency will bring forward proposals to allow users of the section 4 payment card to check card balances (a) online and (b) in-store at participating retailers. [23732]

**Reply from Damian Green:** There are currently no plans to allow users of the Section 4 payment card to check card balances either online or in-store at participating retailers. A free phone automatic balance checking facility is available to enable service users to manage their weekly support.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to enable individuals using section 4 payment cards to use (a) supermarket loyalty cards and (b) discount coupons when making purchases. [23733]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The ability of individuals to use Section 4 payment cards in conjunction with supermarket loyalty cards and discount coupons is a matter for the participating retailers.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports she has received of adverse effects on asylum seekers of the operation of the section 4 payment card system. [23734]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The Asylum Support Partnership has produced a report entitled 'Your inflexible friend: the cost of living without cash' dated October 2010. Although this report only sampled 1% of those who use Azure cards and the vast majority responded positively, it raises a number of points regarding the operation of the Section 4 payment card for failed asylum seekers. The Government are committed to ongoing monitoring of the operation of the system, including through dialogue with voluntary sector partners, but it does not accept that the results from the survey are indicative of the experience of the majority of users. In October 2008, the Refugee Council produced a report entitled 'More Token Gestures: A report into the use of vouchers for asylum seekers claiming Section 4 support' dated October 2008.

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when (a) Ministers and (b) UK Border Agency officials will arrange to meet representatives of the Asylum Support Partnership to discuss the operation of section 4 payment cards. [23735]

**Reply from Damian Green:** There are no plans for Ministers to meet with representatives of the Asylum Support Partnership to discuss the operation of Section 4 payment cards. However, members of the Asylum Support Partnership regularly attend working level meetings with UK Border Agency officials at which Section 4 payment cards and other issues are discussed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101116/text/101116w003.htm#101117400013>

### Asylum: Finance

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of each item of guidance issued to retailers on the operation of the section 4 payment card. [23425]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency is not in possession of guidance issued to retailers on the operation of the Section 4 payment card. This is a matter for Sodexo, the contractor who operates the Section 4 payment scheme on behalf of the UK Border Agency. Sodexo liaises directly with the individual participating retailers regarding the provision of guidance.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether retailers participating in the section 4 payment card scheme receive a fee. [23426]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The retailers participating in the section 4 payment card scheme do not receive any fee.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much credit is allocated to section 4 payment cards for individuals with children. [23427]

**Reply from Damian Green:** Section 4 support is paid at the flat rate of £39.39 per person, per week, irrespective of the age of the main supported person and/or their dependants.

In addition, there is provision in the regulations for payments of £5 per week for clothing for children, and for grants of £250 to expectant and new mothers. Further allowances can be made for stationery, phone card and birth certificates. These payments are provided on the payment cards.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Border Agency records instances where individuals using the section 4 payment card have been refused service by participating retailers. [23428]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency records instances where individuals using the section 4 payment card have been refused service by participating retailers. A small minority of attempted transactions result in refusals, and in most cases, are the result of the service user having insufficient funds on their card.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has received reports of any technical difficulties in the operation of the section 4 payment card. [23429]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency records instances where individuals using the section 4 payment card have experienced technical difficulties. The number of unsuccessful transactions caused by technical or supermarket training issues was just over 2% of the total number of unsuccessful transactions to the end of October 2010.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the UK Border Agency takes to (a) measure and (b) monitor levels of hardship among asylum seekers. [23430]

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Reply from Damian Green:** No asylum seeker need be destitute while their claim is being determined. The UK Border Agency provides support to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute from the time they arrive in the UK until their claim is determined, and any appeal rights are exhausted.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101115/text/101115w0001.htm#1011155000058>

### Asylum: Finance

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how long on average section 4 payment cards have been used by asylum seekers prior to (a) return to country of origin and (b) grant of UK immigration status. [23431]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency does not hold this information centrally. The UK Border Agency would incur a disproportionate cost in collating this information.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assistance for transportation costs is available for people in receipt of Section 4 support. [23481]

**Reply from Damian Green:** Under the Immigration and Asylum (Provision of Services of Services or Facilities) Regulations 2007 ("the 2007 Regulations") the Secretary of State may supply, or arrange for the supply of, facilities for travel for a qualifying journey to a supported person to (a) receive health care treatment, provided that the supported person has provided evidence that the qualifying journey is necessary; or (b) register a birth.

This is usually provided in the form of public transport tickets issued by the supported person's accommodation provider on behalf of the UK Border Agency.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101118/text/101118w0002.htm#10111865000112>

### Asylum

**Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to shorten the length of time that asylum applications take to be processed. [23909]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The Asylum Improvement Project, which was established by the Government in the summer, is exploring new ways to improve the asylum system to speed up the processing of applications while improving the quality of decision making. It is an internal project but the team are consulting with corporate partners throughout the process and will adapt and change the plans as necessary. Current work includes a number of pilot initiatives including a project in west London to reduce the number of decisions overturned at appeal, the use of a case triaging tool in Leeds which will help caseworkers decide the most efficient way to sequence their activities, and a number of initiatives across the country to reduce the length of asylum interviews and decisions. We will evaluate progress in April 2011 and will implement the successful pilots nationally.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101115/text/101115w0001.htm#1011155000056>

### Asylum: Deportation

**David Nuttall:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers have absconded after receiving deportation notices since May 2010. [23343]

**Reply from Damian Green:** We have assumed 'deportation notices' to mean 'removal notices' Between the 1 May 2010 and 31 October 2010, 176 failed asylum seekers absconded after being served with removal directions.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101115/text/101115w0001.htm#1011155000057>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

### Detention Centres: Children

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were held in detention awaiting deportation on the most recent date for which figures are available. [24095]

**Reply from Damian Green:** National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers are published quarterly in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom. The Statistical Summary for the second quarter of 2010, the most recent available, coupled with local management information, indicates that just one child was detained with its family awaiting removal as at 30 June 2010.

This figure is based on management information and is not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics. It is provisional and may be subject to change.

Information on people detained solely under Immigration Act powers as at 30 September will be available on 25 November in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, July-September 2010 on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been detained in each type of accommodation in each location in each of the last five years. [24096]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The information requested is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers are published quarterly in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom. Information on people detained solely under Immigration Act powers as at 30 September will be available on 25 November in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, July-September 2010 on 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 continues to work with its corporate partners to find an alternative that protects the welfare of children, without undermining UK immigration

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101116/text/101116w0003.htm#1011174000016>

### People Trafficking

**Lord Hylton:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the decisions made by the UK Border Agency in cases of persons alleged to have been trafficked. [HL3696]

**The Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones):** Expert competent authorities located in the UK Human Trafficking Centre and UK Border Agency make decisions on trafficking cases. The training for all competent authority staff is identical and they work to the same guidance and rules. A multi-agency quality assurance exercise in February 2010 found the quality from both competent authorities to be generally high.

The functioning of the national referral mechanism (NRM) is overseen by an official-led Strategic Monitoring Group, which includes representatives from government departments, local authorities, the UK Human Trafficking Centre and NGO service providers. In the second half of this year this group oversaw a review of the NRM, including the decision-making process. It concluded that the NRM

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

was working reasonably well but as part of the government's commitment to improve its response to trafficking the Strategic Monitoring Group is developing a number of options to reform the process, including increasing the speed of decision-making.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101116w0001.htm#10111636000398>

## Westminster Early Day Motion

**Lisa Nandy (1037) Children in immigration detention** - That this House notes the Children's Society and Bail for Immigration Detainees' OutCry! campaign to end the detention of children for asylum and immigration purposes; commends the Government for pledging to end this immoral practice and including this objective in its Coalition Agreement; further notes that there are still children being detained at Yarl's Wood and other UK Border Agency centres and that 50 children have been detained since the announcement; calls on the Government to amend the asylum process in such a way as to build trust and communication with the families involved, including improving access to good quality legal advice to ensure that children and families have a fair chance to have their claims heard early on in the process; and urges the Government to fulfil its pledge to end child detention without delay and put in place an asylum and immigration system that takes into account the safety and welfare of children and families.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=42026&SESSION=905>

## Press Release

**New English language requirement for partners**

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/26-english-language-partners>

## New publications

**Migration Advisory Committee report on limits for Tier 1 and Tier 2 for 2011/12 and supporting policies**

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/mac-limits-t1-t2/report.pdf?view=Binary>

**Proposal for the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004 Remedial) Order 2010**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201011/jtselect/jtrights/54/54.pdf>

**Capping Immigration to the UK: Where next?**

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=/ecomm/files/Capping%20Immigration%20to%20the%20UK%20Nov2010.pdf&a=skip>

**Working in concert: Building common ground for the global governance of migration**

[http://www.icmc.net/system/files/publication/working\\_in\\_concert\\_building\\_common\\_ground\\_for\\_the\\_30133.pdf](http://www.icmc.net/system/files/publication/working_in_concert_building_common_ground_for_the_30133.pdf)

**European borders : controls, detention and deportations**

<http://www.migreurop.org/IMG/pdf/rapport-migreurop-2010-en - 2-121110.pdf>

## **Immigration and Asylum** (continued) **News**

### **We call for humanity to be at heart of housing negotiations**

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/latest\\_news/817 we call for humanity to be at heart of housing negotiations](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/817_we_call_for_humanity_to_be_at_heart_of_housing_negotiations)

### **Protest set over re-homing of asylum seekers in Glasgow**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-11800778>

### **Archbishop's anger over asylum seeker evictions**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/archbishop-s-anger-over-asylum-seeker-evictions-1.1069713>

### **Minister attacks plans for immigration crackdown**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/minister-attacks-plans-for-immigration-crackdown-1.1068206>

### **Blanket immigration cap is deeply flawed**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-view/blanket-immigration-cap-is-deeply-flawed-1.1068283>

### **Anger at forced move for 600 asylum families**

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Anger-at-forced-move-for.6626992.jp>

### **Crunch talks offer housing lifeline to asylum seekers**

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/editor-s-picks/crunch-talks-offer-housing-lifeline-to-asylum-seekers-1.1068744>

### **Protesters hit out at 'shameful' plan to disperse asylum seekers from Glasgow**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/protesters-hit-out-at-shameful-plan-to-disperse-asylum-seekers-from-glasgow-1.1068728>

### **Refugee families facing eviction have stay of execution**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/refugee-families-facing-eviction-have-stay-of-execution-1.1069198>

### **Cut non-EU migrant workers by up to 25%, ministers told**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-11783973>

### **Asylum seekers cannot be forced to lie about their political beliefs**

<http://ukhumanrightsblog.com/2010/11/19/asylum-seekers-cannot-be-sent-back-and-forced-to-lie-about-political-beliefs/>

### **The government's immigration sums don't add up**

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/articles/?id=4220>

### **Companies could take ministers to court over immigration shake-up**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/8147819/Companies-could-take-ministers-to-court-over-immigration-shake-up.html>

### **New law to end council house queue jumping by immigrants**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1331685/New-law-end-council-house-queue-jumping-immigrants.html>

## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

#### **My Britishness is more than skin-deep**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/nov/21/immigration-britain-white-minority>

#### **Being a migrant in the UK**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/nov/19/migrant-britain-peoples-panel>

#### **Foreign students in UK to be hit hard by immigration cuts**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/nov/18/non-eu-student-numbers-halved-immigration>

#### **Salmond condemns plan to evict asylum seekers as 'devoid of compassion'**

<http://www.heraldsotland.com/news/politics/salmond-condemns-plan-to-evict-asylum-seekers-as-devoid-of-compassion-1.1069784>

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## Race Relations

### Press Release

#### **2010 International Day for Tolerance**

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=PR854%282010%29&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&Site=COE&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE>

### News

#### **Faiths come together in joint action**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2010/nov/18/tony-blair-mitzvah-day>

#### **White Britons 'could be minority by 2066'**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/white-britons-could-be-minority-by-2066-2137329.html>

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## Equality

### Press Releases

#### **Equality Statement Scotland's Budget 2011-12**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/331780/0107965.pdf>

#### **Equality Analysis in the Budget and Spending Review 2011 Onwards: A Report by the Equality and Budget Advisory Group (EBAG)**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/331608/0107910.pdf>

#### **Equality and the Budget: A Guide to Making Informed Spending and Budget Decisions: Resource Pack**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/331589/0107907.pdf>

## Equality

### Press Releases (continued)

**Coping with Change and Uncertainty: Scotland's Equalities Groups and the Recession**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/331394/0107863.pdf>

**Government will not 'dictate' how people behave says Theresa May**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/equality-speech>

**Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights talks equality in Brussels**

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DHCtalksequalityinBrussels.aspx>

### New publication

**Skin-deep democracy: How race, religion and ethnicity continue to affect Westminster politics**

<http://www.quilliamfoundation.org/images/stories/pdfs/skin-deep-democracy.pdf>

### News

**Oxford University: A dream too far for Black students?**

<http://www.obv.org.uk/news-blogs/oxford-university-dream-too-far-black-students>

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## Racism and Religious Hatred

### New publication

**Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region – Incidents and Responses: Annual Report For 2009**

[http://www.osce.org/publications/odhr/2010/11/47692\\_1563\\_en.pdf](http://www.osce.org/publications/odhr/2010/11/47692_1563_en.pdf)

### News

**Scots nurse who converted to Islam insists she has no regrets despite being abuse over her faith**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/real-life/2010/11/16/scots-teacher-who-converted-to-islam-insists-she-has-no-regrets-despite-being-abuse-over-her-faith-86908-22720417/>

**Stop and search plans are 'discriminatory', watchdog warns**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/nov/15/stop-and-search-equality-commission>

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## Other Holyrood

### Petition

**Public Petitions Committee consideration of: Gypsy Traveller Community (Government Apology) (PE1363)**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/petitions/or-10/pu10-1702.htm#Col3088>

### Press Releases

**Budget statement**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/11/17080954>

**Parliament's corporate body announces 12 per cent budget cut by 2014/15**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-10/pa10-050.htm>

**Commission on Public Services**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/11/19124547>

### News

**Cuts and pay freeze unveiled in Scottish budget**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-11766040>

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## Other Westminster

### Parliamentary Question

#### **“Topical Question” on Education**

[23548] **Bob Blackman (Harrow East) (Con):** Krishna-Avanti primary school, which is in my constituency, is the first state-sponsored school for Hindus in the country. The school, which has won an award for sustainable design, has just had an Ofsted inspection resulting in an excellent review. Will the Secretary of State agree to visit that community-led school, see it at first hand, and conduct its official opening?

**Reply from Michael Gove:** In this pre-Diwali season, I think we should pay tribute to the significant success of that Hindu school, and to the significant commitment of many Hindu parents to ensuring that our state education can provide respect for their faith along with a perfect preparation for the world of work and further study. I should be delighted to visit that outstanding school.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101115/debtext/101115-0001.htm#10111511000031>

### Press Releases

**PM's speech at Diwali Reception**

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/speeches-and-transcripts/2010/11/pms-speech-at-diwali-reception-57158>

## Other Westminster Press Releases (continued)

### PM's message for Eid ul Adha

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2010/11/pms-message-for-eid-ul-adha-57204>

### Foreign Secretary's Eid-ul-Adha message

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=75548682>

### Eric Pickles sends a message of good wishes at Eid ul-Adha

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/multimedia/communities/1769167>

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## Other News

### New website for young Gypsies and travellers in Wales

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-11755207>

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## 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>

Committee not convinced by End of Life Assistance Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-comm-10/elac10-s3-001.htm>

End of Life Assistance Bill: Stage 1 Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/endLifeAsstBill/reports-10/ela10-01-vol1.htm>

The Stage 1 debate will take place on 25 November

#### 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>

Stage 1 evidence from the Interim Electoral Management Board, the Association of Electoral Administrators, and the Electoral Commission

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/lgc/or-10/lg10-2702.htm#Col3748>

#### \*\* Palliative Care Bill

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

Stage 1 evidence from the Scottish Government

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/or-10/he10-3301.htm>

## **Bills in Progress**

### **Holyrood** (continued)

#### **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>

#### **\*\* Fixed Term Parliaments Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/064/amend/pbc0641211a.1171-1177.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/064/amend/pbc0641611m.1181-1187.html>

Committee stage, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101116/debtext/101116-0002.htm#10111632000002>

Committee Stage Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/064/pro0641611p.315.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>

#### **\*\* Identity Documents Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/019/amend/am019-rb.htm>

Bill as brought to the House of Lords from the Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/029/2011029.pdf>

Report Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101117-0001.htm#10111743000857>

#### **\*\* Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill**

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

House of Lords, Motion to refer to the Examiners

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101115-0001.htm#1011158000966>

Second Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101115-0002.htm#10111524000167>

## Bills in Progress

### Westminster (continued)

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101116-0002.htm#10111643000022>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/026/amend/am026-a.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/026/amend/am026-b.htm>

### **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

**\*\* closes this week!**

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

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

**\*\* closes this week!**

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

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

**\*\* closes this week!**

**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>

**The Future of the Citizenship Survey** (30 November 2010)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1756366.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** (31 December 2010)

[http://live.ehrc.precedenthost.co.uk/cgi-bin/generate.pl?page\\_id= sx0666i4b&save=screen](http://live.ehrc.precedenthost.co.uk/cgi-bin/generate.pl?page_id= sx0666i4b&save=screen)

**UK Extradition Arrangements** (31 December 2010)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/views-extradition>

**Charity Commission for England and Wales: Views on Future Strategy** (14 January 2011)

[http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr\\_strategic\\_review.aspx](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr_strategic_review.aspx)

## Consultations (continued)

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

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/fee-charges-appeals-consultation-211010.htm>

**Prevent Review** (closing date not stated)

<http://preventreview.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

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## Job Opportunities

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

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## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* New or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

**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](mailto:jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/745 asylum law beyond the first tier tribunal](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/745_asylum_law_beyond_the_first_tier_tribunal)

**\*\* this week!**

**EHRC dialogue session with minority ethnic communities**

24 November 2010 in Dumfries (11.30 – 2.00)

As part of its strategy to empower grass root community groups and organisations, BEMIS is arranging sessions to stimulate dialogue and direct engagement between the EHRC and local community groups. For information contact Tanveer Parnez 0141 548 8047/ [tanveer.parnes@bemis.org.uk](mailto:tanveer.parnes@bemis.org.uk)

**\*\* this week!**

**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](mailto:jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=94>

**\*\* this week!**

**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/32.html> as they become available.

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **Beyond Religion and Belief - Addressing Sectarianism in the Workplace in Scotland**

30 November 2010 in Glasgow (1.45 – 3.45)

Nil by Mouth launch of a unique workplace scheme created to help build positive cultures in Scotland's workplaces. For information contact Lisa Campbell 0141 225 8008 / [mail@nilbymouth.org](mailto:mail@nilbymouth.org)

### **UKBA 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](mailto:jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see [http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/325\\_ukba\\_formerly\\_nass\\_asylum\\_support\\_-\\_the\\_essentials](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/>

### **Equality Act 2010: What does it mean for you?**

2 December 2010 in Stirling

19 January 2011 in Edinburgh

17 February 2011 in Inverness

Equality and Human Rights Commission conferences to provide information about how the Act works and how to use it, what discrimination means and who is protected. For information contact David Reilly [David.Reilly@equalityhumanrights.com](mailto:David.Reilly@equalityhumanrights.com) / 0141 228 5967 or see [http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/11ii\\_ehrc.pdf](http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/11ii_ehrc.pdf)

### **Race Equality in Scotland**

2 December at the Scottish Parliament 2010 (6.00 – 8.00)

Runnymede event to mark 10 years since the Commission on the Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain published its landmark report "The Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain". For information contact Vicki Butler [Vicki@runnymedetrust.org](mailto:Vicki@runnymedetrust.org)

### **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](mailto:helen.swatton@scvo.org) or see <http://microsites.scvo.org.uk/scvo/SCVOEvents/ViewSCVOEvents.aspx?al=t&EID=1176&from=EventHome>

### **Amina Muslim Women's Centre Conference**

4 December 2010 (10.30 – 4.30)

Conference to celebrate and empower Muslim women. For information contact Amina 0141 585 8026 / [info@mwrc.org.uk](mailto:info@mwrc.org.uk).

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### Home Sweet Home?

10 December 2010 in Falkirk (9.30 – 1.00)

Seminar to explore particular issues faced by black and minority ethnic (BME) women and children. These include – Forced Marriage; Honour Violence; FGM; Domestic Abuse; No Recourse to Public Funds. For information contact Alicia Kirkwood [Alicia.kirkwood@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:Alicia.kirkwood@falkirk.gov.uk) or see [http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/10x\\_home.doc](http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/10x_home.doc)

### An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

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](mailto: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](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/553_an_introduction_to_working_with_asylum_seekers_and_refugees)

### Scottish Refugee Council AGM

14 January 2010 in Edinburgh (2.00)

Keynote speaker Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty. The year 2011 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees, and the theme of the AGM will be to recognise the importance of this international agreement which has saved thousands if not hundreds of thousands of lives over the years. For information contact Graeme Corbett [Graeme.Corbett@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:Graeme.Corbett@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) /0141 223 7930

### Working with Interpreters

20 January 2011 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](mailto:jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 248 9799

### Violence Against Women Faith, Culture and Practice Training

23 February 2011 in Stirling(10.00 – 4.00)

Amina training to explore the faith and cultural dimensions associated with the perpetration of violence against women in the Muslim and other Communities. For information contact [pdu@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:pdu@stirling.gov.uk) / 01786 442 562.

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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/AToZOofCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT\\_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw](http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOofCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw)

## Useful Links (continued)

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](http://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](http://www.acas.org.uk)

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

Volunteer Development Scotland [www.vds.org.uk](http://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](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/>