

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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The Scottish Parliament is now in dissolution until after the elections which will take place on 5 May 2011. During dissolution there are no MSPs and therefore no parliamentary business takes place.

If you have not already done so, please remember to complete and post your census form this week, or fill it in online at https://questionnaire.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/2011/lang_en/start

To find out more about the census see http://www.scojec.org/memo+/2011/11iii_census.pdf

For help to fill in your census form see <http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/en/help/>
or telephone 0300 123 1702

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-8206 Anne McLaughlin: The Cruel Practice of Indefinite Detention—That the Parliament condemns what it considers the UK Government's shocking practice of indefinitely detaining asylum seekers; considers this practice to be shameful; understands that most of the people in indefinite detention cannot be returned to their country of origin for a variety of reasons including the danger in the country of origin; further understands that one such individual was detained for eight years; believes that seeking asylum is no crime and that asylum seekers should therefore not be treated as criminals, and calls on the UK Government to end immediately what it sees as this abhorrent practice.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=21086>

Westminster Debate

Student Visas

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110322/debtext/110322-0001.htm#11032282000003>

Westminster Ministerial Statements

EU Directive (Human Trafficking)

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): I am writing today to the Parliamentary Scrutiny Committees in both Houses, seeking their views on the Government's intention to apply to opt in to the EU directive to combat human trafficking upon its adoption. The Government's view remains subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

In June, the Government took the decision not to opt in at the outset to the proposal for a directive to combat human trafficking but undertook to review the position when there was a finalised text. We have now carefully considered the finalised text. The main risk associated with the text has now been overcome: by waiting to apply to opt in, we have a text that has been finalised and we have avoided being bound by measures that are against the UK's interests.

The new text still does not contain any measures that would significantly change the way the UK fights trafficking. However, the UK has always been a world leader in fighting trafficking and has a strong international reputation in this field. Applying to opt in to the directive would continue to send a powerful message to traffickers that the UK is not a soft touch, and that we are supportive of international efforts to tackle this crime.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110322/wmstext/110322m0001.htm#11032271000015>

Entry Clearance Decisions (Removal of Full Appeal Rights)

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before the House a copy of the United Kingdom Border Agency report on removal of full appeal rights against refusal of entry clearance decisions under the points-based system. Copies will be available in the Vote Office and online at <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/>.

Section 4(3) of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 requires provision of a report on the effects of section 4(1) of the 2006 Act, which is the mechanism by which appeal rights against refusal of entry clearance decisions overseas were removed for those applying under the points-based system.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

The report is required within the period of three years from the commencement of section 4(1) on 1 April 2008, when the points-based system was first implemented overseas. Full appeal rights against such refusals were removed as each tier of the points-based system was implemented overseas. A new process of administrative review was introduced overseas under the points-based system to enable refused applicants to challenge any factual errors made in the decision-making process.

To meet the requirements as set out in the Act, the report provides statistical data on entry clearance decisions and administrative review requests made, it details the processes and criteria in place under the points-based system and records opinions made by the UK Border Agency independent chief inspector. To report on the effects of removal of full appeal rights, some comparisons have been made between the appeal system and administrative review process.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110324/wmstext/110324m0001.htm#1103245300020>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Foreign Nationals

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what schemes her Department operates to assist foreign nationals who wish to cease to be resident in the UK to leave voluntarily. [47439]

Reply from Damian Green: Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) programmes are available to assist those in the UK asylum system and those who are in the UK illegally who wish to return voluntarily and permanently to their country of origin (or, where permanently admissible, to a third country). There are currently three general AVR programmes which are co-funded with the European Return Fund: Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP) is for those who have sought asylum and those with certain forms of related temporary status in the UK. Returnees receive support in acquiring travel documentation, flight to country of origin and onward domestic transport, airport assistance at departure and arrival airports and up to £1,500 worth of reintegration assistance per person including a £500 relocation grant on departure for immediate resettlement needs, additional luggage allowance and, once home, a range of reintegration options. The majority of returnees use their reintegration assistance in income generation activities.

Assisted Voluntary Return for Families and Children (AVRFC) is for families comprising of a maximum of two adult parents or legal guardians and at least one child (under 18) and from unaccompanied children (under 18) who have either sought asylum or who are in the UK illegally and wish to return home. Returnees receive support in acquiring travel documentation, flight to country of origin and onward domestic transport, airport assistance at departure and arrival airports and up to £2,000 worth of reintegration assistance per person, including a £500 relocation grant on departure for immediate resettlement needs, additional luggage allowance and, once home, a range of reintegration options. The scheme offers flexibility of reintegration for the whole family and increased emphasis is placed on the use of reintegration assistance for educational needs as well as income generation.

Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants (AVRIM) is for those migrants who have not sought asylum, but who are in the UK illegally and wish to return home. Returnees receive support in acquiring travel documentation, flight to country of origin and onward domestic transport, and airport assistance at

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

departure and arrival airports. There is generally no reintegration assistance for AVRIM applicants; however, there is discretionary reintegration assistance of up to £1,000, considered on a case by case basis, available for vulnerable applicants. In addition to the general AVR programmes, the Facilitated Return Scheme is designed to help non-EEA foreign national prisoners return and reintegrate back into their home country. The main aim of the scheme is to promote and assist the process of early removals by encouraging full compliance and cooperation of foreign national prisoners wishing to return voluntarily.

Applications for the scheme are accepted from non-EEA nationals who have been convicted and are serving or have served a custodial sentence in a UK prison. Those who apply for and are accepted for the Facilitated Return Scheme will receive a cash payment of between £750 and £1,500 to help them build a new life on return to their home country.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110321/text/110321w0001.htm#11032129000011>

Foreign Workers: EU Nationals

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many migrant workers entered the UK from the EU Accession countries in each year since 2004. [47258]

Reply from Damian Green: Nationals of countries that acceded to the EU in 2004 and 2007 are no longer subject to immigration control, so their entry to the UK is not recorded. The following tables provide the number of nationals from the EU Accession countries who applied for permission to work under the restrictions imposed on the access of Accession state nationals to the labour market.

<i>Nationals of Czech republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia (A8 nationals)</i>	
	<i>Total</i>
2004	144,068
2005	276,491
2006	341,020
2007	359,498
2008	315,452
2009	239,383
2010	261,588
2011	40,632
Total	1,978,132

<i>Bulgaria and Romania (A2 nationals)</i>	
	<i>Total</i>
2007	11,482
2008	8,624
2009	8,008
2010	9,074
2011	1,810
Total	38,998

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

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.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110321/text/110321w0001.htm#11032129000012>

Detention Centres: Children

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether travel documentation has been obtained for all the families who have participated in the family return conferences to date, including the pilots. [47788]

Reply from Damian Green: Families will be invited to a family returns conference when they have exhausted all legal avenues open to them and where they either hold a valid travel document or where any documentation barriers can be resolved in parallel with the returns process.

The UK Border Agency will not need to obtain travel documentation for all families in the returns process. This could be because all family members are already in possession of genuine travel documents or where a family has submitted further submissions or legal applications which are being considered.

Information is not centrally held on whether travel documentation has been obtained for all the families who have participated in family returns conferences. This information could be supplied by examining each individual case record only at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110321/text/110321w0001.htm#11032129000009>

Illegal Immigrants

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many notifications the UK Border Agency received relating to individuals detained by police who were found to be in the UK illegally in the last 12 months for which figures are available; how many such notifications were acted upon; and how many such notifications resulted in the UK Border Agency taking into custody the individual in question for deportation or other enforcement action. [47422]

Reply from Damian Green: Where necessary, UK Border Agency officers will attend police stations with a view to establishing the identity and circumstances of the individual and serving them with the appropriate paperwork, such as a form notifying them that they have entered the UK unlawfully. Subsequent actions vary depending on the nature of the case, but can include the individual being transported to and detained in an immigration removal centre pending their removal, or being transported to the asylum screening unit if they advise that they wish to make an asylum application (this also may result in their detention as part of the asylum determination process).

For the period April 2010 to February 2011, the UK Border Agency received a total of 22,522 inquiries from the police about suspected immigration offenders. All inquiries received were considered for appropriate action but many were cleared by checking UK Border Agency records. 7,239 of these inquiries received from the police resulted in a visit by an immigration officer. The outcome from these visits was that in 3,497 instances at least one individual was arrested for an immigration offence. It is not possible to provide the number of individuals who were taken into custody or to provide the number who were subsequently removed from the United Kingdom as this information is not recorded centrally. To establish these figures would require a manual examination of individual case records at a disproportionate cost.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The figures provided are sourced from management information tools and are not quality assured under National Statistics protocols. Figures provided do not constitute part of National Statistics and should be treated as provisional.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110321/text/110321w0001.htm#11032129000014>

Asylum: Scotland

Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what proportion of asylum seekers living in Scotland were (a) granted asylum and (b) refused asylum and returned to their home country in each of the last five years; [47960]

(2) what proportion of asylum seekers living in Scotland have live appeal rights. [47961]

Reply from Damian Green: We have taken "live appeal rights" to mean appeals that are awaiting an outcome (i.e. an unconcluded appeal).

The following table shows the proportion of asylum seekers living in Scotland who were granted asylum, refused asylum and removed to their country or origin. The table also shows the proportion with unconcluded appeals. *Asylum applications, excluding dependants, proportion granted, proportion refused and removed, proportion with unconcluded appeals, for individuals residing in Scotland, 2006 - 10*⁽¹⁾

	Percentage granted ^{(2),(3),(6)}	Percentage refused and removed ^{(4),(6)}	Percentage unconcluded appeals ^{(5),(6)}
2006	34.2	31.9	0.0
2007	35.7	17.4	1.8
2008	45.4	18.9	1.4
2009	43.5	12.9	0.6
2010	43.1	4.1	6.5
Grand total	41.8	14.7	2.3

⁽¹⁾ All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

⁽²⁾ Cases relate to first Asylum Claims and only include main applicants.

⁽³⁾ Individuals granted asylum and refugee status, or refused asylum but granted Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave.

⁽⁴⁾ Removed includes enforced removals, port removals, voluntary departures, and include persons leaving under various assisted voluntary return programmes.

⁽⁵⁾ Unconcluded appeals relates to applicants who have lodged an appeal that is as yet unconcluded.

⁽⁶⁾ Data relate to applicants whose last known address was in Scotland. Subjects detained outside Scotland prior to removal will not be identified.

Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers living in Scotland have (a) returned voluntarily to their country of origin and (b) been removed in each of the last five years. [48080]

Reply from Damian Green: The data requested are shown in table 1.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Table 1: Failed asylum seekers, excluding dependants, residing in Scotland, returned to their country of origin, 2006-10⁽¹⁾

Year ⁽²⁾	Voluntary departures ^(3, 4)	Enforced removals ⁽⁴⁾	Total ⁽⁴⁾
2006	133	206	339
2007	118	202	320
2008	126	211	337
2009	111	217	328
2010	114	207	321
Grand total	602	1,043	1,645

⁽¹⁾ All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

⁽²⁾ Year relates to the year of removal.

⁽³⁾ Voluntary departures includes subjects removed via various assisted voluntary return programmes as well as voluntary departures.

⁽⁴⁾ Data relates to applicants whose last known address was in Scotland. Subjects detained outside Scotland prior to removal will not be identified.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110322/text/110322w002.htm#11032311000019>

Asylum

John Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what date she expects her Department to have resolved all older unresolved asylum cases. [47903]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency provides regular updates on performance of the "legacy" cases, including a breakdown into grants, removals and "other" cases such as duplicates or errors, to the Home Affairs Select Committee.

On 2 March, the Agency reported to the Home Affairs Select Committee that it had concluded over 403,000 cases as at 31 January 2011 and is on track to conclude the legacy backlog by summer 2011.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress her Department has made on speeding up the processing of asylum applications. [48005]

Reply from Damian Green: The average percentage of asylum claims that have received an initial decision within 30 days is 61% for cohorts since May 2010, compared to 46% for cohorts in the 12 months before May 2010. The average percentage of asylum cases concluded (granted or removed) within six months was 53% for cohorts since May 2010, compared to 48% for cohorts in the 12 months prior to May 2010.

Both of these indicators form part of a new framework that measures our progress towards an asylum system with swifter case conclusions and no backlogs, delivered at significantly lower cost to the taxpayer. Through the Asylum Improvement Project we have been testing a number of new ideas to improve the speed of the system including increased use of specialist case owners, tools to improve the flow of decision-making, and a more structured approach to interviews and decisions.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110322/text/110322w002.htm#11032311000017>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum Seekers

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Jones on 8 March (WA 342), how many (a) asylum seekers, and (b) dependants, have made asylum applications since 2000; and how many applications in each category have been accepted. [HL7709]

Reply from The Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The information requested is shown in the table [at the weblink] below.

Data on asylum applications and decisions are available in *Control of Immigration: United Kingdom Statistics 2009* and *Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary Q4 2010* available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110322w0001.htm#11032288000560>

Detention Centres: Children

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what date she expects to end the practice of detaining children of failed asylum seekers. [46734]

Reply from Damian Green: On 16 December 2010, the Government announced a new package to deliver our commitment to end the detention of children for immigration purposes and the immediate closure to children of the family unit at the Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre. A new approach to managing family returns has been developed which places far greater emphasis on engagement with families and aims to encourage families to leave without the need for enforcement action if they are found to have no legal right to be in the UK.

Most elements of this new process went live across the UK on 1 March 2011, including a new independent Family Returns Panel to advise the UK Border Agency on how to ensure the return of those families who do not take up the opportunities to leave under their own steam. A range of options has been developed to provide sufficient flexibility for a tailored approach to each family.

As a backstop, a new option of pre-departure accommodation is being developed for use when other options for ensuring return have failed or are not appropriate. This will have a secure perimeter but families will be allowed to leave the premises with permission after a suitable risk assessment. It will have an entirely different look and feel to an immigration removal centre with more privacy and strictly time-limited stays. Barnardo's will deliver the key welfare, safeguarding and support services. We expect this to open in the summer.

The small number of family rooms at Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre may be used in place of the new pre-departure accommodation until May. After May, Tinsley House will only be used for those few families who are refused entry to the UK at the border and need to be held for a short time prior to their return or for criminal and other high-risk families who could not be accommodated safely in the pre-departure accommodation.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will introduce a formal time limit on the detention of children in Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre; [47782]

(2) if she will introduce a formal time limit for children to be housed in open accommodation and pre-departure accommodation facilities. [47783]

Reply from Damian Green: A new approach to managing family returns has been developed and was introduced on 1 March. It aims to encourage families to leave without the need for enforcement action if they are found to have no legal right to be in the UK.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Where enforcement action does need to be taken, a range of options has been developed to ensure the safe return of families. These options include open accommodation and, as a backstop when other options for ensuring return have failed or are not appropriate, pre-departure accommodation. A small number of family rooms at Tinsley House immigration removal centre may be used in place of the new pre-departure accommodation until May. After May, Tinsley House will be used only for those few families who are refused entry to the UK at the border and need to be held for a short time prior to their return or for criminal and other high-risk families who could not be accommodated safely in the pre-departure accommodation.

Families will enter open accommodation on a voluntary basis and will be entirely free to come and go during their stay. Families will only enter open accommodation where their return can be delivered within 72 hours of the family's arrival there, or within five working days for Third Country Unit or Non Suspensive Appeal cases. If the return fails, the family may remain in open accommodation, but their stay will not exceed a maximum of 28 days. Stays in pre-departure accommodation and in Tinsley House will be strictly time-limited: the normal maximum will be 72 hours, which may be extended in exceptional circumstances to a maximum of seven days with ministerial authorisation.

Other than in border cases, families will enter open accommodation, pre-departure accommodation and Tinsley House only after advice has been sought from a new independent Family Returns Panel.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many families have been separated when one parent is held in immigration detention while their children or spouses stay in the community for the purposes of immigration control; and how many such families were single parent families where the parent detained was the primary or sole care giver in each of the last five years; [47798]

(2) in how many cases where children were cared for in fostering arrangements or by another parent while their parent was in immigration detention the UK Border Agency has information on whether the child's care arrangements gave rise to child protection concerns which were identified by children's services; and of such cases in how many instances were child protection concerns identified. [47784]

Reply from Damian Green: The information requested is not recorded centrally by the UK Border Agency and could be obtained only through examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost. However, in response to the Family Removals: Thematic Inspection report by the Independent Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency, the UK Border Agency has committed to improving the management information held on families.

The UK Border Agency takes its responsibilities for safeguarding children seriously and where possible ensures that families remain together. Typically, separations would take place only in cases where a member of the family is also a former foreign national prisoner and a decision has been made to maintain their detention pending deportation. Under the new arrangements for managing family returns, families without any criminal history would only be separated in exceptional circumstances and after advice had been sought from the independent Family Returns Panel.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110323/text/110323w0002.htm#11032381000023>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking in accordance with Article 6 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings to discourage demand for trafficking of people for forced labour. [47132]

Reply from Damian Green: Discouraging demand for people becoming victims of trafficking for forced labour is an important element of a successful approach to combating trafficking for forced labour. We work closely with voluntary organisations involved in awareness-raising and provide educational programmes in schools emphasising the importance of equality and mutual respect.

The Government are committed to providing effective protection for workers against abuses of basic workplace rights, and to ensuring that reputable businesses are not undercut by those trying to avoid their legal responsibilities.

The UK Border Agency takes robust action against employers of illegal workers and by taking action against businesses that flout the law we are able to crack down on illegal working, one of the drivers of forced labour.

Nigel Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) who is carrying out the review into whether the UK should opt in to the European Directive on Human Trafficking; and what consultations have been carried out as part of the review; [47837] (2) when she expects the review into whether the UK should opt in to the European Directive on Human Trafficking to be concluded. [47838]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government decided not to opt in to the European Directive on Human Trafficking at the outset, but to review their position in line with the revised text. That process is now complete and I have written to the Parliamentary Scrutiny Committees notifying them of our intention to apply to opt in.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures her Department has in place to combat the trafficking of (a) people, (b) weapons and (c) drugs. [48006]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency, Police, Serious Organised Crime Agency and HM Revenue and Customs work together at local, regional, national and international levels sharing intelligence and resources as appropriate, in order to understand the nature of the threat to the UK from all these forms of trafficking and to prevent and detect them.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110322/text/110322w0002.htm#11032311000032>

Human Trafficking: EU Directive

Baroness Royall of Blaisdon: To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have received asking them to help stop human trafficking by opting in to the European Union Directive.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): My Lords, the Government received a range of representations, including from parliamentarians, members of the public and non-governmental organisations. We said, referring to the opt-in, that we would make a decision about the finalised text at the end of the process, rather than at the beginning of the drafting. This is what we have now done. The Minister for Immigration has written to the parliamentary scrutiny committees in both Houses, seeking their views on our intention to apply to opt in.

Baroness Royall of Blaisdon: My Lords, I am grateful to the Minister for that Answer. I pay tribute to the Government, who are doing the right thing, although I regret that it has taken too long. I also pay tribute to the Anti-Slavery International petition, women's

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

groups and other campaigners, who have clearly brought to bear a great influence on the Government. The National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Young People has found that there are only 38 areas in the UK with a specialist service in place. What are the Government doing to ensure that there is effective intervention and consistent local delivery of these services around the country; and how will these nationally important functions be managed under the Government's proposed politicised policing framework, as set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill?

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: I can hardly accept the last point made by the noble Baroness. As regards the quality of the services that the Government wish to see in place, there are certainly some excellent boroughs that can act as best practice models, including such places as Hillingdon. The Government's aim, obviously, is to ensure that all boroughs and local authorities operate at the level of best practice. There is constant consultation between the Government, local authorities and the NGOs involved to achieve that result.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110324-0001.htm#11032468000774>

Press Releases

Major changes to student visa system

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

Government outlines overhaul of student visas

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/march/54-student-visas>

Government to act on bogus students in Scotland

<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/15222.html>

Government seeks to join Europe-wide accord to tackle human trafficking

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/march/61-government-seeks-to-join>

Extended rules on trafficking

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showFocus.aspx?lang=EN&focusID=578>

Equal treatment for foreign workers under new EU single permit

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/pressroom/content/20110323IPR16161/html/Equal-treatment-for-foreign-workers-under-new-EU-single-permit>

Damian Green: we do not tolerate sham marriages

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/sham-marriage-crackdown>

New Publications

The Practitioners' Guide to Housing Refugees

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0000/1548/Practitioners_guide_to_Housing_Refugees_22_March_2011_FINAL.pdf

Immigration and Asylum New Publications (continued)

A new website has been launched to help migrants, refugees and housing staff understand what housing and related benefits non-UK nationals are entitled to. It features guidance on a range of issues for new arrivals in Scotland, including how the housing system works, homelessness, lettings and housing benefit.

www.housing-rights.info/scotland

Refugee Week Media Awards issues call for entries

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/948_refugee_week_media_awards_issues_call_for_entries

Immigration: the Points Based System - Work Routes

<http://www.nao.org.uk/idoc.ashx?docId=b9e31dbe-937d-4721-b1ad-b798dcbbc1f2&version=-1>

Proposed changes to legal aid and what they could mean for migrants' access to justice

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/publications/MRN_Legal_Aid_briefing_March_2011.pdf

News

Universities fear plans to restrict visas

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/universities-fear-plans-to-restrict-visas-1.1091512>

Tighter rules for UK student visas

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-12820645>

Number of foreign students allowed into UK to be slashed by a quarter

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Number-of-foreign-students-allowed.6738794.jp>

Number of foreign students to be cut by 25 per cent

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/number-of-foreign-students-to-be-cut-by-25-per-cent-2249770.html>

Visa curbs will cut overseas students by 80,000, says Theresa May

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2011/mar/22/number-foreign-students-to-be-cut>

Universities protected from student visa crackdown

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/universities-protected-from-student-visa-crackdown-1.1092011>

Government faces calls to overhaul visa rules for foreign performers

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/culture/2011/mar/21/home-secretary-visa-rules-arts>

UK to join fight against human trafficking

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/uk-to-join-fight-against-human-trafficking-2250047.html>

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Race Relations

Press Release

Mushtaq Ahmed on UK's tolerant and multi-faith society

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=570476782>

New Publications

Belief in Dialogue: Religion and Belief Relations in Scotland: Good Practice Guide

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/347464/0115683.pdf>

Mixed Communities - Literature Review

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/346780/0115347.pdf>

News

The most feminist Muslim in Britain

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article2952261.ece>

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Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Communities

Anne McLaughlin (Glasgow) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Executive what consideration it gives to the needs of the African and Caribbean communities when developing health policy and which representatives of those communities it consults. (S3W-40581)

Anne McLaughlin (Glasgow) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Executive what consideration it gives to the needs of the Chinese community when developing health policy and which representatives of that community it consults. (S3W-40586)

Reply from Nicola Sturgeon: We are committed to providing appropriate and accessible NHS services which meet the needs of all ethnic minority communities. The Scottish Government and NHSScotland have a duty to undertake equality impact assessments (EQIA) of all policies and strategies. An important part of that process is to secure views from a wide range of organisations and communities (including ethnic minority communities) that may be directly or indirectly affected by policy developments or proposals.

Guidance to NHS boards outlining the requirement to EQIA policies, issued in March 2005, is available at www.scotland.gov.uk/equalityanddiversity/IAToolkit.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pq=S3W-40581>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pq=S3W-40586>

Anne McLaughlin (Glasgow) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Executive what consideration it gives to the needs of the African and Caribbean communities when developing anti-poverty policies and which representatives of those communities it consults. (S3W-40582)

Reply from Alex Neil: The Scottish Government is fully aware of the need to consider issues concerning equalities groups, and to consult with equalities

Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

groups and have consulted with black and minority ethnic (BME) groups when developing anti-poverty strategies.

Tackling Child Poverty in Scotland: A Discussion Paper was open to public consultation and issued directly to the African and Caribbean Network.

In addition to this, some more targeted consultation activities took place including working with bodies such as the Poverty Alliance and Young Scot, to elicit the views and experience of, and engage with families with direct experience of living in poverty, through focus groups and structured discussions with equality groups. The consultation processes also included meetings and events engaging key professionals from different sectors, including organisations representing BME groups.

Taking Forward the Government Economic Strategy: A Discussion Paper on Tackling Poverty Inequality and Deprivation in Scotland (the consultation that formed Achieving Our Potential) was also issued to a wide range of BME groups, including BEMIS (Black and Minority Infrastructure in Scotland).

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-40582>

Anne McLaughlin (Glasgow) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Executive what consideration it gives to the needs of the African and Caribbean communities when developing justice policy and which representatives of those communities it consults. (S3W-40583)

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: The Scottish Government remains committed to carrying out Equality Impact Assessments on its programmes, projects and policies prior to implementation. This involves the consultation of and input from a range of community groups, including those from the African and Caribbean communities. Recent consultations involved: Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure Scotland (BEMIS); Shakti Women's Aid; the Scottish Refugee Council; Central Scotland Racial Equality Unit; and Edinburgh and Lothians Racial Equality Council.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-40583>

Anne McLaughlin (Glasgow) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Executive what consideration it gives to the needs of the African and Caribbean communities when developing skills and employment policies and which representatives of those communities it consults. (S3W-40584)

Reply from Angela Constance: The Scottish Government is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and improving the levels of economic activity across all groups within society in Scotland. In implementing our refreshed skills strategy the Scottish Government and partners will continue to recognise people's differing needs, situations and goals and work to remove any barriers which restrict progress. In terms of skills and training provision, Skills Development Scotland's development of their products and services are informed by an Equality Advisory Group. Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities are represented on this group by Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure Scotland (BEMIS).

While employment policy remains reserved to the UK Government, the Scottish Government continues to work hard to build capacity in the delivery of employability services in Scotland. Under our community planning arrangements, there are now active employability partnerships in all local authority areas in Scotland. In the Glasgow area the Scottish Government has supported Glasgow Works to develop and implement the Glasgow Works Ethnic Minority Policy Group Action Plan. This aims to eliminate racial inequality in the labour market and improve participation levels amongst ethnic minority groups

Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

in the city. Local initiatives for the African and Caribbean communities, supported by the Regeneration Agencies, include the Bridges Programme in Glasgow South West.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pq=S3W-40584>

Anne McLaughlin (Glasgow) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Executive what consideration it gives to the needs of the African and Caribbean communities when developing housing policy and which representatives of those communities it consults. (S3W-40585)

Reply from Alex Neil: Homes Fit for the 21st Century is the Scottish Government's strategy and action plan for housing for the decade to 2020. The strategy, launched in February, followed a national housing discussion, with a wide range of organisations and individuals taking part. All contributions to the discussion helped to shape the content of the strategy.

Further to the discussion responses, officials contacted key national representative equality organisations inviting comments on the potential implications for equalities in the proposed content of the strategy. Of these organisations, minority ethnic communities, including the African and Caribbean communities, are represented through Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland (BEMIS) and the Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Organisations (Scotland) (CEMVO).

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pq=S3W-40585>

Anne McLaughlin (Glasgow) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Executive what consideration it gives to the needs of the Chinese community when developing justice policy and which representatives of that community it consults. (S3W-40587)

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: The Scottish Government remains committed to carrying out Equality Impact Assessments on its programmes, projects and policies prior to implementation. This involves the consultation of and input from a range of community groups. Recent consultations involved: Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure Scotland (BEMIS); Shakti Women's Aid; the Scottish Refugee Council; Central Scotland Racial Equality Unit; and Edinburgh and Lothians Racial Equality Council.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pq=S3W-40587>

Anne McLaughlin (Glasgow) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Executive what consideration it gives to the needs of the Chinese community when developing skills and employment policy and which representatives of that community it consults. (S3W-40588)

Reply from Angela Constance: The Scottish Government is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and improving the levels of economic activity across all groups within society in Scotland. In implementing our refreshed skills strategy the Scottish Government and partners will continue to recognise people's differing needs, situations and goals and work to remove any barriers which restrict progress. In terms of skills and training provision, Skills Development Scotland's development of their products and services are informed by an Equality Advisory Group. Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities are represented on this group by Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure Scotland (BEMIS).

While employment policy remains reserved to the UK Government, the Scottish Government continues to work hard to build capacity in the delivery of employability services in Scotland. Under our community planning arrangements, there are now active employability partnerships in all local authority areas in Scotland. In the Glasgow area the Scottish Government has

Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

supported to Glasgow Works to develop and implement the Glasgow Works Ethnic Minority Policy Group Action Plan which aims to eliminate racial inequality in the labour market and to reduce the ethnic minority employment gap in the city. The Glasgow West Regeneration Agency launched the Chinese Employability Project in 2007, with support services including access to tailored careers information, advice and guidance, training opportunities and work placements.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-40588>

Anne McLaughlin (Glasgow) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Executive what consideration it gives to the needs of the Chinese community when developing housing policy and which representatives of that community it consults. (S3W-40590)

Reply from Alex Neil: Homes Fit for the 21st Century is the Scottish Government's strategy and action plan for housing for the decade to 2020. The strategy, launched in February, followed a national housing discussion, with a wide range of organisations and individuals taking part. All contributions to the discussion helped to shape the content of the strategy.

Further to the discussion responses, officials contacted key national representative equality organisations inviting comments on the potential implications for equalities in the proposed content of the strategy. Of these organisations, minority ethnic communities, including the Chinese community, are represented through Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland (BEMIS) and the Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Organisations (Scotland) (CEMVO).

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-40590>

Poverty

Anne McLaughlin (Glasgow) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Executive what consideration it gives to the needs of the Chinese community when developing anti-poverty policy and which representatives of that community it consults. (S3W-40589)

Reply from Alex Neil: The Scottish Government is fully aware of the need to consider issues concerning equalities groups, and to consult with equalities groups and have consulted with Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups when developing anti-poverty strategies.

Tackling Child Poverty in Scotland: A Discussion Paper was open to public consultation and issued directly to the San Jai Chinese Project and the Chinese Youth Project in Dumfries and Galloway.

In addition to this, some more targeted consultation activities took place including working with bodies such as the Poverty Alliance and Young Scot, to elicit the views and experience of, and engage with families with direct experience of living in poverty, through focus groups and structured discussions with equality groups. The consultation processes also included meetings and events engaging key professionals from different sectors, including organisations representing BME groups.

Taking Forward the Government Economic Strategy: A Discussion Paper on Tackling Poverty Inequality and Deprivation in Scotland, (the consultation that formed Achieving Our Potential) was also issued to a wide range of BME groups, including BEMIS (Black and Minority Infrastructure in Scotland).

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-40589>

Equality (continued) Press Release

Major reforms to Equality and Human Rights Commission
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/ehrc-reform>

New Publication

Equality Act 2010: The public sector Equality Duty: reducing bureaucracy: Policy review paper
<http://www.parliament.uk/deposits/depositedpapers/2011/DEP2011-0471.pdf>

News

Equality commission to face 'major surgery'
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/mar/21/equality-commission-faces-major-surgery>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials of each grade in his Department have policy responsibility for dealing with anti-Semitism in UK universities; what sources are available to them to obtain up-to-date information on anti-Semitism in UK universities; what recent reports he has received from officials in his Department on levels of anti-Semitism in UK universities; and if he will make a statement. [R] [47706]

Reply from David Willetts: There are four officials who cover policy on anti-Semitism as part of their remit-by grade these are two senior civil servants, one team leader and one higher executive officer. Policy officials have access to a range of information sources from both across government and external partners, including published reports. I have received information about the most recent Community Security Trust report on anti-Semitic incidents in the UK which reported a continued fall in incident numbers in UK universities, from 97 incidents in 2009 to 44 incidents in 2010 (there were 67 incidents in 2008). The 2009 figure includes 38 incidents, it is believed, committed by one perpetrator leading to a high overall total

There is no place for racism of any form, including anti-Semitism, in higher education. Universities have access to a strong legislative framework and guidance to help them deal effectively with instances of intolerance, racism and harassment in their institutions. Government would expect them to vigorously tackle these issues when they arise and has supported institutions with key guidance on promoting good campus relations in the sector.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110322/text/110322w0009.htm#11032324000024>

Racism and Religious Hatred

Press Releases (continued)

First Comprehensive Guide to European Non-discrimination Law Launched

<http://cmiskp.echr.coe.int/tkp197/view.asp?action=open&documentId=883205&portal=hbkm&source=externalbydocnumber&table=F69A27FD8FB86142BF01C1166DEA398649>

2011 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Statement by the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers

<https://wcd.coe.int/wcd/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=PR227%282011%29&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&Site=COE&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE>

Joint statement from the European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights on International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/80-21_03_2011_en.asp

New Publications

Handbook on European non-discrimination law

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/182601_FRA_CASE_LAW_HANDBOOK_EN.pdf

Racism in Europe: ENAR Shadow Report 2009/10

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/FINAL%20SR%20-%20online%20version%20.pdf>

Racism and Discriminatory Practices in the United Kingdom

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/publications/UK.pdf>

Opinion of the Commissioner for Human Rights on national structures for promoting equality

<https://wcd.coe.int/wcd/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1761031>

News

Maximum hate crime jail term to be five years

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Maximum-hate-crime-jail-term.6737537.jp>

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Other Holyrood

Press Releases

Critical national infrastructure

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/03/21144431>

Scottish policing report

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/03/21143732>

Other Holyrood (continued)

New Publications

Secure and Resilient A Strategic Framework for Critical National Infrastructure In Scotland

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/346469/0115308.pdf>

Sustainable Policing Project Phase 2 Report

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/254432/0115237.pdf>

Keeping Children Safe: What we all need to know to protect our children

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/345186/0114874.pdf>

News

Scottish election: Holyrood dissolved ahead of May vote

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-12818795>

Churches unite to launch election website

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

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Question

Gypsies and Travellers

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to address the slow progress on site provision for Gypsies and Travellers identified in the Equality and Human Rights Commission's research report 68.[HL7690]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): We are committed to encouraging sustainable development and it remains very important that local authorities continue to plan for the future of their communities. Regional strategies and the top-down targets they imposed did not work. The opposition generated by regional strategies meant that they were badly delayed. This and the associated uncertainty meant that they failed to provide a clear basis for planning and development decisions. The Localism Bill proposes to abolish regional strategies. Instead, local authorities will be responsible for determining the right level of site provision in their area to meet local need and historical demand, in consultation with local communities.

From April 2011, councils will be given incentives through the new homes bonus scheme to deliver new housing, including Traveller sites.

We have secured £60 million Traveller pitch funding over the spending review, starting from this April. Authorities will be able to bid for a share of the funding for the development of new sites and the refurbishment of existing sites.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110323w0001.htm#11032367000499>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Holyrood

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

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

Consideration of Stage 3 amendments

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Business/ORSearch/ReportView.aspx?r=6201&mode=html#iob_56124

Stage 3 debate

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Business/ORSearch/ReportView.aspx?r=6201&mode=html#iob_56125

Bill as passed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/53-forcedMarriage/b53bs3-aspassed.pdf>

Bills in Progress Westminster

**** Fixed Term Parliaments Bill**

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

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110321-0001.htm#1103217000475>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110321-0003.htm#11032139000145>

**** Scotland Bill**

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

UK Parliament Scottish Affairs Committee Report

Vol 1: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmsscota/775/775i.pdf>

Vol 2: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmsscota/775/775ii.pdf>

Vol 3: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmsscota/775/775vw.pdf>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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

<http://icai.independent.gov.uk/>

Equality Act: Draft Code of Practice for Schools in Scotland (22 April 2011)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-consultations/>

Strathclyde Police Equality and Diversity Strategy (30 April 2011)

<http://www.strathclyde.police.uk/index.asp?locID=1596&docID=-1>

Changes to Immigration-Related Home Office Statistical Outputs (4 May 2011)

[http://uk.sitestat.com/homeoffice/rds/s?rds.immigration-consultation-2011-pdf&ns_type=pdf&ns_url=\[http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/immigration-consultation-2011.pdf](http://uk.sitestat.com/homeoffice/rds/s?rds.immigration-consultation-2011-pdf&ns_type=pdf&ns_url=[http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/immigration-consultation-2011.pdf)

Consultations (continued)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator Corporate Plan (24 May 2011)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=e66c5cf8-36b4-421c-93e1-f4aceffa7ec>

**** Reform of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (15 June 2011)**

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/what_we_do/ehrc_reform.aspx

**** Forced Marriage Statutory Guidance Consultation (1 July 2011)**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/347416/0115668.pdf>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** Funding Scotland**

New website providing information about grants and funding programmes accessible to organisations operating in Scotland.

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Migrants' Rights - More than just talk!

30 March 2011 in Glasgow (10.00-4.30)

Launch of the second phase of the Migrants' Rights Scotland Communication Strategies Project which aims to strengthen information exchange and collaborative action of migrant communities and supporting organisations. For information see

<http://tinyurl.com/6xh8pz2>

BEMIS AGM

5 April 2011 in Glasgow (5.30 – 8.00)

The BEMIS AGM will be held at the GO Business and Training Centre, 36 North Hanover Street, Glasgow, G1 2AD. For information contact Sue Barnes 0141 548 8047 /

mail@bemis.org.uk

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)

Advancing Scotland as a Learning Society: a Community Learning and Development perspective

28 April 2011 in Dundee (meeting focusing on faith issues) (9.30 – 5.00)

16 May 2011 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 5.00)

Series of seminars to explore views on advancing of Scotland as a Learning Society. We hope that you will all be part of this national conversation. For information see [http://www.cldstandardscouncil.org.uk/CLD Standards Council/The Standards Council Conversations](http://www.cldstandardscouncil.org.uk/CLD_Standards_Council/The_Standards_Council_Conversations) or contact Kirsty Horne k.horne@ltsotland.org.uk.

OSCR Outreach Programme: Completing OSCR Returns

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

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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

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>

Useful Links (continued)

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

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

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

BBC Parliament online

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

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



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



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