

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

British Citizenship

Aidan Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals of each original nationality have been deprived of British citizenship in each year since the Immigration and Asylum Act 2006 came into force. [33472]

Reply from Damian Green: Section 56 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 which relates to deprivation of British citizenship, came into force on 16 June 2006.

Since that date, nine individuals have been deprived of their British citizenship. Their original nationalities were one Australian, one Iraqi, one Pakistani, one Albanian, two Sudanese, one Russian, one Egyptian and one Lebanese. This information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such, it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110124/text/110124w0002.htm#11012427000012>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Migration Impacts Fund: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding was allocated to the Scottish Government from the migration impact fund in each of the last three years. [36374]

Reply from Damian Green: Migration impact funding is allocated to the Scottish Government under the Barnett formula.

The first allocation under the fund to the Scottish Government was £2.973 million in 2009-10 and a further £1.18 million was allocated in 2010-11 making a total of £4.153 million.

The fund was not in existence for the year 2008-09 and has since been terminated.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110127/text/110127w0002.htm#11012776000021>

Immigration

Matthew Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to end the link between (a) temporary routes and (b) permanent settlement. [35498]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government will introduce an interim package of changes, in April 2011, which will tighten the current settlement criteria.

There will be a new criminality threshold, requiring all applicants to be clear of unspent convictions when they apply for settlement.

Skilled and highly skilled migrants applying for settlement will need to meet the income criteria that applied when they last extended their permission to stay.

If an economic migrant fails to pass the Life in the UK test, their application for settlement will be refused.

We will remove the ability for new entrants into the Intra Company Transfer route to extend their leave beyond five years.

These measures are a first step in ensuring that we break the automatic link between temporary and permanent migration. We will bring forward further proposals later this year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110125/text/110125w0001.htm#11012554000020>

Migration

Gareth Johnson (Dartford) (Con): What recent progress has been made towards the Government's commitment to reduce net migration. [35095]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): We have already announced that we will introduce a new permanent limit on non-EU economic migrants, with a reduction in visas from tiers 1 and 2 in the next financial year from 28,000 to 21,700. Those changes to the economic routes will be introduced in April. We are currently consulting on changes to tighten the student route and will consult on family and settlement later this year.

Gareth Johnson: I am grateful to the Home Secretary for her answer. I am sure she agrees that reducing net immigration is essential to the United Kingdom. How successful was the points-based system in controlling immigration to this country?

Reply from Theresa May: My hon. Friend is right, and that is why the Government have the aim of reducing net migration to tens of thousands from the hundreds of thousands. Of course, it reached the hundreds of thousands under the points-based system that the previous Government operated. However, the problem was not the points-based system, but the fact that the previous

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Government had no proper policy for ensuring that immigration was brought under control. This Government will ensure that immigration is controlled and that net migration is reduced.

Shabana Mahmood (Birmingham, Ladywood) (Lab): What is the exact reduction that the Secretary of State will achieve in the net migration figures this year and in each year up to 2015 to fulfil the firm pledge, which she appears to have again relegated to the status of an aim, to cut net migration to the tens of thousands by 2015? [*Interruption .*]

Reply from Theresa May: As one of my hon. Friends just said, "Nice try." Of course, I am unable to give the hon. Lady an exact figure for net migration this year. There will be people across the world who have not decided whether they want to apply to come to the UK, and people in the UK who have not yet decided whether they want to leave. Nobody knows exactly what that figure will be.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110124/debtext/110124-0001.htm#1101248000020>

Immigration (Scotland)

Jim McGovern (Dundee West) (Lab): What assessment she has made of the effects on Scotland of the limit on immigration. [35091]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): A full impact assessment covering the whole of the UK will be published when we lay new immigration rules in March □to implement the changes that will introduce the new limits from April. As the hon. Gentleman knows, immigration is not a devolved matter.

Jim McGovern: I thank the Minister for his response. In my constituency, there are two universities and a number of successful science and technology companies. I have been presented with cases at my constituency surgery in which promising employees and students have been rejected simply because the immigration limits have been reached. Those people are highly qualified and would be of significant benefit to the Dundee and UK economies. How can we simply turn them away?

Reply from Damian Green: As the hon. Gentleman knows, the purpose of the limit is to meet the need to control Britain's immigration system in a way that enables businesses to bring in the skilled workers that they need. I remind him and employers in Scotland that the unemployment rate in Scotland is above the UK average, at 8.4% compared with 7.8% for the UK. We should have regard to the needs of Scottish workers when companies look to recruit.

Tony Baldry (Banbury) (Con): When one of my great-grandfathers left the Gordon Highlanders as a pipe major, he could not find work in Scotland. Like many Scots, he came south to England. If there are job vacancies in Scotland, should people not be thinking of moving the other way? Is it not a bit strange for the Opposition to be on the one hand bemoaning unemployment levels, and on the other hand campaigning for higher immigration levels?

Reply from Damian Green: My hon. Friend makes exactly the right point. It was the previous Prime Minister who made the unfortunate point about British jobs for British workers at a time when British workers were not taking the majority of the jobs available in this country. This Government are determined to balance the economy better in many ways, in particular by ensuring that as many of the available jobs as possible are available to workers in Britain and, indeed, Scotland.

Pete Wishart (Perth and North Perthshire) (SNP): I think that everybody in Scotland is getting tired of the complacent response on these issues. The Minister has managed to unite all businesses, all universities, the health sector and all employers in Scotland in

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opposition to the immigration cap, because of the damage it will do to the Scottish economy. When will he acknowledge that Scotland's population issues are entirely different from England's? Will he accept that one cap does not fit all when it comes to immigration?

Reply from Damian Green: There are indeed differences in Scotland, and one is that unemployment in Scotland is higher than in England, and higher than the average for the rest of the UK. I dare say that those who are complaining about this matter do not include workers in Scotland, and do not include the unemployed in Scotland.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110124/debtext/110124-0001.htm#110124800017>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

William Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with colleges in Scotland on the effects of the Government's immigration policy on the further education sector in Scotland. [34864]

Reply from David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland met representatives from Scotland's Colleges' Principals' Convention earlier this month and discussed a range of issues important to the further education sector, including the Government's consultation on student immigration.

William Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with representatives of the further and higher education sector in Scotland on the effects of the Government's immigration policy on (a) numbers of students and (b) economic and employment in Scotland. [34867]

Reply from David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland has had a number of discussions with the Scottish further and higher education sector about the Government's immigration policy. Most recently, he discussed the Government's proposals on student immigration with representatives from Scotland's colleges' principals' convention earlier this month, and with the Convenor of Universities Scotland in December.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110124/text/110124w0001.htm#110124500015>

Students: Visas

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the effect on universities in Scotland of changes to student visas. [36489]

Reply from David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland and I are in regular discussion with ministerial colleagues in the Home Office, including on how changes to the immigration system impact on Scotland.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will publish each communication he has received on the Home Office consultation by the Home Office on changes to student visas. [36490]

Reply from David Mundell: The Government's consultation on student immigration is currently under way and closes on 31 January. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not standard practice to publish communications between Ministers on the development of Government policy.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110127/text/110127w0003.htm#1101277800015>

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Visas: Internet

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has plans to enable (a) students and (b) other visitors from abroad to submit applications for visas entirely online. [34778]

Reply from Damian Green: There are three main parts to the overseas visa application process:

- Application form
This may be submitted online
- Biometric (fingerprint) enrolment and core biometric verification (checking passport details)
This is done in person by the applicant at one of our Visa Application or Biometric Enrolment Centres
- Supporting document submission (may be done in person or sent depending on location)
Given that an applicant will be required to submit biometrics in person, there are no plans to enable (a) students and (b) other visitors from abroad to submit applications for visas entirely online.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110126/text/110126w004.htm#11012688000139>

Entry Clearances: Carers

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discretion is available to the UK Border Agency to allow adults with special needs to remain in the UK while an application is made for residence, where the main carer of the applicant is a UK citizen with right of residence. [36378]

Reply from Damian Green: All applicants who submit a valid application to the UK Border Agency for permission to remain in the UK before their previous permission expires are permitted to remain in the UK pending the outcome of that application. Where appropriate, a right of appeal will be given if the application is refused. When an application is made after the expiry of an individual's permission to remain in the UK, the application is made out of time and the applicant is an over-stayer. The UK Border Agency will also consider applications from those whose stay here has lapsed but in the event that the application is refused, there will not be a right of appeal and the person will be considered for removal if they fail to leave voluntarily.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110127/text/110127w002.htm#11012776000014>

Immigration

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Freud on 11 January (WA 433), whether employers need to establish the right of all potential employees to undertake employment by checking their immigration status and ascertaining whether they are subject to immigration control; and what provisions are in force to ensure discriminatory practices such as racial profiling are not followed when requiring from applicants documentation proving a right to work in the United Kingdom.[HL5960]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The UK Border Agency recommends that document checks are conducted on all prospective employees including British citizens as this provides evidence of an open and transparent recruitment process that does not discriminate against individuals on racial grounds. Guidance documents for employers on preventing

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illegal working include a code of practice that helps employers to comply with the law on illegal working without discriminating against individuals on the basis of their race. This code of practice—*Guidance for Employers on the Avoidance of Unlawful Discrimination in Employment Practice While Seeking to Prevent Illegal Working*—is available on the UK Border Agency website: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/preventingillegalworking.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110124w0001.htm#11012420000744>

Non-EU Student Immigration

Desmond Swayne (New Forest West) (Con): What steps she plans to take to control student immigration from non-EU states. [35096]

Andrew Selous (South West Bedfordshire) (Con): What steps she is taking to control levels of student immigration from non-EU states. [35100]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The Government launched a public consultation on proposed changes to the student visa arrangements on 7 December 2010. The proposals will result in a more selective system and reduce the numbers to support our aim of reducing net migration to sustainable levels.

Desmond Swayne: What importance does the Minister attach to student visas in his overall objective of reducing net migration to a sustainable level?

Reply from Damian Green: It is an extremely important part of the overall reduction that we need. Taking action on students is particularly important as they make up roughly two thirds of non-European economic area immigrants, and the number of student visas issued has been rising in recent years. Getting a proper grip on the out-of-control system that we inherited requires action on all the main routes of immigration, and that is precisely what the Government will do.

Andrew Selous: Will my hon. Friend reassure me that in future there will be robust checks on the departure of all foreign students whose visas have expired?

Reply from Damian Green: Yes, we are proceeding with the e-Borders system, which already manages to track the journeys of roughly 55% of those who come in and out of the country. By the end of the Parliament, that figure will be up to mid-90%. My hon. Friend identifies a key problem: it is not just a question of who comes but of how long they stay and whether they go at the end of their stay.

Barry Gardiner (Brent North) (Lab): In taking the action on students about which the Minister has spoken, will he acknowledge the importance of non-EU students to British institutions of higher education and learning? Will he ensure that he clamps down on the bogus colleges that have violated those students' expectations?

Reply from Damian Green: I am happy to agree with both points in the hon. Gentleman's question. Of course we want our universities to flourish and the brightest and best students to come to this country and study at good, genuine institutions. However, we are already cracking down on the bogus colleges and on those that do not provide a proper education. The significance of the distinction between those two things, which the hon. Gentleman rightly makes, is that more than 40% of those who come here on student visas study at below degree level. Often, the public perception of a student as somebody who studies at a university is simply wrong in the case of those who come here from abroad on student visas.

Gerry Sutcliffe (Bradford South) (Lab): But if, as the Minister says, 40% of students are on below-degree courses, his policy could have a major impact on the funding of colleges and universities. Has he had discussions with Government colleagues about the impact of achieving the 40% reduction that he is apparently looking for?

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Reply from Damian Green: I welcome the hon. Gentleman to his first Home Office questions as the Labour party's immigration spokesman. Yes, of course we have extensive discussions within the Government on the effects of the controls that we will introduce. He will have seen that very surprising numbers of people come here to do sub-degree courses not at public further education colleges but at privately funded colleges. He will be aware that there are many hundreds of those colleges, and that they are—frankly—of variable quality.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110124/debtext/110124-0001.htm#1101248000021>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether international students enrolled at UK institutions will be eligible to remain in the UK under tier 1 post-study work arrangements for two years after completion of their studies. [35875]

Reply from Damian Green: On 7 December, we published a public consultation—'The Student Immigration System: A Consultation'. One of the proposals on which we are inviting views is what changes we should make to the tier 1 post study work route, as well as the timing of any changes and any transitional arrangements which may be necessary. We will announce our final decisions on the future shape of tier 4 in due course, following the closure of the consultation on 31 January. Those students in tier 4 of the points based system will, as now, be able to work in the UK after graduation by switching into tier 2, provided they meet the applicable requirements.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110125/text/110125w0001.htm#11012554000017>

Asylum: Finance

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the Azure card system; what estimate she has made of the level of unspent credit on such cards; and what plans she has to review the system. [35987]

Reply from Damian Green: The Azure pre-payment card is administered for the UK Border Agency by Sodexo Ltd Sodexo provides regular updates on the card's performance to the UK Border Agency's chief executive.

From November 2009 to December 2010 there have been over 1 million successful transactions which represents 85% of the total. Only 0.25% (3,600) of the unsuccessful transactions were due to technical faults, with 14% due to users not having sufficient funds in their account and the remaining 0.75% due to service users attempting to use their card in non-affiliated stores.

The estimated amount of unspent credit recovered from the Azure card for the first year of its operation is £650,000. The figure is not collated monthly.

Beyond this, the UK Border Agency has no plans to review the Section 4 payment card system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110125/text/110125w0001.htm#11012554000014>

Asylum: Housing

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 398-9W, on asylum: housing, what the (a) minimum and (b) maximum number of people seeking asylum was that each local

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authority or local authority consortium has been required to house under contracts with the UK Border Agency in each of the last five years. [36276]

Reply from Damian Green: The contractual minimum and maximum volumes for each local authority/consortia are shown in the following table. The figures have not changed for the duration of the contracts awarded in 2006.

	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Maximum</i>
Glasgow CC	2,000	2,200
NECCASS	1,250	2,882
Y&H Consortium	3,345	3,885
NW Consortium	500	2,245
Liverpool City Council	185	725
West Midlands Consortium	1,300	1,800
Cardiff City Council	400	1320
Swansea City Council	200	275

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 398-99W, on asylum: housing, what estimate she has made of the (a) minimum and (b) maximum number of people seeking asylum that each local authority or local authority consortium will be required to house under contracts with the UK Border Agency in each of the next five years. [36277]

Reply from Damian Green: New contracts for the provision of accommodation for eligible asylum seekers are due to be awarded in 2012. Invitations to tender for these contracts will be released in spring this year and we are currently formulating a strategy to deliver best value for the tax-payer. It will be open to local authority consortia to submit tenders under this procurement exercise. We cannot provide estimates of projected minimum and maximum numbers of asylum seekers to be housed by local authority under contract as we cannot pre-empt the outcome of the procurement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110127/text/110127w0002.htm#11012776000008>

Illegal Immigrants

Edward Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department plans to take to control illegal immigration. [35093]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is committed to combating illegal immigration in line with the agency's strategic threat assessment and crime control strategy. By working with UK and international law enforcement organisations, the agency focuses its investigative effort to disrupt and dismantle organised crime networks that cause the greatest harm.

Over 55% of all passenger movements into and out of the UK are currently covered by the e-Borders system. This is being used to target would be illegal immigrants, as well as terrorist suspects and known criminals, before they cross the border. Additionally, a network of staff in key countries abroad issue biometric visas, collect intelligence and prevent people with forged documents from boarding planes, to prevent high risk individuals from entering the UK.

Teams working around the country investigate immigration offences and take action against illegal workers and those that employ them. The Government also allow only restricted access to a limited range of state funded benefits to those here illegally. The UK Border Agency deports foreign national prisoners and

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removes illegal immigrants who have no lawful basis to remain here, and who refuse to leave the country voluntarily. This Government have committed to creating a new National Crime Agency. This will include a new Border Police Command to strengthen the operational response to organised crime and better secure our borders—a key national security requirement. This command will enable the development and execution of a single coherent border security strategy, drawing on a single national threat assessment. This will deliver our commitment, made in the coalition programme for government, to establish a border police force to "enhance national security, improve immigration controls and crack down on the trafficking of people, weapons and drugs".

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110124/text/110124w0002.htm#11012427000022>

Illegal Immigrants

Matthew Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants (a) were removed from and (b) voluntarily departed the UK between July and September 2010. [36459]

Reply from Damian Green: The table shows the number of removals and voluntary departures between July and September 2010.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

<i>Removals and voluntary departures^(1,2), from the United Kingdom, by type, July to September 2010</i>						
<i>Number of departures⁽³⁾</i>						
	<i>Enforced removals and voluntary departures</i>					
	<i>Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures⁽⁴⁾</i>	<i>Assisted voluntary returns⁽⁵⁾</i>	<i>Other voluntary departures⁽⁶⁾</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Non-asylum cases refused entry at port & subsequently removed⁽⁷⁾</i>	<i>Grand total</i>
July	1,700	430	1,245	3,380	1,555	4,935
August	1,690	430	1,250	3,370	1,600	4,975
September	1,730	390	1,145	3,265	1,520	4,785
Jul to Sept	5,125	1,250	3,640	10,015	4,675	14,690

⁽¹⁾ Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

⁽²⁾ Provisional figures. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

⁽³⁾ Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

⁽⁴⁾ Includes persons leaving under Facilitated Return Schemes.

⁽⁵⁾ Persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. May include some on-entry cases and some cases where enforcement action has been initiated.

⁽⁶⁾ Persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

⁽⁷⁾ Includes removals performed by Immigration Officers at ports using enforcement powers and cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110127/text/110127w0002.htm#11012776000018>

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Immigrants: Detainees

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of persons detained under Immigration Act powers have (a) convictions for offences in the UK, (b) served prison sentences in the UK, (c) convictions in other countries and (d) served prison sentences in other countries. [36216]

Reply from Damian Green: While the UK Border Agency records information on the convictions of those who meet the criteria for deportation, we do not record information electronically on the convictions of those who do not meet the criteria nor do we record information on convictions in other countries. To obtain this information would exceed the cost threshold.

However we can advise that in 2010, for an average month, approximately 635 foreign national prisoners were detained in prison and 1,135 in immigration removal centres, beyond the end of their custodial sentence while deportation was considered. These average figures are based on internal management information and are subject to change.

We recognise the risk posed when foreign nationals with a history of offending overseas enter the UK. The proactive transfer of information across borders that would alert border or law enforcement agencies when such individuals travel is a complex and challenging area, particularly within the EU where freedom of movement is an established right for all citizens.

However, we are currently seeking to reduce this risk by working with our European partners and law enforcement organisations such as Europol and Interpol to encourage improved police co-operation. We are also investigating how member states within Europe approach offender management and particularly whether comparable systems to our Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) exist. Through this work we will assess whether we can seek to extend these MAPPA principles across borders to reduce the risk posed by travelling offenders.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the 20 longest recorded lengths of time are of a person who is currently in detention under Immigration Act powers. [36217]

Reply from Damian Green: As at 30 September 2010, management information shows that of the 2,890 people detained solely under Immigration Act powers, the 20 longest recorded lengths of detention are:

<i>Length of detention in days</i>	<i>Number of detainees</i>
1,793	1
1,507	1
1,395	1
1,345	1
1,311	1
1,238	1
1,214	1
1,175	1
1,140	1
1,125	1
1,115	1
1,109	1

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1,049	1
1,034	1
1,031	1
1,023	2
1,011	1
1,001	1
988	1

Note:

Figures exclude persons detained in police cells, Prison Service establishments and those detained under both criminal and immigration powers. They relate to most recent period of sole detention. The period of detention starts when a person first enters the UK Border Agency estate. If the person is then moved from a removal centre to a police cell or Prison Service establishment, this period of stay will be included if the detention is solely under Immigration Act powers. These figures are based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics. They are provisional and may be subject to change.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Immigration: Detention

Lord Tebbit: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Jones on 30 November 2010 (WA 436), how many people detained for immigration purposes are not free to leave detention by leaving the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom.[HL5674]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The number of people who might be detained for immigration purposes who are not free to leave the

jurisdiction of the UK because, for example, of ongoing court or criminal proceedings is not centrally recorded and this information could be obtained only by the examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

There are likely to be few, if any, cases at any given moment and generally these individuals will be kept in detention only if they pose a harm to the public or there is reason to believe that they will not comply with conditions of temporary release.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110126w0001.htm#11012649000261>

Deportation: Human Rights

Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 676W, on deportation: human rights (1) for what reason the UK Border Agency does not record centrally the information on removals which did not proceed as a result of the application of provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights; and if she will make a statement; [35927]

(2) what estimate she has made of the indicative cost of collecting the information

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requested; what methods she used to make that estimate; and if she will make a statement. [35929]

Reply from Damian Green: In responding to these questions, I have assumed 'deportations' to mean 'removals'.

Data relating to removals is recorded on the Case Information Database (CID), which is the main information technology system used by the UK Border Agency (UKBA). For the purposes of reporting, CID records removals cancellations under standardised categories such as Judicial Review, Injunction, Medical Representations, and Further Representations received. Cases considered under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) Article 3 and Article 8 would fall under the further representations category.

The only way to identify these specific ECHR cases would be to undertake a search of the individual case notes or the electronic files for all cases with removals cancelled due to further representations, in the time period requested.

The number of removals cancelled as a result of further representations from 1 April 2008 to 15 January 2010 was 600.

Based on previous case by case searches we have estimated it would take it would take on average 10 minutes to review each individual case. The appropriate grade to carry out this type of work would be an executive officer, whose salary is £144.87 per day .

Therefore to search 600 records would take 100 hours (i.e. 14 working days) and cost £2,012.00.

This expenditure is over the disproportionate cost threshold.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110125/text/110125w0001.htm#11012554000015>

Immigration: Deportation

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the death of Jimmy Mubenga when restrained by officers from G4S, whether G4S continues to accompany deportees.[HL5757]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The Government would prefer that those with no basis of stay in the United Kingdom leave the country voluntarily. Where they fail to do so escorts are empowered legally to ensure they comply with their removal. It has been the practice of successive Governments to use private security companies to escort immigration detainees. G4S has a contract to provide such services to the UK Border Agency until the end of April 2011 when the service will be provided by Reliance Secure Task Management.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110124w0001.htm#11012420000745>

Human Trafficking

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her strategy is for reducing the incidence of human trafficking. [35056]

Reply from Damian Green: Combating human trafficking is a key priority for the Government. Our approach involves tackling organised crime groups who profit from this human misery and supporting protecting victims. A new human trafficking strategy is currently in development, due for publication in the spring.

Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many decisions by the competent authority regarding the National Referral Mechanism have been reversed since 1 April 2009; and if she will make a statement. [35227]

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Damian Green: Since the National Referral Mechanism commenced on 1 April 2009 there are 19 recorded cases where the decision has been formally reversed following reconsideration by the Competent Authority. The Competent Authority's decision is often the result of multi-agency consultation and will be reconsidered if significant additional information becomes available after the initial decision is made.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what scope the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Trafficking has to examine policies and practices on human trafficking across Government. [35276]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government recognise the importance of monitoring the progress of anti-trafficking efforts in the UK and our international obligations.

The Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group has full scope to examine and monitor human trafficking policy and practices in the UK.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Trafficking has issued since its inception. [35277]

Reply from Damian Green: The Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group does not issue reports.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110124/text/110124w0002.htm#11012427000021>

Human Trafficking

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to launch a successor to Operation Pentameter II for the purposes of reducing the incidence of human trafficking. [35551]

Reply from Damian Green: This is an operational matter for the police and the Serious Organised Crime Agency, and will be determined by operational priorities.

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of operations Pentameter I and II in reducing the incidence of human trafficking. [35552]

Reply from Damian Green: During the operational phase of the Pentameter 1 and 2 investigations, 638 people were arrested for human trafficking related and other offences and 257 potential victims, including five for trafficking for forced labour, were recovered.

A key objective of these operations was to build knowledge of human trafficking amongst law enforcement agencies in order that anti-trafficking work could be continued at force level as part of core police business. Forces now have the knowledge and capability to run anti-human trafficking operations, and where necessary can be supported by the operational co-ordination and tactical advice capacity of the UK Human Trafficking Centre.

Peter Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make an assessment of the extent to which the UK complies with the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention against human trafficking. [35628]

Reply from Damian Green: We are confident that the UK meets or exceeds the standards required by the Council of Europe Convention against human trafficking. The Command Paper CM 7465 laid before Parliament in September 2008 details the operational and legislative changes and impact on the UK as a result of ratifying the convention.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110125/text/110125w0001.htm#11012554000018>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking

Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many decisions by the competent authority regarding the National Referral Mechanism have been subsequently reversed through judicial review. [35226]

Reply from Damian Green: We are not aware of any competent authority decisions being reversed by judicial review. There have been a very small number of cases where a judicial review application has caused the competent authority to reconsider the case and this has led to a negative decision being reversed.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to support more effective enforcement internationally to combat human trafficking. [35321]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government work closely with international counterparts, including through regional bodies such as the European Union and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, to strengthen joint enforcement activity in source and transit countries, to tackle criminal networks and to raise awareness among potential victims. Law enforcement partners work in collaboration with international counterparts, using Joint Investigation Teams where appropriate. The forthcoming human trafficking strategy will set out what steps we will take to reinforce these efforts.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to encourage the reporting of human trafficking. [35350]

Reply from Damian Green: The reporting of human trafficking is crucial if the United Kingdom is to be successful in its effort to combat this brutal crime.

To this end, the UK Human Trafficking Centre, in conjunction with the National Policing Improvement Agency, has introduced mandatory training for all new police officers on human trafficking.

The UK Border Agency has introduced mandatory e-learning on human trafficking for all operational staff below the level of Assistant Director. This has helped to improve their ability to identify and report potential incidents of human trafficking, and where applicable to refer onwards via the National Referral Mechanism.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the work of the UK Human Trafficking Centre's prevention sub-group in each year since its inception. [35351]

Reply from Damian Green: There has been no Home Office assessment of the UK Human Trafficking Centre's prevention sub-group.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110126/text/110126w0004.htm#11012688000130>

Trafficking (Women and Girls)

Pamela Nash (Airdrie and Shotts) (Lab): What steps [does the Minister plan] to take to address the trafficking of women and girls. [36322]

Reply from the Minister for Equalities (Lynne Featherstone): Policy responsibility for human trafficking rests with the Minister for Immigration. Combating human trafficking, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls, is a key priority for the Government. We are committed to tackling organised crime groups who profit from this human misery, and to protecting victims. Tackling organised immigration crime, including trafficking, is a high priority for the Serious Organised Crime Agency, of which the UK Human Trafficking Centre is now part.

Pamela Nash: I thank the Minister for her answer, and I appreciate that this subject also falls under the category of immigration. Given that the European Union directive on trafficking would ensure that the UK provided further protection and support for victims, does she agree that we should enter into that commitment without further delay?

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: We have said all along that we would look at what was happening in the European directive. The wording was decided on the 13th, and the member states are now deciding whether to opt in or not. When that has happened, we will take a look, and if there are further things that we think would be helpful, we will make a decision then.

Peter Bone (Wellingborough) (Con): I welcome the Government's review of the policy on human trafficking. Will the Minister tell us whether all non-governmental organisations with an interest in this field, including the all-party parliamentary group on human trafficking, are being consulted on the review?

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: As far as I am aware, the NGOs are being consulted, although there is not a public consultation.

Fiona Mactaggart (Slough) (Lab): The Minister says that her Government are making anti-trafficking a high priority. Now that the directive has been completed, is she seriously saying that she is going to wait for other states to make a decision before Britain does so? Should not we be in the lead on this issue? The directive has been supported by Members of the European Parliament of all parties represented in this House. Is it not time for her to adopt the directive? If she is not planning to do so yet, will she tell us why not?

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: We have to look at it and then make our decision. On 14 October, during the anti-slavery day debate, the Minister for Immigration announced a new strategy to tackle human trafficking that involved disrupting the practice in the country of origin and on the border, as well as supporting the victims. We will have to see what the EU directive adds or does not add, and we will make our decision in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110127/debtext/110127-0001.htm#11012762000027>

Press Releases

Housing benefit cuts to be reviewed

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/908_housing_benefit_cuts_to_be_reviewed

Asylum seekers shouldn't have to move

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/907_asylum_seekers_shouldnt_have_to_move

Student visa reform

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/student-visas>

UK Border Agency publishes amended guidance on powers and prosecutions

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/jan/74-amended-guidance-section-35>

'European Court explodes myth that Europe is able to protect the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and irregular migrants', says PACE President

<https://wcd.coe.int/wcd/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1735505&Site=DC&ShowBanner=no&Target=sel&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

New publications

Rights on the Line

<http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/wrd1210webwcover.pdf>

Frequently asked questions about the rights of EEA nationals to access benefits and the changes for A8 nationals from 1 May 2011.

<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/publications/FAQ-rights-benefits-A8-May-2011.pdf>

News

Refugee education scheme scrapped

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Refugee-education-scheme-scrapped-.6703470.jp>

Archbishop urges government to protect gay asylum seekers

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/jan/28/archbishop-gay-asylum-seekers>

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Race Relations

Westminster Debate

Community Cohesion

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110126/halltext/110126h0001.htm#11012648000002>

News

Muslim and Jewish students forge friendship network

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2011/jan/24/muslim-jewish-students-friendship>

Dale Farm: The battle to save Britain's biggest traveller community

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/this-britain/dale-farm-the-battle-to-save-britainrsquos-biggest-traveller-community-2196331.html>

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Equality

News

Tick the double standards box now

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/Features/Focus/article526958.ece>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Prime Minister's Questions: Holocaust Memorial Day

Q9. [35939] **Mr James Clappison** (Hertsmere) (Con): Tomorrow is Holocaust memorial day—the anniversary of the day on which Auschwitz was liberated. Will my right hon. Friend join me in paying tribute to the Holocaust Education Trust and its work to ensure that the lessons of the holocaust are not forgotten?

Reply from the Prime Minister: I know that my hon. Friend speaks for the whole House when he raises the brilliant work that the Holocaust Education Trust does. I think this is a good time to pay tribute to the, sadly very few, holocaust survivors left. I had the huge privilege of meeting one, Trude Levi, yesterday in No. 10 Downing street. To hear the story of what those people went through, what they escaped, and in many cases what they had to go through even after they escaped, is truly humbling. We must never forget—not just because of what happened in Europe in the holocaust, but because too often there is genocide in our world today; we need to be permanently reminded of that fact.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmtoday/cmdebate/02.htm#d2e948>

Religious Intolerance

Lord Alderdice: To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the remedies available for citizens whose safety has been put in jeopardy by inflammatory religious or political statements about them; and what assessment they have made of whether those are sufficient and effective.[HL5559]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The police may carry out a risk assessment on any individual who may be at threat by such statements and offer adequate protection. It would not be appropriate to comment on details of protective security arrangements.

The Government are committed to ensuring that everyone has the freedom to live their lives free from fear of targeted hostility or harassment on the grounds of a particular characteristic, such as their religious beliefs, and are taking action to ensure that the criminal justice services and partners locally are equipped to prevent and tackle such targeted hostility. A range of legislation is in place to enable the police and probation service to take action against those making statements designed to inflame racial or religious hatred. We will continue to keep the effectiveness of these measures under review, including the regular collection and publication of hate crime incidents and prosecutions.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110126w0001.htm#11012649000266>

Religious Intolerance

Lord Elton: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Howell of Guildford on 10 January (*WA 400 and 415*), whether, in determining what representations to make to the governments of other countries about discrimination, they regard a sustained exodus of members of a religious minority as one indicator of the extent of discrimination against members of that minority in that country.[HL6027]

Reply from the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): Persecution of religious groups or minorities manifests itself in a variety of ways. A sustained exodus of members of a religious minority can be one indicator of such persecution or discrimination. But persecution of religious groups or minorities frequently manifests itself in a variety of ways. Our overseas missions have a responsibility to monitor the human rights in their host countries and routinely raise our concerns with their governments. Where possible our embassies take action on individual cases where persecution or

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

discrimination has occurred and lobby for changes in discriminatory practices and laws. We condemn all instances of violence and discrimination against individuals and groups because of their faith or belief.

Lord Elton: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Howell of Guildford on 10 January (WA 400 and 415), whether, in determining the priorities, care and vigour with which they promote the interests of religious minorities in other countries, they take full account of the history and the constitution of the United Kingdom. [HL6028]

Reply from Lord Howell of Guildford: In his speech on Britain's values in a networked world, on 15 September 2010, my right honourable friend the Foreign Secretary made it clear that the UK "must have a foreign policy based on values, as an extension of our identity as a society", and that we "should always seek to reflect the best of British society". This includes our tolerance of all religions in the UK. We reflect this internationally in the work the Foreign and Commonwealth Office undertakes to support the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief and the right to freedom of opinion and expression as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the full implementation of the 1981 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110127w0001.htm#11012757000555>

Westminster Early Day Motion

John McDonnell (1360) Never Again for Anyone Initiative -That this House welcomes the Never Again For Anyone Initiative by survivors and descendents of survivors of genocides, which declares that every life is of value; notes that disabled people were the first victims of Nazi mass murder, that working class activists and trade unionists, many of whom were Jewish, were the first to be sent to concentration camps, and that Nazism targeted not only Jewish but also Roma, Jehovah's Witnesses, lesbian, gay and bisexual people and others they deemed undesirables; and therefore supports the call for international awareness of all communities and countries who have suffered and resisted mass extermination by renaming Holocaust Memorial Day as Genocide Memorial Day - Never Again For Anyone.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=42381&SESSION=905>

Press Releases

Scottish National Holocaust Memorial Day

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/01/27154449>

Holocaust Memorial Day

<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/14854.html>

Senior Rabbi marks Holocaust Memorial Day at Church of Scotland offices

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/latest/senior_rabbi_marks_holocaust_memorial_day_at_church_of_scotland_offices

Racism and Religious Hatred

Press Releases (continued)

UK Envoy for post-Holocaust issues launches “The Holocaust Explained” website

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=539547682>

PM signs Holocaust Book of Commitment

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2011/01/pm-signs-holocaust-book-of-commitment-59094>

Holocaust Memorial Day: Eric Pickles pays tribute and promotes participation

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1826940>

Foreign Secretary urges active approach to preserving the memory of the Holocaust

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=540580582>

UN marks Holocaust memorial day with exhibitions and pledges of 'never again'

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37397&Cr=holocaust&Cr1=>

Statement by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay for the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust
“The

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=10679&LangID=E>

New publications

Website: The Holocaust Explained

<http://www.theholocaustexplained.org/>

Passing the Baton: Inter-generational Conceptions of Race and Racism in Birmingham

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/PassingTheBaton-2011.pdf>

News

Muslims and Jews join forces to tackle religious hatred

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-12294215>

Concentration camp survivor diaries to go on display

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/Concentration-camp-survivor-diaries-to.6702614.jp>

Student leader Aaron Porter barracked with anti-Semitic insults

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/8290571/Student-leader-Aaron-Porter-barracked-with-anti-Semitic-insults.html>

‘When the Crown decided the murder was not racially motivated it was like a bomb had exploded in the room’

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/when-the-crown-decided-the-murder-was-not-racially-motivated-it-was-like-a-bomb-had-exploded-in-the-room-1.1082623>

MPs walk out in battle over Islamist group

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/journalists/andrew-gilligan/8290965/MPs-walk-out-in-battle-over-Islamist-group.html>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Who's discriminated against? People like me!

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2011/jan/28/yougov-poll-discriminated>

Call for Rangers to probe fans' racist song

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/Call-for-Rangers-to-probe.6701567.jp>

Scots blamed for 'racism' of Korean footballer

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Scots-blamed-for-39racism39-of.6704700.jp>

Ki must back up Scottish racism claim with evidence

<http://sport.scotsman.com/sport/Ki-must-back-up-Scottish.6704733.jp>

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Other Westminster

Counter-Terrorism Review

Review of Counter Terrorism powers and legislation published

... In some areas counter-terrorism and security powers were found to be neither proportionate nor necessary and today's recommendations are designed to restore British freedoms while enabling the police and security services to continue to protect the public and national security.

Home Secretary Theresa May said: 'The threat from terrorism remains serious and complex and I have always said that this government's first priority is to protect public safety and national security. But for too long the balance between security and British freedoms has not been the right one. The measures we are announcing today will restore our civil liberties while still allowing the police and security services to protect us. ... Key recommendations include:

- an end to 28 day detention without charge - returning to 14 days as the standard maximum period that a terrorist suspect can be detained before they are charged or released
- an end to the indiscriminate use of terrorism stop and search powers provided under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000
- the end to the use of the most intrusive RIPA powers used by local authorities to investigate low level offences and a new requirement that all applications
- by local authorities to use any RIPA techniques are approved by a magistrate
- a commitment to rationalise the legal basis by which communications data can be acquired and, as far as possible, to limit that to RIPA
- a stronger effort to deport foreign nationals involved in terrorist activities in this country, while fully respecting our human rights obligations; the repeal of control orders and their replacement with a more focused and targeted regime which carries restrictions similar to powers used in the civil justice system
- additional resources to the police and security agencies to underpin the effectiveness of the new regime and our commitment to prosecuting wherever possible

To read the full press release see

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/press-releases/ct-powers>

Other Westminster Counter-Terrorism Review (continued)

Review of Counter-Terrorism and Security Powers

Report by Lord Macdonald of River Glaven QC

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/counter-terrorism/review-of-ct-security-powers/report-by-lord-mcdonald?view=Binary>

Review Findings and Recommendations

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/counter-terrorism/review-of-ct-security-powers/review-findings-and-rec?view=Binary>

Equality and Human Rights Commission statement on counter-terror review

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2011/january/commissionresponse-to-the-governments-proposals-in-its-review-of-counter-terror-and-security-powers/>

New publications

Spiritual care at the end of life: a systematic review of the literature

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_123804.pdf

Bereavement care services: a synthesis of the literature

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_123810.pdf

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New Publication

The Future of the Global Muslim Population

<http://features.pewforum.org/FutureGlobalMuslimPopulation-WebPDF.pdf>

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Other News

Volunteer Development Scotland and Scottish Trade Union Congress join forces to strengthen relations

<http://www.vds.org.uk/Portals/0/documents/STUC%20Charter%20Press%20Release.pdf>

Christians 'less devout' than Muslims in Britain

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/religion/8286168/Christians-less-devout-than-Muslims-in-Britain.html>

Muslim populations by country: how big will each Muslim population be by 2030?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2011/jan/28/muslim-population-country-projection-2030>

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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>

**** Forced Marriage etc. (Protection and Jurisdiction) Bill**

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

Stage 1 Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/reports-11/eor11-01.htm>

**** Local Electoral Administration Bill**

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

Stage 1 report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/lgc/reports-11/lgr11-03.htm>

Public Records Bill

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

Bills in Progress Westminster

Fixed Term Parliaments Bill

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

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

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/026/amend/ml026-xir.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/026/amend/ml026-xii.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/026/amend/ml026-xiii.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/026/amend/ml026-xiv.htm>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110124-0001.htm#1101246000420>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110124-0003.htm#1101255000082>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110125-0001.htm#11012552000363>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110126-0001.htm#11012651000359>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110126-0002.htm#11012691000153>

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

** Scotland Bill

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

Second Reading, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110127/debtext/110127-0002.htm#11012762000002>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/115/amend/psc1152701a.1463-1464.html>

Scottish Parliament Committee consideration of the legislative consent memoranda

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/scotBill/or-11/sb11-0302.htm#Col254>

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Consultations

(closing date)

** new or updated this week

** closes this week!

Student Immigration System (31 January 2011)

Full consultation paper:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/consultations/students/>

Online survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BDPMGMTM>

Department for International Development Match Funding Scheme (24 February 2011)

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Working-with-DFID/Consultations/Match-Funding-Scheme/>

International Commission for Aid Impact (scrutiny of UK overseas aid) (7 April 2011)

<http://icai.independent.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!

Domestic abuse: a consultation day for faith groups

3 February 2011 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 1.00)

Consultation to bring together interested representatives from faith communities to explore how Scottish Women's Aid can work with and support faith communities in addressing domestic abuse. For information contact Fiona Buchanan 0131 226 6606 / fiona.buchanan@scottishwomensaid.org.uk or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/11i_swa.pdf

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

UKBA asylum support - the essentials

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 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/325_ukba_formerly_nass_asylum_support_-_the_essentials

**** this week!**

Toward a Registration System for CLD Practitioners

3 February 2011 in Glasgow

4 February 2011 in Edinburgh

9 March 2011 in Glasgow

11 March 2011 in Edinburgh

Standards Council for Community Learning and Development for Scotland consultations on establishing a registration system for Community Learning and Development practitioners. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/11iii_cld.doc or contact Gail Herrigan 0141 282 5054 / G.Herrigan@LTScotland.org.uk.

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

10 February 2011 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 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/858_an_introduction_to_working_with_asylum_seekers_and_refugees

Becoming British citizens? The experiences and opinions of refugees living in Scotland

10 February 2011 in Glasgow (1.30 – 4.30)

Research findings examining the opinions of refugees living in Scotland towards the UK citizenship process and their views on becoming British citizens. For information see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/events_calendar/892_research_seminar_becoming_british_citizens or contact 0141 223 7915 /

info@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Equality Act 2010: What does it mean for you?

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 / 0141 228 5967 or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/11ii_ehrc.pdf

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 / 01786 442 562.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Justice and Fairness in the Workplace

18 February 2011 in Glasgow (10.00 – 3.00)

Conference jointly organised by BEMIS, the Scottish Refugee Council, and the STUC to discuss employment and human rights, migrants and employment, the role of the unions, and active citizenship. For information contact Tanveer Parnez 0141 548 8047 / conference@bemis.org.uk or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/11ii_bemis.pdf

**** Tell the World**

21 February 2011 in Glasgow (12.00 – 4.30)

Runnymede consultation event providing an opportunity to give your views to the UN on key issues facing black and minority ethnic communities in the UK, which also includes a training session about the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, a United Nations body that monitors compliance by UN countries to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. For information see <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/278/273/Tell-the-World-Advising-UN-race-committee-Glasgow.html> or contact Katy Schmitz klara@runnymedetrust.org.

OSCR Outreach Programme: Completing OSCR Returns

22 February 2010 in Glasgow (2.00 – 4.30)

10 May 2010 in Aberdeen (10.00 – 12.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training for charity advisors to enable them to assist charities to complete annual and supplementary monitoring returns. For information see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/EventItem.aspx?ID=41d2239c-6e59-4edb-96ea-cfd052854b50> or contact communications@oscr.org.uk

**** The Gathering**

23-24 February 2011 in Edinburgh

SCVO voluntary sector fair. For information see <http://www.scvo.org.uk/news/events-2/the-gathering/>

An introduction to working with separated children

24 February 2011 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course about children under 18 years of age, in the UK without a parent or other guardian who may be going through the asylum process, have been granted leave to remain, or be victims of trafficking. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/879_an_introduction_to_working_with_separated_children

**** Youth Interfaith Conference**

10 March 2011 in Jackton (10.00 – 3.00)

ACPOS conference and discussion forums to bring young people together to explore faith in our communities. For information see <http://www.interfaithconnect.org/>

OSCR Outreach Programme: Becoming a Charity

19 April 2011 in Dundee (10.00 – 12.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training for charity advisors to enable them to assist organisations in deciding whether to register as a charity, and, if so, to do so. For information see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/EventItem.aspx?ID=6bb95a2f-165b-4bbc-8f78-25fd07c79e34> or contact communications@oscr.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Researching Poverty at Community Level

The second pilot programme will begin in April 2011

BEMIS in partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University (Scottish Poverty Information Unit) and Faith in Community Scotland are offering a 12 week Certificate Level training programme to empower local community and faith groups with much needed necessary skills in relation to research and tackling poverty. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/11iv_bemis.pdf and registration form http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/11iv_bemis.doc or contact Tanveer Parnez Tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

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Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) <http://www.crbs.org.uk/>

Disclosure Scotland <http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/>

BBC News24 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/default.stm>

Useful Links (continued)

BBC Parliament online

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

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



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



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